

# OPM bands to score the 11th International Silent Film Festival

by **Archie Liao** - August 30, 2017



Film aficionados could look forward to another exciting treat as the International Silent Film Festival Manila unreeals at the Shang Cineplex, Shangri-la Plaza in Mandaluyong City from August 31-September 3.

Just like the remarkable films of the silent era, fans will not only be in for a visual feast but also for a celebration of music via live entertainment.

In its 11th edition, here's what's in store in this year's festival.

August 31, 8 PM: Instituto Cervantes will present the classic action comedy *El Golfo* (1918) by José de Togores. The film tells the story of Enrique Villar, a tramp, who goes through much trouble to win the heart of his lady love. The rock band Talahib will accompany this film with a live performance.

September 1, 7:30 PM: The British Council will show the recently digitally restored film *Underground* (1928), directed by Anthony Asquith. This silent romance that reveals 1920s London life in the underground tube system. A live musical performance by dub band Goodleaf will accompany the film.

September 1, 9:30 PM: The Embassy of France will present the drama *L'Inhumaine* or *The New Enchantment* (1923), directed by Marcel L'Herbier. The film will be scored by the French-Vietnamese harpist Heloïse LaHarpe, assisted by Ryan Villamor on piano and synthesizer, and Aldous Castro on percussion and handpans.

September 2, 3 PM: Philippine Italian Association together with the Embassy of Italy will screen the world premiere of an experimental silent film by Filipino-Italian director Ruben Maria Soriquez: *Una Famiglia Perfetta* or *A Perfect Family* (2017).



The movie will be live scored by the instrumental rock trio Tom's Story.

September 2, 5:30 PM: The Japan Foundation, Manila will feature *Hijosen no Onna* or *Dragnet Girl* (1933) by Yasujiro Ozu, with a rare performance by Ichiro Kataoka, a noted benshi or silent film narrator/actor/storyteller from Japan, who will provide a live interpretation of the silent film.

The screening and narration will be accompanied by The Celso Espejo Rondalla, a group which plays Filipino music on traditional native string instruments.

September 2, 8 PM: It's the Philippines' turn with Gym Lumbera's 2-person drama *Taglish* (2012), which started as a damaged film entitled *Tagalog*, then *English*, and finally the present title *Taglish*.

The film will be accompanied by the stoner-metal quartet Kapitan Kulam.

September 3, 3 PM: The Embassy of Austria will feature *Cafè Elektric* (1927) directed by Gustav Ucicky. *Café Elektric* was the last film made and released by Sascha-Film, the first major film studio in Vienna. The live score will be played by Rivermaya.

September 3, 5:30 PM: Goethe-Institut Philippinen will screen one of silent cinema's masterworks, *Pandora's Box* (1929), by George Wilhelm Pabst.

Based on the controversial plays of Frank Wedekind, the film features the dazzling Louise Brooks in her classic bobbed hairstyle as Lulu. *Pandora's Box* will be accompanied by the band Sandwich, fronted by Raymund Marasigan.

September 3, 8 PM: Closing the festival will be the U.S. Embassy's screening of one of the most-revered comedies of the silent era, *The General* (1926). Co-directed by Clyde Bruckman and Buster Keaton, the film stars the iconic Keaton as an ill-fated railroad engineer.

The film will be scored by a 6-man band of veteran musicians –exponents of Motown, Stax, Funk, Blues and soul — the Flippin Soul Stompers.

Admission to the 11th Silent Film Festival is free to the public on a first-come, first served basis.

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