

**2009 US – ASEAN Film Festival**

New Films from Southeast Asia

September 18 – October 18, 2008, Washington, DC, USA



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**GH Foundation together with the Smithsonian Institution  
presents  
the Sixth Annual US-ASEAN Film Festival**

The GRACE Heritage Foundation is proud to present the 2009 US-ASEAN Film Festival, the only annual film festival in the United States to showcase cinematic gems from the dynamic region of Southeast Asia.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is comprised of ten countries in Southeast Asia, the region straddling continental Asia and Australia and bordering both the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Diversity is a part of life for ASEAN's 575 million citizen who are more likely than not multi-lingual, living in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious community. ASEAN members are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

### **Festival Highlights**

As one of the world's most dynamic regions, be it economically or culturally, *change* is a constant in Southeast Asia. Often, these changes happen so rapidly that the society never has the time to get used to them. Instead, new and old, modernity and traditions blend into a rich, colorful, and exciting *mélange*.

Such contrasts and juxtapositions are the makings of great stories – no wonder the region's cinema has been touted as the up and coming player in global cinema. Most notably at Cannes, arguably the world's premier event for world cinema, Southeast Asian directors came in force this year. Seven films were screened, including Brillante Mendoza's *Kinatay* which was in competition for the Palme d'Or.

Positive response from the global audience has reinvigorated the Southeast Asian film industry with Thailand still leading the pack in numbers and global reach. While its brand of spooky yet slick horror films are what the world, including Hollywood, can't seem to get enough of, the kingdom's new wave filmmakers such as Pen-ek Ratanaruang and Apichatpong Weerasethakul are making headlines around the world. Meanwhile, art-house flicks from Malaysia, independent cinema from the Philippines, satires from Singapore, operatic dramas from Viet Nam, and the Indonesian brand of popular cinema are fast becoming fixtures at film festivals.

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GRACE Heritage® | 1701 16<sup>th</sup> St NW, # 218, Washington, DC 20009

[info@thegraceheritage.org](mailto:info@thegraceheritage.org) | [www.thegraceheritage.org](http://www.thegraceheritage.org) | tel. +1 (202) 262 3775

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This year, the annual US-ASEAN Film Festival is bringing six new films, never before screened in the nation's capital. The roster this year is: a Malaysian film-noir (When the Full Moon Rises / Mamat Khalid), a Singaporean documentary about ghosts (A Month of Hungry Ghosts / Tony Kern), a psychodrama from Indonesia (Fictions / Mouly Surya), a critique about the disappearing practice of traditional agriculture (Agrarian Utopia / Uruphong Raksasad), one day in a Manila shantytown (Adela / Adolfo Alix Jr.), and a Vietnamese modern-day magical realist fable (The Moon at the Bottom of the Well / Nguyen Vinh Son).

### **Festival Sponsors & Supporters**

The Sixth Annual US-ASEAN Film Festival is co-presented by the Smithsonian Institution and sponsored by the ASEAN Secretariat, the Embassy of Indonesia, the Embassy of Singapore, and the Royal Embassy of Thailand.

### **About the Organization**

GH Foundation (Global Renaissance of ASEAN-American Culture and Entertainment) is a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization based whose mission is to promote the diverse cultures and traditions of Southeast Asia. We established US-ASEAN Creative Project banner to organize events that will showcase Southeast Asian cultures, entertainment and the talented people behind them.

For more information, visit the UACP Portal at <http://www.usaseancreativeproject.org/>

You may also contact us by phone (202/262-3775) or by e-mail ([info@thegraceheritage.org](mailto:info@thegraceheritage.org)).

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### Film Schedule

When the Full Moon Rises / Mamat KHALID / Malaysia / Fri, Sept. 18, 7PM

A Month of Hungry Ghosts / Tony KERN / Singapore / Sun, Sept. 20, 2PM

Fictions / Mouly SURYA / Indonesia / Fri, Sept. 25, 7PM

Agrarian Utopia / Uruphong RAKSASAD / Thailand / Sun, Sept. 27, 2PM

Adela / Adolfo ALIX Jr. / The Philippines / Fri, Oct. 16, 7PM

The Moon at the Bottom of the Well / NGUYEN Vinh Son / Viet Nam / Sun, Oct. 18, 2PM

### Tickets and Admission

Tickets for all screenings are free of charge and can be obtained at the Meyer Auditorium two hours before showing.

### Directions and Parking

The Meyer Auditorium is located in the National Mall area, thus parking is very limited. We encourage festival goers to take the Metro.

Meyer Auditorium  
Freer and Sackler Galleries - Smithsonian Institution  
1050 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC

Limited on-street parking on Independence Avenue and 12th Street SW, including reserved spaces for people with disabilities.

The Smithsonian metro station is served by the Orange and Blue lines. It is just across the street on the southwest corner of Independence Avenue and 12th Street SW. Follow signs to USDA when exiting the station.