



isa lazo

CREATIVE PORTFOLIO

STUDENT SHORT FILMS

"COUNTERPART"

Writer, Editor, Director



"BREAK IN"

Writer, Editor, Director



"CYCLE"

Director and Writer



"JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE"

Writer, Editor, Director



"UWI"

Writer, Co-Director



"CHELSEA"

Production Manager



STUDENT SHORT FILMS



"INNUENDO"

Co-Writer, Production Designer



"SI LEN"

Director, Co-Writer, Director of Photography, Co-Editor



"SUPERPOSITION"

Production Designer



"LEADING MAN"

Co-Writer, Artist, Production Assistant



"HIMIG"

Second Assistant Director, Production Designer

DESIGN FOUNDATION OUTPUTS (VIDEO)



VIDEO EFFECTS

CINEMATOGRAPHY



LAZO, Isabel Victoria_CLONING

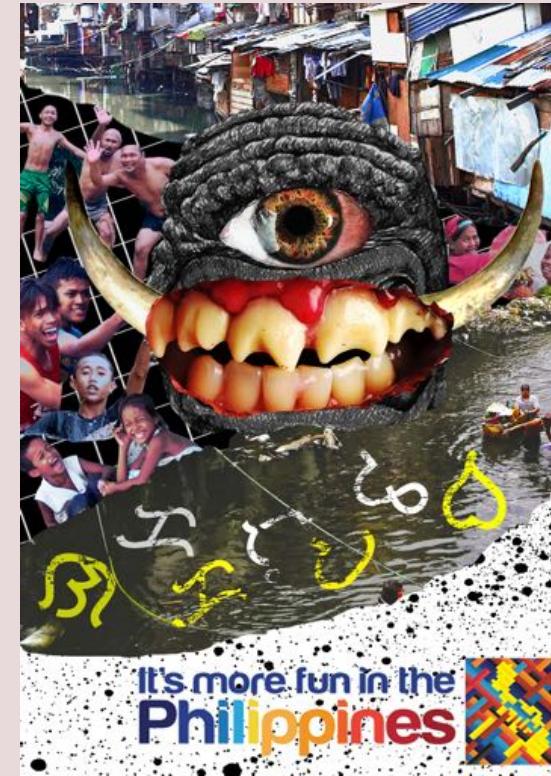
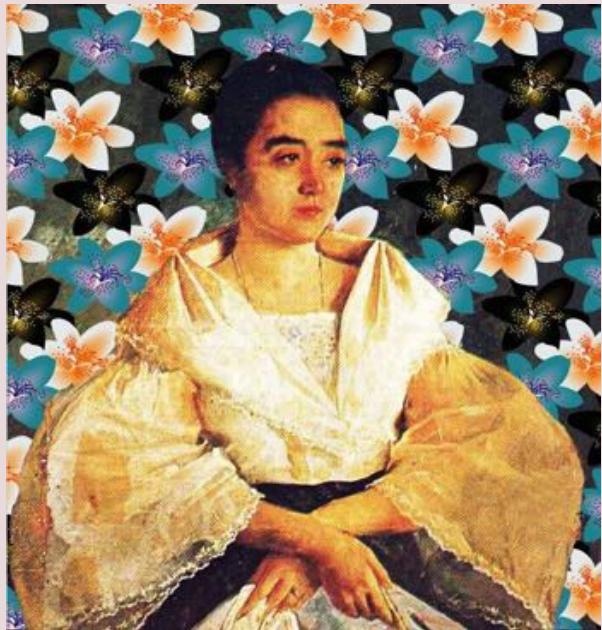
DESIGN FOUNDATION OUTPUTS (STILLS)



FILM DESIGN
(PRODUCTION DESIGN)

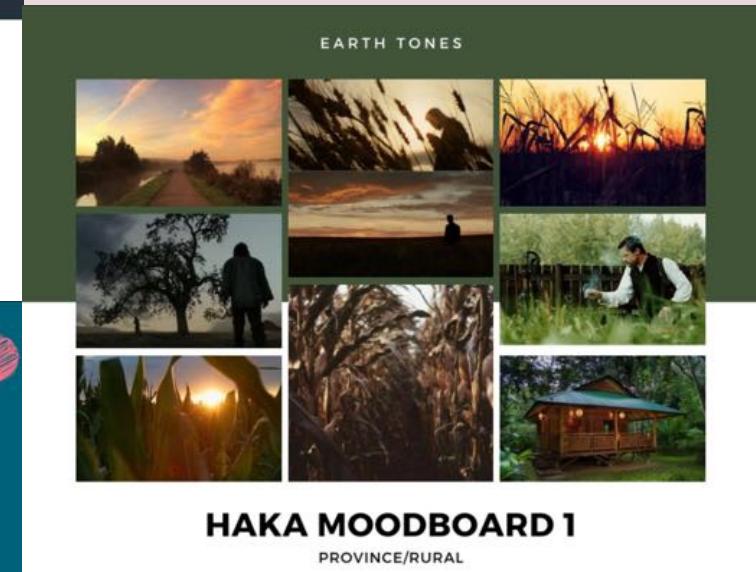
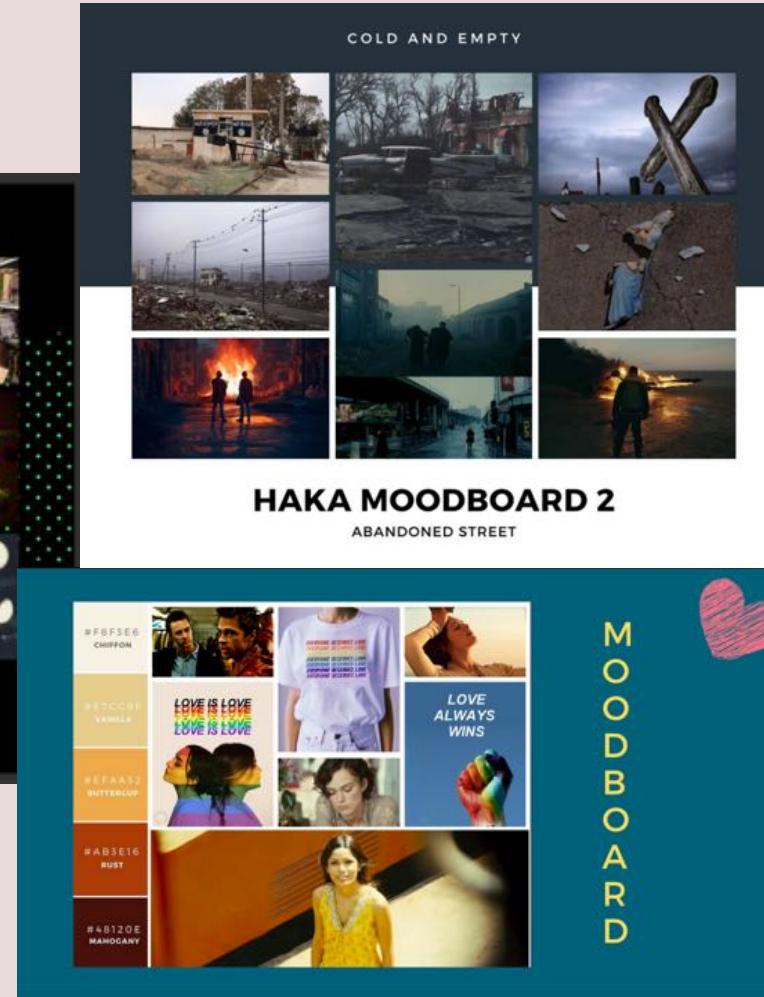


DESIGN FOUNDATION OUTPUTS (STILLS)



COMPUTER GRAPHICS

SAMPLE MOODBOARDS FOR PITCH DECKS



WRITING PORTFOLIO



Isa lazo

PRINT ARTICLES

The Benildean Vol. 4 No. 1 "Exploitation"

The modern morena versus the world

WORDS BY ISA LAZO. PHOTOS BY KEL SANTOS & SACE NATIVIDAD

The concept of being "unattractive" goes beyond skin color.

The mentality of preferring whiter skin, embedded through hundreds of years of colonization, reveals the side of Filipinos that prioritizes foreign acceptance and claim to fame more than embracing one's own color and culture.

In this modern era, instead of embracing the morena aesthetic, the idea of beauty has simply evolved to become a tool in securing a better way of life. A familiar example would be Filipinos taking advantage of their physical attractiveness to please foreign men in the hopes of snagging a one-way ticket to wherever first world country. The fascination on overseas glamour and the neglect of our local beauties might be a nationwide insecurity for most Filipinos. As millions watch "influencers," who are often elite people with predominantly foreign blood, the idea of success is seemingly predicated to looking anything but Filipino. With alien last names and imported spouses, viewers get a glimpse of the respect and exclusive treatment one could get with little to no Filipino features.

Hypocrisy at the core

The controversy behind the said phenomenon has been an ignored topic among Filipinos yet it becomes a sensitive issue whenever the country paves the way for Filipinos with foreign blood to become international representatives. Beauty pageants, for example, are one of the most anticipated events Filipinos look forward to themselves. Manny Pacquiao's boxing fight because it showcases Filipina beauty to the rest of the world, as well as a unifying notion that calls beauty to a pageant. Ever since the controversial win of Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach in 2015, the standards of selecting the country's beauty queen has been closely watched—for the Filipino people suddenly had higher expectations for any qualified contestant as it boosted their ego to win.

Despite bringing home the crown, Wurtzbach received several criticisms on the fact that she was not a pure Filipino. In addition to her win, the 2015 Miss Universe was also remembered for Miss Germany's hostility towards the Filipina but (who coincidentally

is half-German as well). Ironically, the same netizens who bashed Wurtzbach for having foreign blood quickly came to her defense by criticizing Miss Germany, resulting to the conclusion that they will do anything to show the world that Filipinos are worthy of world-class beauty even if it is at the expense of poor sportsmanship—ultimately making "proud to be Pinay" overrated and hypocritical as it gets.

From beauty pageants to politics, Filipinos have been living in a world where one's color has been overshadowing potentiality in progress throughout the country is hindered with the notion of skin color and its entanglement in societal issues.

In 2015, Philippine media became a whiny outlet of online hate towards then candidate for senator, Nancy Binay. Aside from being criticized for her apparent lack of experience and qualifications in running for a government position, Filipinos also took it as an opportunity to mock her dark complexion, which eventually overshadowed the issue on her incompetency. Satirical internet memes that were borderline racist eventually proved the adverse character of the Filipino people. All jokes aside, it did not stop them in insulting a fellow Filipino by using her physical look against her when it had no connection whatsoever in the political point of view—making our skin colors an ominous symbol of failure.

Despite signs of eventual progression, in the Philippines, the determining factor behind what is beautiful or not still blindly relies on the physical attributes. Without looking any further, it's evident in how we are as social beings; conversation starters such as "may labi ka ba?" are injected whenever we inquire about above average looks. Through this, a mindset which reflects the Filipina beauty will always be subject to the foreign aesthetic continues to thrive.

Unfortunately, the reality of how beauty is perceived in the Philippines all boils down to whether or not you have genes of an outsider. The physical characteristics which make the Filipino race different from others have become mere weapons of contempt towards cultural beauty. And by the looks of it, until our nation learns to accept distinct features masked beneath society's negligence, the antagonism of beauty will only continue to divide a nation; a problem we cannot dare to afford.



55

PRINT ARTICLES

Another spin for the century-old vinyls

WORDS BY ISA LAZO. PHOTOS BY RICARDO YAN

Through an enduring format of music, the vinyl record resonates with music lovers both young and old.



41



However, many beginners in the hobby usually make the wrong choice of buying cheap suitcase type record players or retro-based designs. As trendy as they may look, such designs are made without the engineering knowledge of previous turntable designers, eventually becoming a rip-off.

As Chua would describe it, the sound of a record player demands attention—different from a Spotify playlist that continuously plays in the background.

"What really attracted me to [vinyl] was [how] it entails all the five senses. [Because] with something that's just digital, you're just limited with a certain kind of sense directly; but with records, you have everything," Chua emphasized.

"I think vinyl records are great. It's so amazing how we have those big black circular disks that we can just put on the platter and then music comes out of it. It's old technology but it gets even more magical as the years pass," Chua added.

In this day and age, despite it being old technology, the future of vinyl will live on as people crave for a tactile experience, making them connect to their music in a personal way. Although the evolution of music playing has drastically changed throughout the years, the old format will always be sustained as it holds a deep part of the music industry.

Through the centuries since the creation of vinyl, the act of listening and engaging with music from the raw sound of a turntable is, and always will be, an experience a computer file could never replace.



ETHERIAL: Chua shares how vinyl records offer an out-of-the-world listening experience.

In this digital era, music can easily be accessed on the internet. Whether it's in the comfort of one's own room or travelling to the next scheduled meeting, millennials live in a world where technology makes things freely accessible. Despite these conveniences, old school vinyls and turntables are once again becoming a popular way of playing music, even appealing to the generation of Glass and Spotify users.

Before the age of boomboxes and walkmans in the early 80s to now, the earliest form of music playing came from box-shaped record players known as turntables (originally called phonographs in the late 1800s). These players would spin flat disks called vinyl containing their own catalog of musical genres. The anticipation of the needle dropping to play the record is a rush of excitement for music consumers as they approach their favorite song through the raw sound of a turntable. It eventually became a grassroots breeding fire for music lovers, as the experience of collecting records leads the way to a timeless culture of vinyl playing.

As the world modernized technologically, the culture of collecting vinyl and playing them on turntables gave a decline as tapes, compact discs (CDs), and eventually MP3s started rising on the internet, took over the music industry. Despite this, the charm of vinyls, passed down from previous generations, would lead to a counterculture revival. The format's current revival especially became popular with millennials, who have branded themselves as a nostalgic generation, growing up in a transitional era from analog to digital.

A millennial's two cents

The Benildean sat down with 23-year-old vinyl collector Karvine Chua, a Digital Filmmaking alumna and part-time worker at popular vinyl records store Sanchord as a music consultant, who shared his experience on the old format.

"It's also that people are starting to discover the physical format, not just with vinyl but also with CDs because I actually started with CDs and what really bothered me since before was how people would just easily dismiss the physical format as something that could be just thrown away, so I'm really glad that vinyl came into the picture today," he said.

When played on proper equipment, vinyl records sound unfettered, one of the many elements the format takes pride in. Through vinyl recording, the music in a room could sound just as it is if played live.

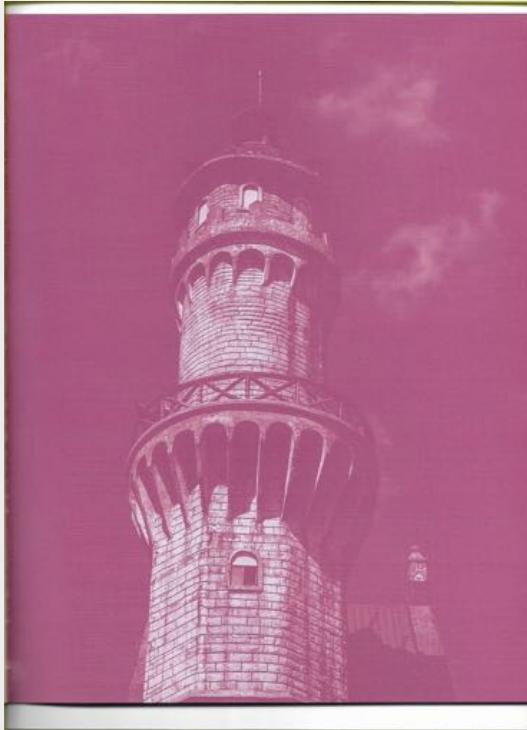
"You can put them on and you're not prompted to press the next button because there is no next button. You're actually gonna listen to the entire record and then from there it's just something really hypnotically pleasing staring at the platter spinning," Chua added.

The Benildean Vol. 4 No. 2 "Preservation"



42

PRINT ARTICLES



Workers' unfair conditions

One worker from Fantasy World's groundskeeping department, who has been working in the amusement park for 13 years since 2005, said it required a great deal of effort on his part to work there, as he and his fellow workers are tremendously short-staffed.

"Kapag di ko kailan nang mag-isip, sa garden mag-isip lang pa lang [because], kahit di po kasi, araw-araw," the elderly man, who refused to be identified, said.

Fantasy World, which is estimated to be 30 hectares, and with only 13 groundkeepers, needs to an unfair treatment of their employees. Even if Fantasy World in itself is impressive, the importance of maintaining the property's physical aspect is necessary for everyone who pays a visit, but to the worker, the theme park's worth in terms of preservation is nothing more than a job. "Bati lang reaksyon namin," he added.

Despite being seemingly unclassified, Fantasy World still manages to attract visitors, as tourists have an entrance fee of P1,000 for every 10 people. Mostly visited by families and groups of friends, varied age groups from different parts of the country, ranging from millennials to seniors, claimed to have known about Fantasy World thanks to social media.

Unfortunately, the moniker "Philippine Disneyland" reference is somehow inaccurate for anyone who sees Fantasy World personally.

In a visit to Fantasy World, The Benildean interviewed guests from all walks of life. Married couple Raffy and Malden Balagtas, both 34 years old, said the theme park would not be good for vacation, adding "Bakit ba makalabas. Locally, or pero foreigners hindi. Hindi nia 'to pagpapahin, kasi si familia may magandang perektahan [for Filipinos], this will do."

Meanwhile, Nestor, 40, and Nelly Tribunay, 36, who drove all the way from Tatalba, Quezon, talked about the wasted opportunities Fantasy World could have brought to Filipino families who cannot afford a plane ticket to the nearest Disneyland, which is in Hong Kong.

"Tag pinanganda ito, pero rin ito sa mga hindi afford makapag travel para matutulungan lang na 'Ng reaksyon na nyo ako" [as Disneyland]," they said.

With every piece of struggle Fantasy World went through from the day it was constructed to present time, one can still wonder the point of it all. For some locals, it doesn't matter that the theme park barely runs, in reality, Fantasy World will only ever be appreciated for its architecture. But the fact remains that despite its abandonment, some Filipinos still consider it a great deal that the castle is well taken care of, as it brings an out-of-the-ordinary experience to behold for those who pay it a visit.

A real "Philippine Disneyland" may not be sustainable soon, but just as long as Fantasy World remains open, with a little bit of imagination, its grandiose structure is enough to impress those seeking for a fairytale-like scene.



The reality of a neglected fantasy

WORDS BY ISA LAZO.
PHOTOS BY KYLE BUSTOS & KEL SANTOS

Not all fairytale kingdoms have happy endings.

Once upon a time in Bavaria, King Ludwig II instructed his subjects to build a castle as a retreat house and eventually his home. With its medieval architecture and 19th century style, little do people know that Germany's Neuschwanstein Castle is also located in the outskirts of Munich—as its replica, of course.

Once upon a dream

Positioned in Lemery, Batangas, "Fantasy World" is an actual castle with its own local history. The social facility was primarily developed to become a club for private members. As developments were ongoing, it was later designed to be a theme park that would open to the public and ultimately be comparable to the fairytale magic and fair Disneyland brings to families.

However, in 2002, the future of Fantasy World and the amusement it would bring to Filipinos came to a halt when its development underwent financial issues.

With more than one source of ownership, it is rumored that the Japanese businessman behind the idea of Fantasy World had no choice but to abandon the structure due to its lack of funding. Reports from one of the nation's leading newspapers, Philippine Star, claimed the project was initially done by the Filipino-owned corporation ECE Realty & Development led by Eddie Ching, the owner of said company. With further investigations, the corporation failed to comply with the Security and Exchange Commission's requirements for listing its shares on the stock market. Ching's failure to cooperate then led to an abrupt halt which all boiled down to the developers as they were scrutinized for their lack in credibility. But despite the unforeseen problems, construction for Fantasy World was approved by the Department of Tourism (DOT), which managed to put up an intricate-themed castle with towers, a main gate, and access roads prior to its discontinuation.

Elevated on top of a hill and surrounded with lush greenery, the castle's facade, with its crumbling paint and crippled design due to its disrepair over the years, adds a mysterious and medieval vibe. Stairs of dragons at the entrance, throne rooms, and tree houses that give a generous view of Batangas are also accessible thanks to the local homeowners' association that maintains the park to this day.



The Benildean Vol. 4 No. 2 "Preservation"

PRINT ARTICLES

WORDS BY ISA LAZO & MANOLO TAN. PHOTOS BY KEL SANTOS

In 2020, people anticipated a Mayan Prophecy centred apocalypse. Instead, it turned out over two years away from that beginning of a new decade, humanity has seen many milestones from ex-president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo returning to power as the senator from Ilocos Norte to president Donald Trump becoming the leader of the free world, to LeBron James joining the Los Angeles Lakers.

Although everything that happened in the past decade surpassed the expectations of people all over the world, has humanity really seen it all? After a few educated guesses on what many can expect after the year 2020, we now present a guide to the year 2020.

One vote is to one pair of Yeezys

Rapper, Singer-songwriter, Producer, Politician, Kanye West has his own agenda in the hip-hop world to hone his mark with groundbreaking hits. But thanks to the interactive world of social media, West wanted to attract attention (as always) with his oddball friendship with United States President Trump.

With their back-and-forth room, maybe in two years, Kanye may have a chance at the White House. If that isn't enough, Kanye himself said he would run in 2020 as president, following his eight-minute speech at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards.

Once Mr. West makes himself comfortable in Washington, the question now would be: Is the world ready for Kim Kardashian as the First Lady?

Filipino Taste Test

Aspiring Filipina actress became the talk of the town because after receiving several criticisms about her physical appearance while starring on the pre-covid19 inspired Filpink show, Rapid TV personality Liza Soberano proclaimed her love for the country through a traditional dance, showcasing her identification as a Filipino citizen. The actress defended her right to the job on social media, stating on her Twitter which she deleted a few days after: "I became [filipina] I think [that] as [found as] being [out of] place."

And thus, as a suggestion from the influential actress, completely skipping the Bureau of Immigration's process on naturalization and other forms of documenting Philippine citizenship, President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to shorten the process of being granted and retaining Filipino citizenship to a much simpler step, determining if the applicant has a filial tie to Singapore or not. This means that the Filipinos will be forced to become Blue collar workers, where they will eventually have the freedom to return to a country of their choice, as long as it is not the Philippines.

The end of a Pinoy Hyperbeast Era

Fashions is considered a form of self-expression. And while it has been agreed upon that there's absolutely nothing wrong with streetwear, 2020 is the year society bid goodbye to the wild road. Why? Because public safety is still a priority.

But people might wonder: what does streetwear have to do with public safety?

Recently, there have been reports of gangs consisting of adolescents roaming around mall establishments. Beware though, for they come in large groups and sometimes, a half lot of rats playing between gang members, locally inspired with the dramatic musical *West Side Story*, robbing stores. When a clothing item needs to go gang wars in public places, they're where we draw the line. Though nothing bad has happened yet, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

Whether we like the wild predictions or not, there's no denying 2020 is just around the corner. Even if the future holds a surprise for all of us, we can only hope the rest of the world learns their lesson after a dreadful and challenging decade.

Until we see the sun rise on January 1, 2020, passing by all our fears, what's to come will stay, the dream of making things easy for us will have to wait.



The Benildean Vol. 4 No. 3 "Aftermath"



WEB ARTICLES

The Benildean

PULSE BLIP KARLYON ABLAZE PLATFORM



Cafe Aquatica offers a different kind of "fishy"

NOV 20 2016 by Isa Lao and MPC Member

The Benildean

PULSE BLIP KARLYON ABLAZE PLATFORM

ISSUE

PULSE BLIP

It all out, their dwarf

Having been around since February 2016, Two Chickpeas has been offering vegan dishes that originally came from a concept in Amsterdam. In an interview with The Benildean, the restaurant's marketing manager, Luanne Dionisio explained the beginnings of Two Chickpeas.

"This is kinda like Green Bar another restaurant since 2014 in Makati." Green Bar, owned by the two sisters, Jade and Sarada Santos came up with the concept of Two Chickpeas after a trip from Amsterdam. "The story was there were two sisters, Fil-Am from California. They started as vegetarians and noticed it was very difficult to find a restaurant from [Alabang to Makati] that's vegan here in the Philippines," Dionisio explained.

Green Bar, which is more westernized, according to Dionisio, described Two Chickpeas as a restaurant that had a more original style of Mediterranean veganism. Starting with their Falafel Bowls (PhP 290), customers have the freedom in selecting the toppings that would cater to their own personal taste buds; ranging from quinoa salad, creamy tahini-cauliflower,

ISSUE

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Discovering Doon: A hidden gem

NOV 20 2016 by Isla Lao and MPC Member

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PLATFORM

PULSE

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KARLYON



In a house near the vicinity of the School of Design and Arts (SDA) Campus is an Asian restaurant that offers an experience unlike other establishments in the area; with an inviting aroma that immediately teases the authentic flavors of Thai cuisine. "Doon: A Plate of Faith" (or simply 'Doon'), attracts curious and hungry customers beyond the delectable recipes created from scratch and affordable prices on its menu.

The 56-year-old owner and chef, Mr. June Punie, started drafting his ideas from the influences of the internet and social media. The interior design of brickwork and framed photograph quotations were attuned to the online inspirations found on Pinterest. Likewise, his authentic Thai food with Philippine fusion flavors were originally inspired from visitors in



Two Chickpeas: Good food, zero waste

NOV 18 2016 by Isla Lao and Marinel Perry

With different gelaterias around the metro, some might think trying most of them. However, the foodie in all of us—most especially ice-cr

know that every frozen experience has its own little story behind the well-loved treat. And for Chiara's, they believe in authenticity through which are designed for the Filipino taste buds.

For three years since its establishment in August 2013, Chiara's only

Century Mall in Makati City; it was only this November when they ex

establishing a store in Resorts World Manila, Pasay City.



Chiara's gelato galore

NOV 18 2016 by Isla Lao

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Food/Restaurant Reviews

WEB ARTICLES

The Benildean PULSE BLIP KARLYON ABLAZE PLATFORM ISSUE THE



Respeto: Rap as an instrument of social commentary

SEP 20 2017 by [Iva Laoz and Abby Magpon](#)

Fresh from dominating Cinemalaya 2017, "Respeto" amplifies a new anthem Pinoy rap and poetry in a challenged society.

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Through hard-hitting bars, director Alberto 'Trebs' Monteras II tells a groundbreaking narrative in his first full-length film Respeto, where he shines light on the underground world of Philippine hip-hop while also underlining societal dilemmas such as poverty, illegal drugs, and contempt towards human rights.

The Cinemalaya 2017 Best Full-length Feature centers on 17-year-old Hendrix (Abra), an aspiring hip-hop rapper living in the slums of the Metro. While living with his sister Conn (Thea Frassterza) and her drug dealer (not to mention abusive boyfriend) Manda (Brian Andal), Hendrix is trapped in a world of never-ending brutality and poverty. Together with two friends, Beschai (Chai Panacer) and Payaso (Yves Bagadion), they try to carve out their names in the local hip-hop scene from the shadows of Pandacan, Manila.

Using the money he gets as a drug courier for Manda, Hendrix goes to unsanctioned rap battles and discovers the powerful status symbol a favorable-rapper can have. Assuming he had enough skill to beat one, he bets a large amount of money and shows off his own verse. However, things do not go as planned and Hendrix becomes the talk of the town but not in the way he had intended. The plot of the film goes into its conflictual stage when Manda finds out that his drug money had gone down the drain. Hendrix is forced to leave the hood and is instructed not to return until he could repay every cent.

With no other options, Hendrix drags his two friends with him and attempts to rob a second-hand bookstore owned by an old man nicknamed Doc (Dido-de la Pad). Falling miserably, the trio gets caught and is punished to repair each damage they had inflicted on the store. W

The Benildean PULSE BLIP KARLYON ABLAZE PLATFORM



Red carpet spotlight stealers

SEP 20 2017 by [Iva Laoz](#)

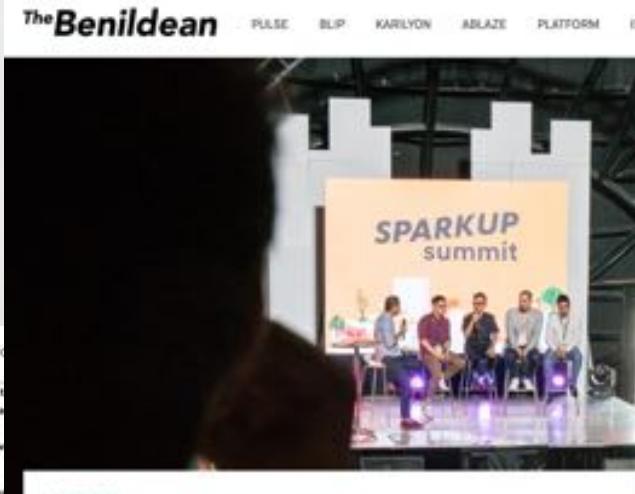
FEATURE ARTICLES

Film and Entertainment Reviews

WEB ARTICLES

The Benildean

PULSE BLIP KARILYON ABLAZE PLATFORM



What do you get when you mix young entrepreneurs and experienced veterans from the business world? A room full of fresh ideas and innovations. This was proven in this year's **SparkUp Summit**, with the theme "Idea Capital of the Business World," a conference buzzing with inspiring talks on the future state of the business industry, particularly with millennials behind the wheel.

Last Saturday, May 12, SM Aura's Samsung Hall became a place where people from all walks of life gathered in the hopes of starting a new wave of empowered entrepreneurs of the future. SparkUp, which is BusinessWorld's multimedia publication, held a whole-day conference involving speakers ranging from directors to CEOs. Each had the opportunity to give short, insightful presentations on what it means for millennials to open their eyes in the world of entrepreneurship.

"To jump or not to jump" was the encouragement given by Joan Yao, one of the speakers at the event. As vice president of a Philippine-based venture capital firm, Kickstart Venture Inc., she highlighted how entrepreneurship has no right time. The reality of a start-up is not as people may think, for it requires dedication and big commitment. Aware that SparkUp heavily appealed to millennials, Yao voiced out her opinion on what this generation was capable of.

"I think what this generation has is a native understanding of mobile, digital, the internet. That's where we shop, we socialize, book our flights, so that kind of native understanding of these platforms and this technology should enable us to build what we want to see in the world, in a way. So I'm very excited of what our generation can do," Yao stated in an interview with **The Benildean**.

Aside from the corporate aspect of the business industry, the summit also welcomed influential speakers from the culinary and design arts. Among them was the CEO of Caravan Food Group, Francis Reyes, who advised the audience to find and know their craft as they bring their ideas to life. Pastry chef Mikko Aspiras, an alumnus of the College's School of

MAY 13, 2018 | BY PAT CABAN

Empowering the millennial entrepreneur

MAY 13, 2018 | BY PAT CABAN



This year's Spark Up Summit gave the spotlight to the future of the business world: millennials.

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The Benildean

PULSE BLIP KARILYON ABLAZE PLATFORM



BLIP, PEOPLE

Conquering the streets one photo at a time

MAY 13, 2018 | BY PAT CABAN

Finally, to float around Aly's creative bubble means that people get to have a glimpse of how passion will truly drive your artistry to perfection. Admitting that she still has so many things she has not done, her exploration of what the future holds for her all boils down to the mere reason as to why she continues to pursue what she loves doing.

"In this thing that I do, I share what I wanna share, I capture what I see to let them see it and capture what I feel, hoping that they will feel it too," she said.

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