

Facing a new challenge in her acting career

Award-winning actress Gina Pareño goes onstage for the first time in American Hwangap

by JULIE MATIENZO
AJPress

KNOWN by today's generation as "Lola Gets" from the hit television drama series *Tayong Dalawa*; followed by another supporting role as "Mama Pet" in *Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo* both by ABS-CBN, award-winning actress Gina Pareño has proven that while it is true that people get older, genuine talent in acting does not fade.

From being a lady tricycle driver during her teenage years and selling fresh fish that she herself has caught, to being an extra in some films, Pareño's undying passion for acting, not only became an award-winning actress in the country, but also outside of the Philippines.

Gina's international recognitions included being best actress for her role in *Kubrador* (The Bet Collector) at the Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema in New Delhi in July 2006 and winning best actress in Dante Mendoza's *Serbis* which also won the latter Best Director in the Pacific Meridian International Film Festival of Asian-Pacific Countries in Vladivostok, Russia.

One might think that with these international recognitions, there is nothing that this 60-year-old can do; but the veteran actress admits there is one thing she has not done in her more than 40 years in show business—a stint onstage.

Then Chris Millado, the director of the *American Hwangap*, offered the veteran actress the role of Maria. Millado said that they really wanted Pareño to play the character; so he and the Tanghalang Filipino's Artistic Director, Nanding Josef persuaded the actress to accept the role.

But Pareño's acceptance of the role was in owed in largely to Jeffrey Jeturian, the director of *Kubrador*, who advised her to accept the role

and take it as a new challenge in her acting career.

American Hwangap is an Asian-American comedy written by Lloyd Suh and was premiered March of 2009 at the Magic Theater in San Francisco and premiered in May of the same year. The play is about a Korean family who migrated to Texas.

Millado shared in an interview with *Philippine Entertainment Portal (PEP)* that at first Pareño feared that she might not memorize the lines in an instant, but he explained to her that the lines can be memorized in parts.

The actress, despite her years of experience in acting, was grateful for her colleagues in the play for guiding her and making her experience a new-found challenge and content. She also said that she now enjoys what she is doing.

The *American Hwangap* will be played on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays of September beginning on September 10th and on October 1, 2, and 3 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. ■



Photos from kubrador.multiply.com



Lucky 13 for European film festival set in RP

by ROCHELLE C. PANGILINAN
AJPress

MANILA—There was an uncomfortable silence when a representative of the organizing committee for the 13th edition of Cine Europa relayed to the attendees at the press event held at Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong City that it has been somewhat disappointing that cinemas have been saturated with Hollywood run-of-the-mill popcorn movies lately. Even though there was not a way to ascertain whether the silence meant agreement or disagreement with the statement, one thing is for sure: a non-Hollywood run-of-the-mill popcorn movie is always welcome in this side of Asia. Just ask the people behind Cine Europa.

The tradition of bringing outstanding European films

with genres varying from drama, fiction, romance and action to the Philippines started in 1998 and now it is on its 13th year. For the past 12 years, Filipino film enthusiasts were exposed to powerful films from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Romania, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and United Kingdom and Switzerland, and now, lucky year 13 will bring films from Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia as well for the first time.

"This year's festival will reach out to an even larger Filipino audience, showcasing European cinema at its best, and illustrating the diversity and richness of Europe's cultural heritage," says Ambassador

Alistair MacDonald, head of the delegation of the European Commission (EC) to the Philippines. "The overwhelming support and enthusiastic response to Cine Europa have inspired all of us to step up our efforts in ensuring that this festival continues to be a distinctive gift to all Filipino film lovers."

As with past years, this year's films were carefully selected to cater to the Filipino audiences and most will relish the chance to see films not normally shown in regular cinemas or even cable TV for that matter. *An Education* is the only one familiar to Filipinos as it was one of the ten films nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award last March.

Cine Europa 13 will also showcase *Laughing Star*, a documentary depicting Philippine history from the

Spanish revolution to the Marcos regime, in a special screening to be held at Alliance Francaise in Makati City. The film is directed by Werner Schroeter, a multi-awarded German filmmaker, who sadly passed away last April. Schroeter developed the idea of doing a film about the country when he was invited to the Manila International Film Festival in 1983. After consulting with the UP Film Center and friends from the Philippine movie industry, Schroeter became inspired to do the film. Before his death, Schroeter expressed desire to return to the Philippines and the screening of *Laughing Star* would be a way to fulfill that wish.

And it looks like for many film aficionados, their wish to have a taste of Europe and its culture is just a cinema away. ■



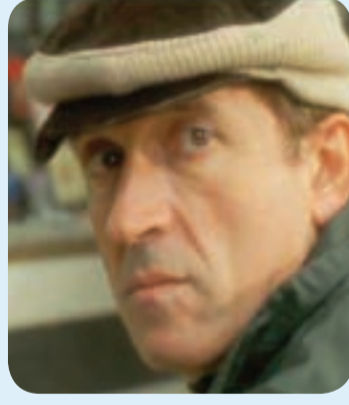
'Mad Love,' Spain



'Mircea,' Romania



'Empties,' Czech Republic



'Philanthropy,' Romania



'All is Forgotten,' France



'El Greco,' Greece'



'Hannahannah,' The Netherlands



'Forbidden Fruit,' Finland



'An Education,' United Kingdom



'Persos Unknown,' Italy



'Marcello Marcello,' Switzerland



'Toward Zero,' France



'The World is Big & Salvation Lurks Around The Corner,' Bulgari



'Soul at Peace,' Slovakia



'Terribly Happy,' Denmark



'The Kiss,' Belgium