
Brief Biography

- 1955 Born in Quezon City, Philippines
- 1976 Graduated from the Assumption College with a Liberal Arts Degree, majoring in Communication Arts
- 1977 Received a Master of Arts in Film and Television from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
- 1978 Studied at London International Film School
- 1980 Directed first feature film "Tanikala (The Chain)"
Directed second feature film "Brutal," won the Best Director Award at the Metro Manila Film Festival
- 1981 Co-founded the Filipino Film Directors Guild (KDPP) together with Directors Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal
- 1982- Film instructor at the Ateneo de Manila University, Department of Communication Arts
- 1983 "Moral" exhibited at the London International Film Festival
- 1984 "Karnal (Of the Flesh)" won the Best Director at the Film Academy of the Philippines Awards and the FAMAS (Filipino Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) Awards
- 1986-97 Directed weekly television political talk show "Public Forum"
- 1987-90 Directed weekly television news series "Sic O'clock News" and numerous documentaries on culture and politics
- 1995 Co-founded the Directors Guild of the Philippines
"Ipaglaban Mo (Redeem Her Honor)" exhibited at the Film Festivals of Fukuoka, Tokyo, New Delhi, Shanghai, Damascus and Cairo
- 1996 "May Nagmamahal Sa Iyo (Madonna and Child)" exhibited in Hong Kong, Fukuoka, Tokyo, Cairo and Damascus
- 1997 "Milagros" won the Best Director at the MANUNURI Film Critics Awards. Exhibited in Fukuoka, Tokyo, Hawaii, Singapore and Pusan
- 1998 "Sa Pusod Ng Dagat (In the Navel of the Sea)" won the FIPRESCI and NETPAC Awards at the Singapore International Film Festival. Exhibited in Berlin, Montreal, Fukuoka, Tokyo, Toronto, Pusan, Chicago, Los Angeles, Hawaii, Thessaloniki, Cairo and Buenos Aires
- 1999 "Jose Rizal" won the Best Director at the Metro Manila Film Festival, the MANUNURI Film Critics Awards, and the FAMAS Awards. Exhibited in Berlin, Hawaii, Singapore, Fukuoka, Tokyo, Chicago, Taipei, Bombay and Madrid
Retrospective of Works at the Munich International Film Festival
- 2000 "Muro-Ami (Reef Hunters)" won the Best Director at the Metro Manila Film Festival, the MANUNURI Film Critics Awards, and the FAMAS Awards.
Exhibited in Fukuoka, Tokyo, Berlin, Singapore and Pusan

Major Works

- | | |
|--|--|
| "Tanikala (The Chain)" (1980) | "Brutal" (1980) |
| "Moral" (1983) | "Baby Tsina" (1984) |
| "Karnal (Of the Flesh)" (1984) | "Ipaglaban Mo (Redeem Her Honor)" (1995) |
| "May Nagmamahal Sa Iyo (Madonna and Child)" (1996) | "Milagros" (1997) |
| "Sa Pusod Ng Dagat (In the Navel of the Sea)" (1998) | "Jose Rizal" (1998) |
| "Muro-Ami (Reef Hunters)" (1999) | "Bagong Buwan (New Moon)" (2001) |