

A DUK-FAD Presentation



The Dust Of Life

Message

Your project "The Dust Of Life" is very important to DUK, Sct Annæ Lokalforening, as this is the first time one of our youth groups has created, produced and directed a play. Our youths need to develop their talents and show the results of their efforts. In order to achieve that, they need chances. One rare chance has been created by "The Dust Of Life". Congratulations!

Marian Bridget Connolly
Chairwoman
DUK, Sct. Annæ Lokalforening

Message

I personally commend The F.A.D. Youth Folkloric Group for taking a big brave step to stage a play. This is the first time in the history of the F.A.D. and the Filipino community in Copenhagen to witness a play created and performed by the second generation of Filipinos in Denmark. "The Dust Of Life" will surely pave the way for more projects with deeper meanings in the future.

Again, congratulations!

Onofre Garcia
Chairman
The Filipino Association of Denmark



*Dedicated
to our
Parents*

The Program

Part I. Dance Extravaganza

MAG-ASIK and **PANGALAY** - After the Ramadan, the Muslims of Southern Mindanao celebrate the *Hariraya Poasa* with regattas, songs, festive tables and dances. Elegance and regality are strongly characterized in these two Muslim dances. (All cast)

KALAPATI - Doves are popularly used as symbols of purity and fidelity at weddings. Doves are very loyal lovers. The cooing of the doves is depicted in this dance. (Rowena, Gina, Grace, Jade, Tina and Christina)

PASEO DE ILOILO - A dance of the Christian Filipinos with heavy Hispanic influence. Originally from Iloilo, the dance depicts the woman's privilege during courtship to flirt and tease her three suitors. (Michell, Jason, Bernie, & Benn)

RAGRAGSAKAN - The word means merriment. The women of the Igorot tribes of the Cordillera mountains of the Philippines gaily prepare for the thanksgiving rites of *Canyao*. They fetch water, display their Arachnidan blankets and carry baskets of goodies on their heads. On their way to the *Canyao*, they sing the Igorot folk song, *Salidum-ay*. (All cast)

SA UGOY NG DUYAN - A woman brings her child to sleep. She sings with feeling of nostalgia when she was a baby. A Filipino lullaby interpreted by: Josephine Carlos

Part II. Drama

The Dust Of Life

Synopsis

The play takes place in the Philippines, inside an orphanage run by the nuns. The time is now. It is Sunday after the mass, the orphans do their Sunday routine, preparing themselves for their usual visitors - the banal, affluent, charity-oriented ladies who call their club *La Asosacion de las Damas Catolicas*. Observant of some oddity of the members, the children discuss the kind of charity they get from them. They make fun of them, attaching *Y Tsimosas* (rumor mongers) to the name of the club. The nuns tend to ignore the children's innuendoes because of the club's great support on the orphanage. The children know very well that during these visits, adopting couples are around, inspite of the nuns' effort to camouflage it. Everybody tries very hard to be "adoptable" including the epileptic Jinky. It is only April, the eldest, who gives up the hope to be adopted, and Marina, who claims to have a mother still. Lolit, a desirous orphan, knows she would be easily adopted because of being a *mestiza* (ascendant of Malay and Caucasian origin). This disgusts the other children.

Lolit is chosen to live with the rich Loyola family. Lolit leaves but a new orphan, Rhea arrives. The newcomer receives a cold shoulder from everyone except May. April fantasizes life in a normal home and bares her plans in life to Sr. Marie. The patient nun confesses to April her being an orphan once.

The irate Sr. Dominic questions the identity of the new convent aide, Rhodora. Though Mother Superior agrees with her subordinate, she wants to give the volunteer a chance. As the play carries on, each child unfolds her character, revealing unexpected events like the return of Lolit, the hidden of ability of Jinky, the purpose of Rhodora and the secret of Marina.

The Director's Page

The concept of venturing into drama was conceived after the FAD Youth Folkloric Group showed a promising performance in a theater adaptation, in Danish, of a Filipino popular fable "Ang Unggoy At Ang Matsing" or "Aben og Skildpadden". All the girls expressed their great interests to explore their capabilities in drama and prodded me to stage a play with them in English, the language most of them use to communicate with their Filipino parents. It was unbearable to let such youthful enthusiasm to pass by, so I took the challenge.

A play for 13 youths, all girls at that, was tougher than I thought. Not only that they are very raw in the field of drama, they also speak a tri-lingual language, and English is only a language of convenience. After digging into my files of first hand and vicarious experiences, I came into a file of convents and orphanages. The orphans are dusts of life. They aided me to create the characters of the play. Another inspiration comes from an old Ilocano orphan's lullaby, which also serves as theme song of the play. The soap opera format is used, easier for the members to emote. The first reading of the script fared well. But then one commented, "Orphan Annie does The Sound of Music" - a razing criticism indeed.

After the project was recognized by DUK and FAD, it was peddled to different cultural funds. Only the Ministry of Interior acknowledged the project through the patient follow-ups of Anne Hedenborg of DUK Secretariat. Dust - it gets tossed, blown and trodden. But when it gets into our eyes, it's painfully annoying.

Benn Adriatico
Writer/Director





The Players

Lorraine Santos

Mother Superior

Born: December 12, 1978

Father: Exequiel Santos

Mother: Analita Santos

10 B, UC Nørgaard

Theater: Aben og Skildpadden

Joined the group: 1992

Anna Marie Brieva

Sister Marie

Born: June 17, 1980

Father: Angelito Brieva

Mother: Cristina Brieva

9.M, Copenhagen International School

Joined the group: 1994

Michell Sode

Sr. Dominique

Born: October 24, 1981

Father: Carsten Sode

Mother: Edna Gavina

8. Niels Steensen Skole

Theater: Aben og skildpadden

Joined the group: 1990

Heidi Escandor

April

Born: June 29, 1980

Father: Camilo Escandor

Mother: Elena Jacinto

9. Sct Annæ's Skole

Theater: Aben og Skildpadden

Joined the group 1992



Sherron Joachimsen

Lolitt

Born: April 27, 1981
Father: Claus Frørup
Mother: Joy Jacobbe
8.A Søholt Skole
Joined the group: 1994

Charlotte Koudal

Marina

Born: August 14, 1981
Father: Jørgen Hammer
Mother: Luz Abainza
8. D Niels Steensens Skole
Joined the group: 1992

Geta Vij

Rhodora

Born: January 18, 1980
Father: Stish Vij
Mother: Rosalia Gerardo
1.Bx Niels Steensens Gymnasium
Classical Indian dancer
Theater: Aben og Skildpadden
Joined the group: 1990

Gina Castillo

Riza

Born: July 11, 1984
Father: Bobby Castillo (deceased)
Mother: Tina Castillo
5. Sct. Annæ Skole
Theater: Aben og Skildpadden
Joined the group: 1992



Rowena Magpantay

Alex

Born: January 12, 1983
Father: Mario Magpantay
Mother: Corazon Jacinto
7. Sct. Annæ Skole
Theater: Aben og Skildpadden
Joined the group: 1992



Tina Fung

Monica

Born: February 7, 1983
Father: Nelson Fung
Mother: Elsie Fung
7. Copenhagen International School
Joined the group: 1992



Jade Inocencio

Melody

Born: January 26, 1984
Father: Bo Rømerdal
Mother: Jennifer Inocencio
6. Sct. Annæ Skole
Christianshavns Balletskole
Joined the group: 1992

Grace Vergara

May

Born: December 18, 1984
Father: Marcial Vergara
Mother: Gerlie Vergara
5.A Duevej Skole
Theater: Aben og Skildpadden
Joined the group: 1994





Richa Sharma

Jinky

Born: June 28, 1985

Father: Dr. Peeyush Sharma

Mother: Evelyn Eres

4. Bjørns International Skole

Joined the group: 1996



Christina Jacobsen

Rhea

Born: October 18, 1984

Father: Henning Jacobsen

Mother: Corazon Nunez

5. Helligkors Skole

Theater: Aben og Skildpadden

Joined the group: 1995

Supporting Cast

Bernardo Javier (dancing)

Ely Corpuz (dancing)

Jason del Castillo (dancing)

Lita Santos (singing)

Josephine Carlos (singing)

The Production Unit

Direction: **Benn Adriatico**

Lights and Sound: **Eva Rydberg**

Stage: **Søren Kornerup Nielsen & Alex Santos**

Costumes: **Claire de Guzman and Julie Nielsen**

Poster: **Carsten Sode**

Tickets: **Bo Hoffman**

Souvenir program: **Hillerød Offset**

Make-up: **Lita Santos**

Accessories & hand painted umbrellas: **Edna Sode**

Food Committee: **Petra Garcia & the parents**

Acknowledgements

We deeply indebted with the following for their valuable contributions, whether morally or monetary. Without them, the project would have not been realized:

Indenrigsministeriet

Anne Marie Hedenborg

UK Sekretariat

The Philippine Consulate

Saloon Josie

Urduja Hollopainen

Cecille Schondel

Wilma Fausto

Teresa Roxas

Ester Uy-Barreta

Al Balluena

Gigi Filstrup

Rose Jimenez

&

All our patrons



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