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Macho Dancer

The Pilippines

directed by Lino Brocka 1988 35mm 136min. 1:1.37 color

【Introduction】

This film was directed by Lino Brocka who before his untimely death in a 1991 traffic accident was one of the most famous directors to come out of the Philippines and gain world-wide recognition. This is one of Brocka's last films and the only one that was officially released in the United States.

This Asian film was also well-received at many lesbian & gay film festivals all over the world. A resistant and passionate filmmaker, Lino Brocka describes the problems of corruption and power on poverty in the huge city, Manila. Being set at night, Manila is dramatically shown with a strong stage presence. A sorrowful story like that of a soap opera with sensual dancing scenes and hard-boiled action, this is an impressive piece of work and great entertainment.

【Synopsis】

In the film, a young man named Paul makes a living as a prostitute serving an American enlisted man. This enables him to support his family consisting of a young brother & sister and his mother. When his patron returns to America, Paul decides to move on to the large city, Manila, following the advice of a friend named Greg.

Upon his arrival, Greg takes Paul to a pub where they perform in a dance show and afterwards entertain some guests as prostitutes. Paul is bewildered by the new experiences he faces in Manila.

One day, Paul sees a young man, Noel, bleeding after being beaten up. He later moves in to Noel's apartment and they start working together at the pub. Noel, also a dancer at "Charlie's Pub", has only one sister who lives with his aunt. Noel is trying to earn money as a dancer to give his sister a higher education. Paul starts dancing in a soap show called "Shower." A macho dance, which is performed half-naked, and pays more money. Eventually, Noel's sister leaves home to come to Manila, and turns up missing. Noel and Paul start looking for her at night.

Manila is a prosperous city for back-door night dealings and Paul learns how to survive in such a huge dark city. He continues to earn more money by performing the body-entwining dance with Noel in the "Shower" show. Some days later, Paul gets beaten up by a man called Kid, who is a manager in Manila's night entertainment world. He is rescued by a woman named Bambi who is also working in the night world. Spoiled by her tenderness, Paul has a sexual relationship with Bambi, his first experience with a woman. He eventually falls in love with her. Noel sees Paul and Bambi and becomes confused.

Bambi helps Noel look for his missing sister. She finds information that leads them to her at a brothel. Noel later gets a gun from a friend so that he can protect his sister against the operators of the Manila nightlife.

【Director's Profile】

Lino Brocka

Born in San Jose, Neuva Ecija in the Philippines in 1939. After studying at a university, he worked as a Mormon missionary at a leper colony on one of the Hawaiian islands. On returning to Manila, he first directed plays before moving to television to make TV series and films in 1970.

His films include "Wanted: Perfect Mother"(1970), "Manila: in the Claws of Darkness"(1975), "Insiang"(1976), "Jaguar"(1980), "Bayan Ko"(1984), "Macho Dancer"(1988), "Orapro nobis (Fight For Us)"(1989).

He died after a car crash in Quezon City on May, 1991.



【Staff】

Director:
Lino Brocka
Screenplay:
Ricardo Lee
Amado Lacuesta
Photography:
Joe Tutanés
Editor:
Ruben Natividad
Art:
Benjie de Guzman
Music:
Mon Del Rosario
Producer:
Boy C. De Guia

【Cast】

Pol Alan Paule
Noel Daniel Fernando
Bambi Jacklyn Jose
Pining Princess Punzalan
Dennis William Lorenzo
Rolly Timonhy Diwa
Jun Angelo Miguel

Production:
Special People Production
Source:
Strand Releasing



The 7th Fukuoka Asian Film Festival, 1993