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QCinema fest off to good start with controversial drama

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Marinel R. Cruz

The screening of Park Chan-wookâ??s controversial film, *The Handmaiden*, about a fragile heiress who falls in love with her maid, opened on Thursday the 2016 QCinema International Film Festival, which will run until Oct. 22.

â??Iâ??ve watched the film before, but it has a different effect when seen on the big screen,â?• QCinema festival director Ed Lejano told the Inquirer shortly after the opening gala at the Gateway Mall

Korean director Park is known for making films with dark humor.
The Handmaiden (Agassi) is set in Korea during the Japanese occupation in the 1930s. Sookee (Kim Tae-ri) is hired by a conman, also called the Count (Ha Jung-woo), to become the maid of Lady Hideko (Kim Min-hee), a Japanese heiress living in a secluded estate with her uncle (Cho Jin-woong), who is plotting to marry her for her wealth.
The Count also wants to marry the heiress for her money, but his plan is foiled when Lady Hideko falls for Sookee.

The erotic thriller premiered at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, where it was nominated for Palme dâ??Or and won for Ryu Seong-hie the Vulcan Award for best production design.

â??Director Park is no stranger to QCinema,â?• said Lejano when he introduced the film. In the 2015 QCinema, Parkâ??s â??vengeance trilogy,â?• consisting of *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance* (2002), *Oldboy* (2003) and *Lady Vengeance* (2005), was screened.

This yearâ??s closing film is Louie Ignacioâ??s award-wining drama *Area,* starring Ai-Ai de las Alas.



Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte (center) at the opening of QCinema Film Festival with guests—photos by Grig Montegrande

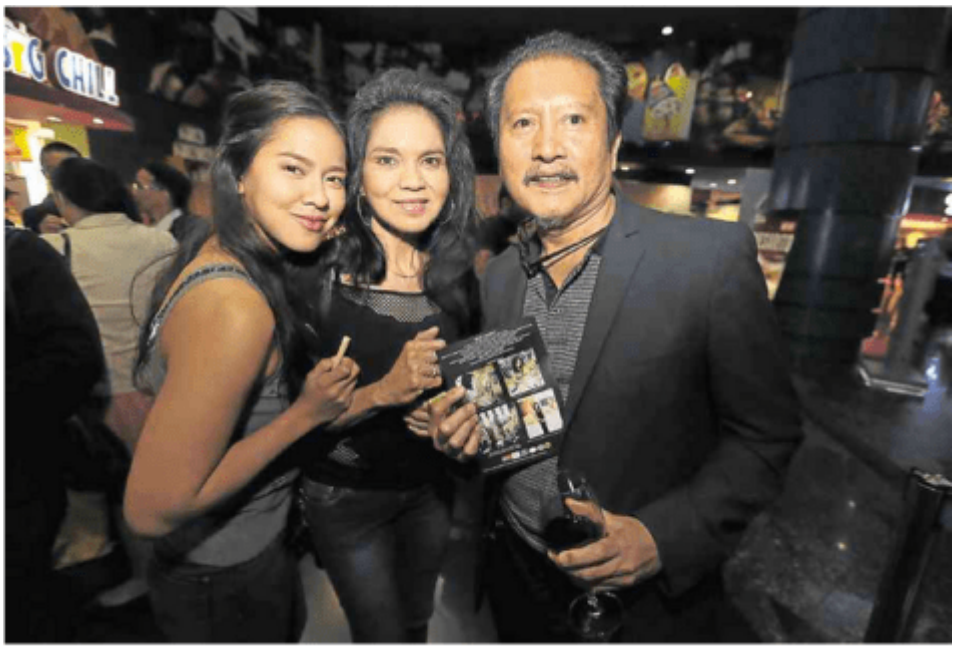
â??We provide opportunities for more artists to showcase their talent through this annual festival,â?• said Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte in her welcome address.

The finalists in the Circle Competition include Prime Cruzâ??s *Ang Manananggal sa Unit 23B,* Howard â??HFâ?• Yambaoâ??s *Best. Partee. Ever,* Bagane Fiolaâ??s *Baboy Halas: Wailings in the Forest,* Kristian Corderoâ??s *Hinulid (The Sorrows of Sita),* Victor Villanuevaâ??s *Patay na si Hesus (God is Dead),* Roderick Cabridoâ??s *Purgatoryo* and Sheron Dayocâ??s *Women of the Weeping River.*



Director Ed Lejano

The entries for #QCShorts are Joshua Joven and Kaj Palancaâ??s *Contestant #4,* Aedrian Araojoâ??s *Hondo (Deep),* Eduardo Dayaoâ??s *If You Leave,* Gabrielle Tayagâ??s *Pagdating,* Inshallah Monteroâ??s *Papaâ??s Shadow,* Victor Niervaâ??s *Sayaw sa Butal (Coin Dance)* and Janus Victoriaâ??s *Viva, Viva Escolta.*



From left: Mara Lopez, Maria Isabel Lopez and Ronnie Lazaro

QCinema is paying tribute to Filipino director Mike de Leon by screening some of his works (at Robinsons Galleria) and Polish auteur Krzysztof Kieslowski (at Trinoma and UP Town Center). Other venues are Robinsons Galleria and Gateway Mall.

(Source: http://entertainment.inquirer.net

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29. Vulcan Award for best production design.

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