

Hannah Espia - Farbová

Writer/Director/Editor/Producer

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Hannah Espia-Farbova (b. 1987) is a film and television director, writer, producer, and editor from Manila, Philippines.

Espia-Farbová's debut feature film "Transit", was one of the most acclaimed Filipino films in 2013. Hailed as an "impressive debut" by Variety magazine, the film premiered at Busan International Film Festival's New Currents Section and was selected to over 40 international film festivals. "Transit" was the Philippines' entry to the 86th Academy Awards and was screened at the MoMA as part of the film series "A New Golden Age: Contemporary Philippine Cinema."

In 2014, Espia-Farbová won the prestigious Gawad Urian Critic's Award (the Philippines' Academy Awards equivalent) for Best Director, making her only the third female director to receive this honor. She was recently named one of "Five Visionary Asian-American Female Filmmakers" in Kore magazine's "The New Hollywood" issue".

Espia-Farbová is currently taking her MFA in Film at Ohio University as a Fulbright Scholar. She lives in Athens, Ohio with her husband Andrej.

Selected Filmography



April 2012, *Ruweda*, digital video, 9 minutes.
Position: writer/director/editor. A UPFI undergraduate thesis film. A psychosocial film about the Filipino concept of “suwerte” or luck. “Audience Choice Award” at the 8th Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival August 2012.



July 2013, *Transit*, feature film, 93 minutes.
Position: co-writer/director/co-editor. *Transit* explores the intersecting stories of Filipinos in Tel Aviv when the threat of a law deporting the children of migrant workers looms their precarious lives. “Best Film”, “Best Director” and 8 awards at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival 2013. “Special Mention (New Currents)” at the Busan International Film Festival 2013. “Student Jury Prize” in Tokyo FilmEx 2013. “Best Director” at the 37th Gawad Urian Awards 2014.



“Audience Choice Award” at the FEST New Films/New Directors Film Festival (Portugal), 2015. Philippine Entry to the 86th Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category. Screened at the MoMA, New York as part of the film series “A New Golden Age: Contemporary Philippine Cinema”



December 2013, ***Mamang Pulis (Mr. Policeman)***, animation, 6 minutes. Position: director, editor, animator. A short animated documentary about University of the Philippines Film Institute's property custodian Conrado Flores (1947-2016).



May 2015, ***Learning to Build a Fire***, feature film screenplay, 64 pages. Position: writer. *Learning to Build a Fire* explores the complex relationship of an interracial couple within a 90-day Schengen visa. Awarded the Asian Cinema Fund - "Script Development Fund". Awarded the Next Master's Tokyo "Project Development Fund". Selected and developed as a "Berlinale Talents Script Station" project. Selected as an "Asian Project Market" project.



March 2016, ***Midlife!***, digital video (TV movie/ Pilot Episode), 23 minutes. Position: writer/ director. A TV series pilot episode about a Filipino-American reconnecting with his estranged father by assembling his father's old rock band during the 70s and auditioning for a band search reality show. "2nd Best TV Pilot" at the Cinefilipino Film Festival 2016. Featured in Kore Magazine's "The New Hollywood" Issue - "5 Visionary Asian-American Filmmakers".



July 2016, ***Heart of Sword***, digital video, 8 minutes. Position: writer. Set in feudal Japan, *Heart of Sword* is an action/romantic comedy that tells the story of two star crossed lovers who run away from their oppressive society together.



May 2017, ***#GetToKnowMom***, digital video, 8 minutes. Position: director. A digital short film for Globe Telecom Mother's Day 2017.



September - November 2017, ***The Promise of Forever***, television series, 56 episodes. Position: co-director. A romantic drama series about Lorenzo, a man who gains immortality after being struck by lightning. Living his modern-day life as Nicolas, he meets Sophia, whose dream to help her family led to her becoming a seafarer.



November 2017, ***Rabbit and Fish***, 16mm film, 6 minutes. Position: writer/director. A whimsical story about a Rabbit who learns that to love is to set free.



March 2018, **Vtáčia Záhrada (Bird Garden)**, digital video, 7 minutes. Position: director/editor. A man's love for the wallcreeper, a rare bird, inspires him to build a "bird hotel" for migrating birds.



September 2018, **Alpaca Farm**, digital video, 10 minutes. Position: writer/director. A Filipino with a cancelled US Work Visa escapes to an abandoned farm where she meets an alpaca that can grant her three wishes.