

# MILADANG



# Synopsis

The study tells of Tony – an NBI agent hot on the trail of a series of rapes and killings that counts, among them, Tony's girlfriend, Tin.

With his co-agent, Jane, they follow leads that take them to a meeting with Miyuki, the daughter of Mr. Kazudo – an elder member of the Yakuza.

Together, they come face-to-face with an enemy that transcends time; and leaves a trail of mindless, cold-blooded blood at its wake.



# CAST OF CHARACTERS

Cesar Montano



Maria Ozawa



Meg Imperial



Yam Conception



# POSTERS



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**MILDUNG**

# WRITE-UPS: RAPPLER

## Everything #MMFF2015



In the movie, Cesar is Tony, an MR cop tracking down a serial killer responsible for a series of murders. He encounters Myk (Maria Ozawa) a daughter of a Yakaza member who helps him out, and they soon find themselves face-to-face with an enemy that transcends time.

The movie also stars Meg Imperial, Yari Concepcion, and Cholo Barretto. It's an official entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Here are 5 things to know about *Niña*:

### 1. Robin Padilla was supposed to be the leading man.

Before *Cesar Montano* came on board, the film originally had Robin and Maria as partners for the movie. But after finding out that his wife, Mariel Rodriguez-Padilla was pregnant, Robin pulled out of the movie to take care of his wife. Mariel suffered a miscarriage days after Robin's announcement.

Robin's backing out of the film initially did not please Maria, who accused him of being unprofessional, but she later apologized.

During the press preview of the trailer last October, Cesar said, he was flattered to take on the role Robin left. (READ: What Robin Padilla said about Cesar Montano replacing him in MMFF 2015 film *Niña*.)

"Actually nakakaisip, matalim ko nang pagkatapos iyon si Robin. He knows my soul so he knows mine," Cesar said. (Initially, I'm so happy because Robin has long been a brother of mine.)

### 2. *Niña* is Maria Ozawa's first Filipino film.

Maria is known for her adult films, and after she left the adult film industry, she tried to get into movies. She has done movies in Taiwan, Thailand, and in Indonesia. On doing *Niña*, Maria said she found earned the way the people behind the camera worked.

"I haven't done those [films] in 5 or 6 years, and yeah I quit the industry 100%. That's why I've been doing movies in Thailand and Taiwan, and traveling to China every month for a click event," she said.

### 3. Maria was offered the role in *Niña* after expressing her interest to do a movie in the Philippines.

According to a press release, Maria was in the country last April 2015 for a series of radio guestings. Being a radio visit to *After Eight* during Magic 89.6, Maria said that given a chance, she would love to do a movie in the Philippines.

"And I just said it randomly, that I would love to be in a movie, and the offer came. I'm so lucky," she said.



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## 4. Cesar and Maria have a 4-minute intimate scene in the film.

During the press conference, Maria and Cesar were glib about the kissing scene he and Maria did, which was reported to be 4 minutes long.

"Do nga pasang naka-4 lang ngapaw door, (Yes, I think we only had 4 takes on that [kissing scene].)" Cesar said in jest about the kissing scene. Maria meanwhile estimated that the kissing scene was between 4 to 5 minutes.



File photo by Robert Reyes/Rappler

## 5. Maria did a number of fighting scenes for the movie.

Maria said that it was her first time to do fight scenes.

"First, I was like, I haven't done any of the fight scenes before, so I was really worried, but it turned out well," she said.

"First kissing scene sa kaayo-iyon eh di ba? And 4 minutes...mahò pa nga iyon. But hindi-iyon nang demand ng script," Cesar said. (That was the first kissing scene with her right? And 4 minutes...that's short. But seriously, that's what the script demanded.)



Photo courtesy of theLivePost

Maria also said that she took lessons in Japan in preparation for the movie, and one of the martial arts she trained for was Aikido. Maria also said she had fun carrying a gun, with which she said she was able to shoot a bottle.

Will you be watching *Niña* this Christmas season? Let us know in the comments section. – Rappler.com

## FOR BOSS THE STORY WARE YOU FEEL?



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# WRITE-UPS: PHILSTAR



The screenshot shows the Philstar Global Entertainment website. The header includes the Philstar Global logo and navigation links for Home, Headlines, Opinion, Nation, World, Business, and Sports. The main article is titled "K-Travel Bus" with a sub-headline "Korean Bus Tour to the Best Korean Attractions". Below this is a featured article titled "Film review: Nilalang, into the dark side of Manila" by Philip Cu-Unjieng, updated on December 28, 2015. The article includes social media sharing options for Tweet (3), Share (41), Google Plus (0), Email (0), and Like (372). A movie poster for "NILALANG" is displayed below the article title.



Cesar with Nilalang leading lady Maria Ozawa

**MANILA, Philippines** – An entry to the Metro Manila Filmfest, *Nilalang* is an action/horror thriller that can boast of aiming for a multi-cultural approach to storytelling — merging ancient Japanese legends with contemporary Filipino crime-fighting.

Blessed with a committed approach to cinematography — an inspired bleak, almost colorless veneer to the modern Manila landscape, it combines this singular look with strong visceral images that should satisfy those who are watching more for the horror/suspense elements the film promises. Produced by WeLovePost, along with Parallax, Haunted Tower and Viva, the film is a bold step in raising the standards of production values for the film of this genre, as created here in the Philippines.

Tony (Cesar Montano) is an NBI agent and forensics expert who believes he brought down a serial killer with Japanese roots some three years ago. When killings of the same nature occur in the present day, Tony and his partner Jane (Meg Imperial) are forced to face formidable possibilities — a copycat or has the same killer resurfaced in another person?

This supernatural premise brings them to Miyuki (Maria Ozawa), daughter of a Japanese crime boss who resides here in Manila. How this all connects to a book that has its origins in the period of feudal Japan, and that there is something other-worldly at the core of the bestial crimes/ritual sacrifices being committed, are what drive the plot of this film.

Gallows humor punctuates the screenplay of this ambitious film. The casting coup here is getting Ozawa, a well-known adult film star in Japan, to play one of the major roles in the film. Of course, she is known for a particular genre of film, so finding her more often than not dressed, and doing action scenes, may be unfamiliar to her legion of fans.

Cesar, on the other hand, throws himself into his role, speaking Japanese with credibility and playing the gruff charmer with ease. The action sequences, and the horror scenes, deliver in a manner that augurs well for the filmmakers behind this enterprise. If anything, the film could have had some brisker editing and a tighter storyline.

Both Korea and Thailand have gone down this path — aiming to excel and export films of a particular genre. It then remains to be seen if this film will find an audience beyond these shores and encourage similar types of co-productions — or have quality projects from abroad filmed here with regularity. Like how many know that *The Martian* was filmed primarily in Jordan? Given the pool of creative talent here, it is this type of film and its success that can lead to the Philippines being considered regularly as a prime location for film production.

# WRITE-UPS: MICAMYX



## MMFF 2015 Movie Review: Nilalang (Entity) starring Cesar Montano and Maria Ozawa

Published on December 27th, 2015 // Micamvx // Category: [Movies](#) // [0 Comments](#)



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**NILALANG** is the first Metro Manila Film Festival entry I've seen this year during its premiere night at the SM Megamall Cinema 10. It was a quick invitation but I do admit now that the main motivation to watch the movie is to see the famous Maria Ozawa in the flesh. I mean, why not? It's about time to discover if the Japanese AV superstar can act without the need of stripping off her clothes.

The movie starts with an impressive flashback and opening credits. From there, the audience automatically knows that the people behind this project are good in terms of visuals as the quality is top-notch. It will make you feel proud that a Filipino film can compete with its Asian neighbors in making such movies.

History goes way back to 1602 when two brothers were fighting against a man who was possessed by an evil spirit named Zahagur. I remember sitting at the edge of my seat with the sword scenes between the three characters. Even the credits rolled out a nice timeline of important events in Japan and the Philippines.

Modern day story starts with NBI Agent named Tony Cuevas, who in 2013 made headlines after killing Nakazumi, a Japanese criminal who was notorious in killing women in a certain fashion. As a female viewer, you'd find some of the images a bit disturbing (that explains the R-16 MTRCB rating).

By 2015, a series of killings once again popped up. Together with Agent Jane (played by Meg Imperial) and the SWAT Team (Dido dela Paz, Kiko Matos and Cholo Barretto), they're out to search who the violent culprit is.

The case became personal when Tony's ex-girlfriend (played by Aubrey Miles) was not spared from the series of crimes.

Okay... I will slow down from now on. Maria Ozawa plays the role of Miyuki, the eldest daughter of a Yakuza who is now living in the Philippines. The Japanese lady undeniably has a strong screen presence and it is obvious that she is trying her very best to do well in this project and she doesn't disappoint. Her chemistry with Cesar Montano is so strong and I kind of wish they were given more scenes. Why are they close friends? Is Tony also part Japanese? What is the age gap between the two characters? Those weren't answered.

Meg Imperial is a revelation in this film. I admit it - I'm one of those who questioned why she was given a drama lead role way back. I can say now that action is her strongest point as she looked very convincing as an agent in her scenes at the same time she's still exuding that 'innocent' aura. Remember Angel Locsin's GMA-7 days?

Yam Concepcion had a short but memorable appearance in the movie as the youngest sister of Miyuki. She was able to pull off a sexy but creepy scene.

The trio of Dido dela Paz, Cholo Barretto and Kiko Matos were really convincing. It reminds you of a barkada at work who have different personalities, but you all get along.

The fight scenes in the movie were inspired by Japanese and Asian action sequences. The overall feel of the movie reminds me of the gangster films we enjoyed during its heydays.

There's no question about the action, but the character and story development is lacking. I couldn't really empathize with either Tony, Miyuki or Jane and the ending left its audience in a hanging position.

I can say that Nilalang is a man's film. You will enjoy the fight scenes, be engaged in some of the chase scenes and be impressed with how the stars portrayed their roles. I think Cesar Montano is a good replacement to Robin Padilla, although I would also love to see how the Bad Boy of Philippine Movies will portray the role. I hope Nilalang gets a distribution deal in other countries especially Japan. This is a strong debut for first-time feature film director Pedring Lopez.

I honestly hope this movies does well in the box-office in order to encourage the producers to do more movies like this.

If they're thinking of doing a sequel, I suggest they add Diego Loyzaga and Sofia Andres as the protege of Agent Tony and Agent Jane. Saw them at the premiere night and I think they'll do good in an action-packed film!

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# WRITE-UPS: CINEMA BRAVO

## CINEMA BRAVO

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'Nilalang' aims to change the game in Philippine Cinema

PUBLISHED ON [December 14, 2015](#)

While every film tells a story – that of characters, conflicts and even subliminal messages – few are made carrying a clear sense of purpose that goes beyond what the audience sees on screen. The kind where viewers, as the credits roll, begin to think, “every movie should be made that way.”

WeLovePost, — or WLP as the production house fondly called – had this in mind when they laid out the plans for *Nilalang*, the outfit’s official entry into the 2015 Metro Manila Film Festival.

A team comprised mainly of people with roots in the advertising industry, *Nilalang* infused the stringent discipline that goes into making a branded commercial. From storytelling to casting, shooting, editing and even promotions, every step was meticulously prepared to set the film up for success in the local box office as well as in the international market.

**Pedring Lopez.** The film’s director, says that, “We want to make a statement about the craft of filmmaking; to set a standard for Filipino films – in terms of storytelling, production values, and all other elements that go into a picture. We Pinoys are among the most creative people in the world. It’s about time our work reflected that.”

**Rex Lopez.** WLP’s Executive Creative Director for Content, shares, “We did *Nilalang* in an unconventional way. Not to be different for the sake of being different, but because we believe that today’s viewers are more discerning. They know when they’re just being taken for a ride; or when they’re seeing really good work. They can tell when big names are just a smokescreen for a lack of depth in the story or characters.

According to producers **Roy Lopez** and **Maia Yambao**, there is growing anticipation for the film’s distribution in Japan, where Maria Ozawa, the film’s female lead, enjoys a cult following. “This is one of the ways that ‘ready-for-the-world’ vision is carried out thru *Nilalang*,” says actor **Troy**

**Montero**, a partner in WLP. He adds that, “We didn’t limit ourselves to what or who was available. We thought out of the box and came up with a casting coup,” in reference to Ozawa sharing top billing with proven leading man Cesar Montano.

*“Nilalang”* is a WLP venture with Haunted Tower Pictures, Paralux Studios, and VIVA Films; opening December 25, 2015 in cinemas nationwide. (PR)

# WRITE-UPS: REEL DEAL

Monday, January 04, 2016

## REEL DEAL: Nilalang REVIEW



One of the most anticipated movie for the Metro Manila Film Festival was Nilalang, which features Maria Ozawa as one of the lead roles. Initially the leading man was for Robin Padilla, who backed out of the project to attend to family concerns. However, the movie did push through with Cesar Montano replacing his place for the movie.

This film, from its earlier trailer, shows that there will be a lot of action and horror with a new "entity" that is not from the conventional mythologies. The inclusion of Ozawa for the film gives a very authentic Japanese approach. And being an action-horror film the movie invested in a lot of effects to bring out the gore and blood for this and some bondage.

There is also some sexiness that was included for the film, and it does not need to be nasty. They got more sexy ladies playing various roles like Meg Imperial, Yam Concepcion, and a special participation of Aubrey Miles. Though the film is rated R-16, it is more because of the blood and gore.

**MILDANG**

