

A professional film set with orange walls, a red sofa, and various lighting equipment. The set is equipped with multiple studio lights on stands and ceiling rigs. A large white banner with the title 'TO KEN WITH LOVE' is centered in the background. In the foreground, there is a black office chair on the left and a camera on a dolly on the right. A red blanket is draped over the sofa.

TO KEN WITH LOVE

A short film

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
MIKE TALPLACIDO

Logline:

A flamboyant talk show host who prides himself in being the "Whitest Gaysian Ever" grapples with internalized racism, workplace tokenism, and familial conflicts that will force him to choose between vengeance and forgiveness.



Synopsis:

To Ken with Love is a story about Ken Jones, a flamboyant talk show host who relishes being the "whitest gaysian ever" and takes pride in being "the only Asian in the room."

Underneath Ken's colorful persona lies a true case of internalized racism. So, not only does Ken not see himself as Asian, but he also hates it and tries to stay away from it as much as he can, and the one thing that he really wanted is to be accepted and validated by white people.

Ken's perfectly curated world of glitz and glamour is suddenly rocked by a work incident involving his boss Freddy, a network TV executive who calls Ken his "favorite gaysian," along with the arrival of a young Filipino-American intern named Marikit, whose presence will play a key role in Ken's journey, and the re-appearance of Ken's mother, whom Ken had not seen in twenty years.

Soon, Ken must deal with the toxic tokenism at work and carve a path towards embracing his roots and identity. Will Ken find his way back to finding out who he is?

To Ken with Love is a story about family, relationships, and the journey towards finding one's true authentic self.

Movie Poster:

FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF
"THE PERFECT COUPLE" & "VELVET SKY"

TO KEN with **LOVE**

a film by MIKE TALPLACIDO

KMM VENTURES PRESENTS "TO KEN WITH LOVE" STARRING MIKE TALPLACIDO * MARA LOPEZ *
MARCO TORRES * CJ BASILE * STEPH LEHANE * JENN O'BRIEN * ALEJANDRO VALTIERRA * JOSHUA
MERWISE * ASHLEY RAPUANO * JEFFERSON CARVEY * PINKY ALBEA * DAVID ALVAREZ
AND MS. MARIA ISABEL LOPEZ

COMING SOON

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark textured sweater and dark pants, stands in a modern living room. He is smiling slightly and has his hands in his pockets. The room features large windows with a grid pattern, through which a sunset or sunrise is visible. The lighting is warm and ambient.

MIKE TALPLACIDO

Writer/Director:

PODCAST HOST AND WRITER BASED IN NORTH CAROLINA. HE'S THE AUTHOR OF KISS MY MIKE, A MEMOIR ABOUT NAVIGATING SEXUALITY AND RACIAL IDENTITY, INTERWOVEN WITH THE PURSUIT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, THE PRESSURES OF A RELIGIOUS FAMILY AND THE ULTIMATE QUEST FOR LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS.

Director's Statement

“To Ken with Love” is my love letter to the Gay Asian community.

I was inspired to tell this story because it is something that I have seen in my own community. I realize much of this phenomenon was really a result of internalized racism. As a Filipino-American and an Asian-American, I have seen so many of us struggle with our own identities. Many of us have felt "not enough" and as such have chosen to stay away from our own identities and culture. Worst, a few others I know have even "hated" themselves for being who they are (myself included at some point in the past).

This story needs to be told NOW. There is such a strong momentum going on for diversity and inclusion. However, while there's been some progress made across the board, there's also still so much more we can do to create change and make a positive impact. It is also important for actions to start from within ourselves. And so, for a lot of Filipino-Americans and Asian-Americans, we must smash every bit of notion related to internalized racism. We must learn to love who we are and embrace our unique beauty.

CAST



KEN

MIKE TALPLACIDO

A flamboyant host of "MORNINGS WITH KEN" talk show, who relishes being the "whitest Gaysian ever"



MARIKIT

MARA LOPEZ

A young, idealistic intern who is struggling with self-confidence and still trying to find her place in the world



EDNA

MARIA ISABEL LOPEZ

A struggling but compassionate mom of Ken who is usually overshadowed by her domineering husband

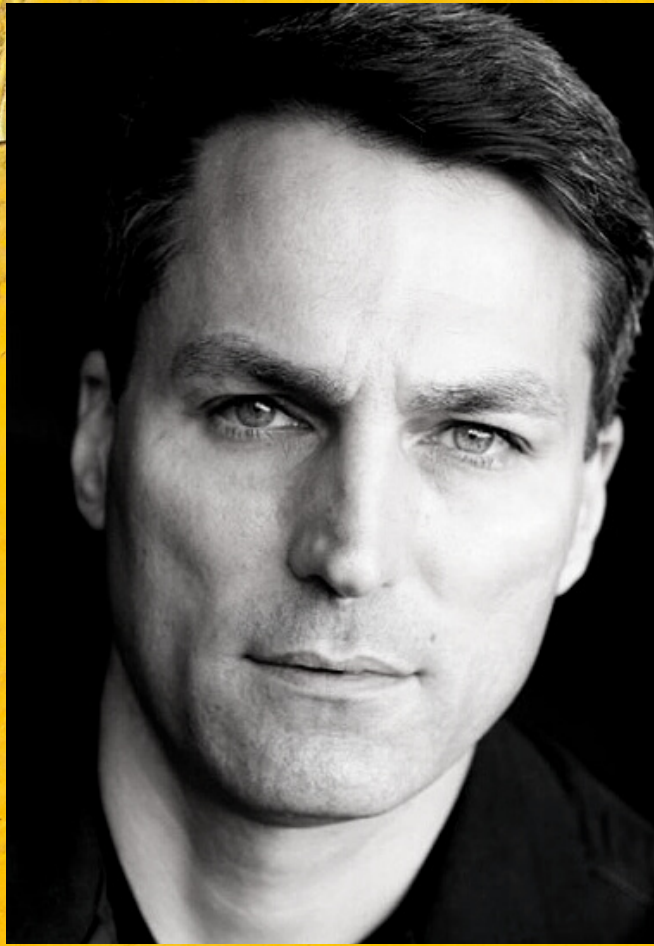


BENNY

MARCO TORRES

A strict father who is set in his own ways

CAST



FREDDY

CJ BASILE

KEN's network executive boss who is oblivious to his own prejudices and his lack of empathy and self-awareness



MIA

STEPH LEHANE

KEN's producer / assistant at his show who does everything to thrive in a cutthroat TV environment



KELLY

JENN O'BRIEN

KEN's producer / assistant at his show



NICO

ALEJANDRO VALTIERRA

Male model and Ken's trophy boyfriend who is consumed by his own ambitions and will do whatever it takes to get what he wants

CAST



RACHEL ZELENSKY

ASHLEY RAPUANO

BROADWAY star of KATNISS: THE MUSICAL



MALE PA

Joshua Merwise

Nerdy producer / Ken's assistant



CHEF PINKY

PINKY ALBEA

Celebrity Chef, Guest on Ken's new show



TEENAGE KEN

JEFFERSON CARVEY

Teenage version of KEN

To Ken With Love

A short film



Featuring Costume Pieces From:

KENNETH BARLIS

(Fashion Designer, Project Runway S19 finalist)



Kenneth Barlis

Kenneth is a Philippines-born, Filipino fashion designer who competed on Season 19 of Project Runaway.

**CHECK OUT KENNETH'S
WORK ON HIS OFFICIAL
INSTAGRAM PAGE:**

@kennethbarlis_official

CONTACT

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