

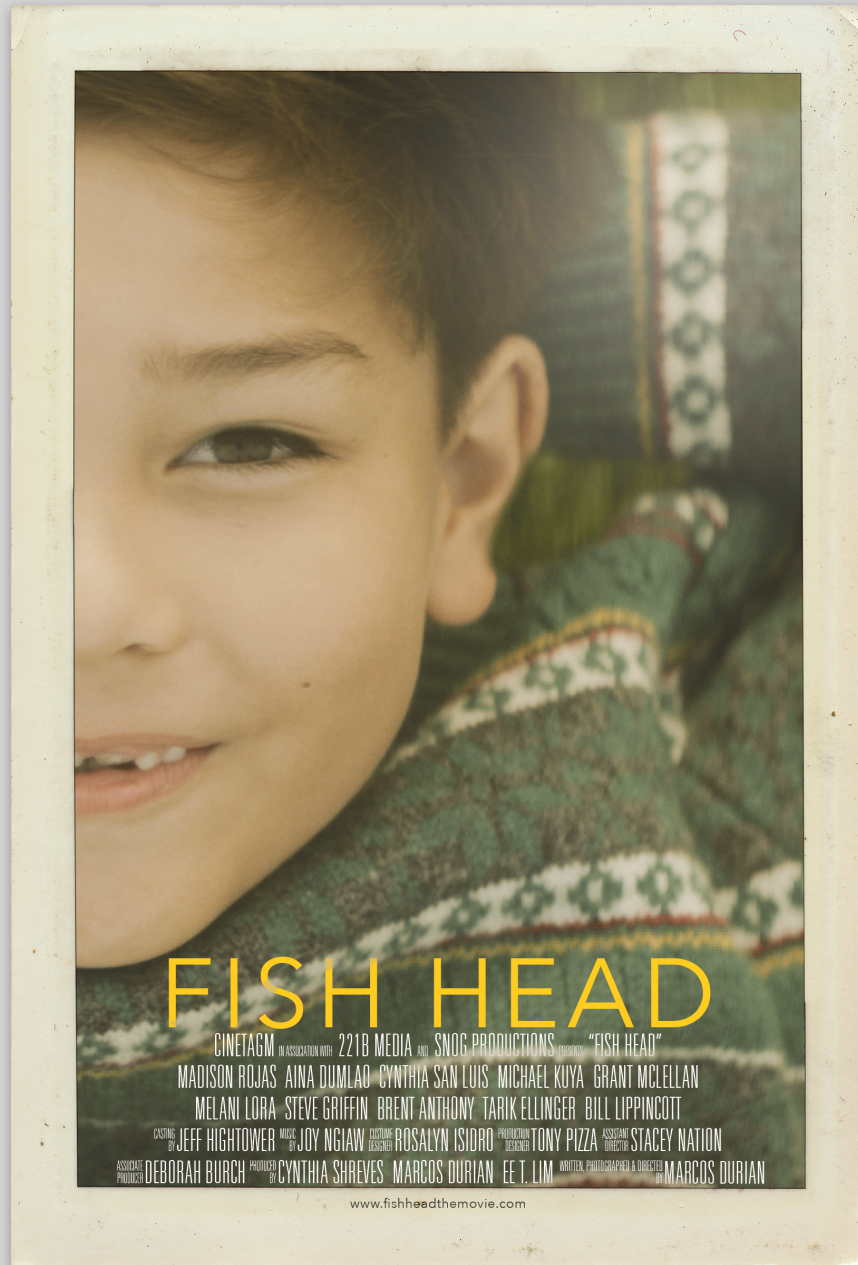
FISH HEAD

A MARCOS DURIAN FILM



FISH HEAD

S P E C S



NARRATIVE SHORT

TRT: 16:30

2.39:1 ASPECT RATIO | COLOR | 5.1 SURROUND SOUND

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED & DIRECTED BY
MARCOS DURIAN

PRODUCED BY
CYNTHIA SHREVES, MARCOS DURIAN, EE T. LIM

PRODUCTION COMPANY
CINETAGM

ORIGINAL SCORE BY
JOY NGIAW

CASTING DIRECTOR
JEFF HIGHTOWER

COSTUME DESIGNER
ROSALYN ISIDRO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
TONY PIZZA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
STACEY NATION

EDITED BY
MARCOS DURIAN

FISH HEAD

LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS



LOGLINE

A Filipino-American coming of age story which chronicles a young boy's adversity with childhood, identity and being bullied at school.

SYNOPSIS

Fish Head is a coming of age story based on actual events and portrays defining moments in the life of Milo, a young Filipino-American boy struggling with adversity in childhood, with his identity and being bullied at school. He's guided by the love and support of Lorena his immigrant, single mother who conceals her past to insulate her son. Fish Head is a visual poem, an ode to growing up as seen through the eyes of Milo as he navigates the trials and tribulations of his youth. The film aims to be lyrical yet deeply grounded in its character's while also dealing with universal themes. The results blend realism with a dream-like aesthetic, one moment coalesces into the next, weaving into a deeply personal experience of the events that shape us as we grow, the fleeting essence of time and the unpredictable nature of our lives.

FISH HEAD

FESTIVALS | PRESS

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Dances With Films Film Festival 2019 | *Academy Award Qualifying*
Rhode Island International Film Festival 2019 | *Academy Award Qualifying*
HollyShorts Film Festival 2019 | *Academy Award Qualifying*
LA Femme Film Festival 2019
Highland Park Film Festival 2019 | *Winner Audience Choice Award*
Emerging Cinematographer Awards 2019 | *Winner*
Asians On Film Festival 2019 | *Winner Best Drama, Best Actress/Aina Dumlao, Best Original Score/Joy Ngiaw & Honorable Mention Best Director*
Blow-Up International Arthouse Film Festival Chicago 2019 | *Finalist*
Asian World Film Festival 2019
EnergaCamerimage International Film Festival 2019
Asian Cinematography Awards 2020 | *Winner Best Short Film, Best Cinematography (short film) & Best Actor (short film)*
Pasadena International Film Festival 2020
Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival 2020
New York Cinematography Awards 2020 | *Best Short Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography (short film), Best Supporting Actress, Best Young Actor*
North Hollywood Cinefest 2020

COMPETITIONS

[In 2018 Fish Head was a semifinalist in the Screencraft Short Screenplay Competition.](#)

PRESS LINKS

[The Hollywood Reporter](#)
[Fish Head Pasadena Weekly](#)
[Voyage LA](#)
[Shoot On-Line Magazine](#)
[Film Threat](#)

FISH HEAD

D I R E C T O R S S T A T E M E N T

Growing up being bullied for the color of your skin is never easy. Finding an avenue to cope with it, perhaps even more difficult and painful.

It is increasingly the case in this complicated world, that simple human co-existence cannot hold, and that the long rooted and subconscious effects of colonialism still exist and are relevant today.

Discontent with the lack of Filipino-American stories and representation on screen I made Fish Head, which is a deeply personal story based on my own experiences growing up in a single parent home, the son of an immigrant mother from the Philippines. Always feeling like an outsider, constantly and often physically bullied, I had a deep longing for a father figure - thinking it would make things better. The script was developed with the belief that something this personal could be universal.

The primary themes of Fish Head are adversity, identity, family and race. The film focuses on the intersection of these themes through a coming-of-age story which portrays defining moments in the life of Milo for whom Fish Head is about.

When I was young boy I'd go sleep praying to wake up free of my brown skin. I would often look at myself in the bathroom mirror wishing that I would be white, and out of desperation I would dust my face in baby powder before going to school hoping for acceptance. It's worth noting that the number one selling beauty product in the Philippines is skin whitener an obvious lineage to American and Spanish colonialism.

There were days when I was scared of going to school fearful of what would happen. The physical altercations were incomprehensible to my young mind. It had a profound effect on my insecurity and fear, and more specifically, the inability to stand up for myself.

Fish Head is about facing those insecurities, it's about taking a stand when there is no where left to turn. We never truly leave our younger selves behind, there's a ten year old in each one of us searching for acceptance, looking to overcome the turbulent moments that almost seemingly would brake us.

While this film is a depiction of struggle and hardship, it's also about beginnings, change and how deeply complex and unexpected life can be in it's most mundane and innocent moments.

We hope you enjoy our film!

FISH HEAD

C A S T



MADISON ROJAS

MILO / FISH HEAD

Madison Rojas is an actor known for *Jane the Virgin* (2014), *Teacher* (2016) and *Cucuy: The Boogeyman* (2018).



AINA DURLAO

LORENA / MOM

Originally from the Philippines, Aina is an actress and producer with recurring roles on HBO's *Ballers* and CBS' *MacGyver*.



CYNTHIA SAN LUIS

AUNTIE LIGAYA

Cynthia hails from the windy city and can be seen in *The Family Business* (2018) and *Ghost in the Graveyard* (2019).



MICHAEL KUYA

UNCLE FERDI

Michael Kuya is an actor and writer, known for *Who to Love* (2017) and *What you Don't Say* (2017).



GRANT MCLELLAN

DWAYNE

Grant is an actor known for *The Cursed Man* (2016) *Grant me Hope: Love between Aliens and Robots* (2017) and *The Possessed* (2018).

FISH HEAD

C A S T



MELANIE LORA

MRS. DAVENPORT

Melanie is an actress of both stage and screen and is known for her work on *Sons of Anarchy* and *The Consultants*.



STEVE GRIFFIN

DONNY

Steve got his start in local theatre musicals like *Twisted* and *Hero* before landing roles in shorts and TV such as *Fresh Off the Boat*.



BRENT ANTHONY

BRICE

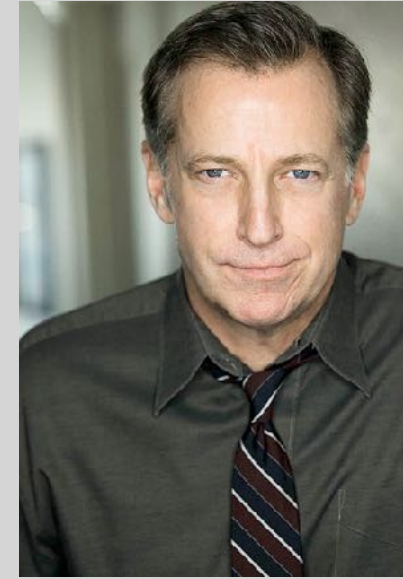
Brent landed his first role at the age of four and has gone on to work in Film and TV with roles in *The Chair* (2016) & *Community* (2010-2014).



TARIK ELLINGER

MATT

Tarik is known for numerous national commercial campaigns and starring in the web series *The Division* (2011-2014).



BILL LIPPINCOTT

MAN AT THE DOOR

Bill is known for his work on *American Crime Story* (2016), *Angie Tribeca* (2016) and *Days of Our Lives* (2017).

FISH HEAD

DIRECTORS BIO



Photo by Carlo Gustaff

Marcos Durian is a Filipino-American filmmaker based in Los Angeles. He is a visual storyteller obsessed with telling creative, compelling and diverse stories with an excellent eye for detail. He has worked as a professional freelance cinematographer, editor and director for the past 15 years on features, commercials and music video's.

Always in pursuit of self discovery, he is driven by the journey and has a strong desire to tell stories that reflect and represent the Filipino-American experience. He is inspired by the power of image and story and wants people to feel something from the images he creates, feel the struggle, the pain, the happiness, and the human emotion that binds us.

Fish Head is Marcos' narrative directorial debut. He not only wrote, directed and edited the short film, but he also served as his own cinematographer, which earned him a 2019 Emerging Cinematographers Award presented by the International Cinematographers Guild (Local 600).

FISH HEAD

E N D C R E D I T S

Written | Photographed | Directed by
MARCOS DURIAN

Produced by
CYNTHIA SHREVES | MARCOS DURIAN | EE T. LIM

Starring
MADISON ROJAS
AINA DUMLAO

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Milo/Fish Head MADISON ROJAS

Auntie Ligaya CYNTHIA SAN LUIS

Lorena/Mom AINA DUMLAO

Uncle Ferdi MICHAEL KUYA

Dwayne Gardner GRANT MCLELLAN

Mrs. Davenport MELANIE LORA

Brice BRENT ANTHONY

Donny STEVE GRIFFIN

Sam RICHARD DAVIS

Matt TARIK ELLINGER

Man at Front Door BILL LIPPINCOTT

CINETAGM

Presents

A MARCOS DURIAN FILM

FISH HEAD

SUPPORTING CAST

Family Members

CORA & PAUL CARAG, CHRISTIAN CARAG, JON CARAG, KEON PAULO CARAG,
KAI PAULO CARAG, DESIRE & RILEY CHAPLEAU, FRANCES DURIAN,
LINA DURIAN, MARCIANA MADDATU, CAMILLE & RAF DELOS SANTOS,
ALEXANDER JAMES DELOS SANTOS, ELYSE MARIE DELOS SANTOS

Students

EVERETT BAXTER, ALEXANDER DAVIS, ANGELICA FACTOR,
MILANA LIKHTERMAN, MIKITA LIOHKI, TATIANA MORALES,
LELEE PARISH, CHRISTOPHER SHONE, JESSICA SHONE, NICHOLAS SHONE,
TRENTON TICKENOFF, BRAYDEN TITUS, EMMA RODRIGUEZ, GRACE YOON

Baseball Field

CHRIS & AIDEN CHAPLEAU

SPECIAL THANKS

LORENZA DURIAN, ROBERT & SUSAN SHREVES,
THE CARAG FAMILY, THE CUMMINGS FAMILY, THE DELOS SANTOS FAMILY,
THE ROUSE FAMILY, AJ CALOMAY, ARLYN DELA PENA, TYLER CHAPLEAU,
NORMAN LESPERANCE, THOMAS HANCZ, BOYAN STANIVUKOVICH,
KELLEY HARRON, MARK BACCI, DANNIS KOROMILAS, BRET KOEHLER,
CARLO GUSTAFF, FILAM CREATIVE, LOUEE & BUDDY, ELI RICHBOURGH,
STELLA PACIFIC, JOHN LEE, AMANDA SWANN, MARY TAYLOR, GIOVANNI CUAREZ
DAN NAYLOR, TROY TAKES, PETE ISLIP & MATT OEHLBERG

ORIGINAL SONG "FISH HEAD STEW" BY JULIAN CHANG & JOY NGIAW
CELLO RECORDING AT STAGG STREET STUDIO WITH SOUND ENGINEER JOSH FRANKS

TRT: 16:30 | 2.39:1 ASPECT RATIO | COLOR | 5.1 SURROUND SOUND | ENGLISH

FISH HEAD

C O N T A C T I N F O



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