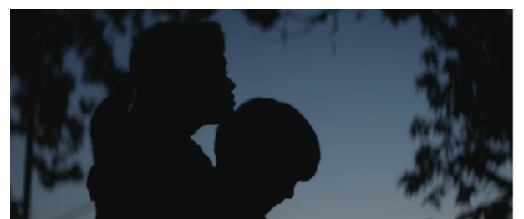
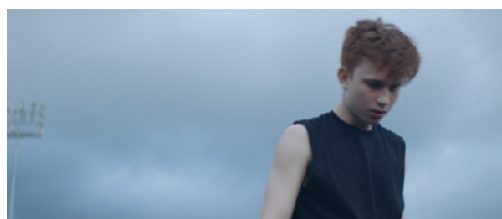
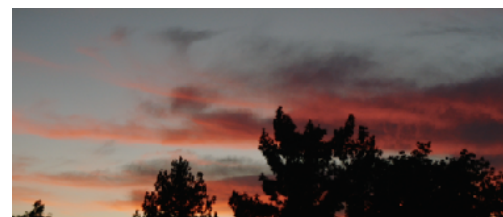
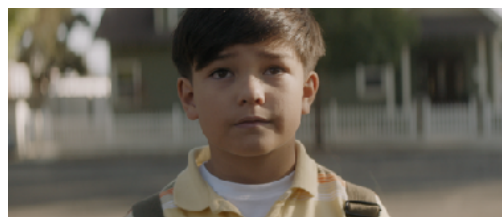
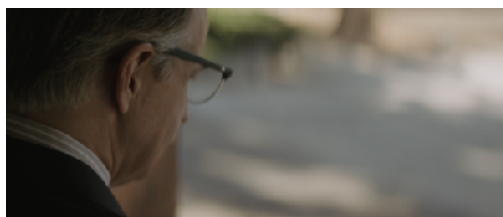
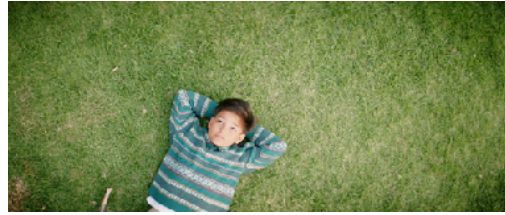


FISH HEAD

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



FISH HEAD

S Y N O P S I S

A chronicle of childhood and identity for a young, Filipino mestizo boy who longs for a father figure while navigating the adversities of being bullied at school in 1985.

Milo is a shy, introverted boy, being raised in a single parent home by his caring, Filipino mother Lorena. His quiet nature labels him an outsider and an easy target as he's constantly teased and bullied for the way he looks.

With no father figure and a mother working to provide, Milo has little guidance in life when dealing with the hardships of his youth. There is no counsel when Dwayne and his rough neck crew surround and heckle Milo, ruffing him up and stealing his hacky sack. Milo takes matters into his own hands and resorts to concealing his brown skin under a layer of baby powder hoping for respite but Dwayne and his cronies persist.

Milo is not completely alone though. He's friends with Matt a popular kid from school, with boy next door looks, who Milo often trades comic books with. One day after school, as the boys walk down the street Milo spots a mysterious man standing at the front door of his house. The boys walk down the driveway avoiding the man but Milo is compelled to stop as he locks eyes with the stranger. Time seems to stand still. The sound of the oak tree leaves rustling in the wind resonates. The moment lingers leaving a deep impression, even though not a word is spoken between the two of them. Matt calls out to Milo breaking him out of his daze.

Completely unaware of the events from earlier in the day, that evening at the dinner table, Lorena attempts to break the ice with Milo about his father. She tells him that his father "Loves him very much" which catches Milo off guard. Confused, angered and unprepared for his mothers endeavor Milo storms off to his room. Milo stares at an old distorted picture of his mom and dad which he keeps hidden in his comic books. The man that was at the front door bares an uncanny resemblance to the man in the picture.

Walking across the school football field, Milo spots Dwayne and his knucklehead crew kicking around the hacky sack they stole from him. Donny inadvertently kicks it out of play towards Milo's feet. Milo picks it up only to come face to face with Dwayne. This time Dwayne doesn't hold back and cracks a series of blows on Milo's face. Milo's deep, still waters stir and eventually boil-over.



Director/DP Marcos Durian reviewing a pivotal scene with Lorena played by Aina Dumlao and Milo played by Madison Rojas.
Photo Credit: David Diamata Stacey

FISH HEAD

D I R E C T O R S B I O

Hi, I'm Marcos Durian, I'm a Filipino-American filmmaker. I serve primarily as a cinematographer on a diverse body of work including indie feature films, commercials, short films, television movies and music videos. I got my start as a stills photography assistant and a PA on commercial productions. I moved to London, England to expand my film education through courses offered by BFI, then New York at NYFA and eventually Los Angeles where I fine-tuned my skills and learned more about the filmmaking craft working as a camera assistant with greats, like legendary photographer & commercial director Herb Ritts and directors David Fincher, Francis Lawrence, Tony K., Joe Pytko, Paul Hunter and world renowned cinematographers Darius Khondji, Paul Cameron, Sal Totino, Allen Daviau, Jeff Cutter and Pierre Rouger. These were my real teachers and I'm incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to work and learn from them all.

Since stepping out on my own I've worked with global and regional clients including Nike, Dell Computers, Bona, The Company Store, Peter Piper Pizza, Hurley, El Torito, MTV, DKNY, Green Dot, Procter & Gamble and recording artists Gary Allen, One Republic, Lady Antebellum, Leann Rimes, Friendly Fires, Rihanna, Beck and Kelly Rowland.

Fish Head marks my first foray in the narrative directors chair and having worked in the industry for close to twenty years, telling diverse stories which reflect the Filipino-American experience has become a priority to me.



Milo played by Madison Rojas faces the school bully Dwayne played by Grant McLellan.
Photo Credit: Marcos Durian

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 DUMLAO

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) and *The Possessed* (2018).

FISH HEAD

C A S T



MELANIE LORA

MRS. DAVENPORT

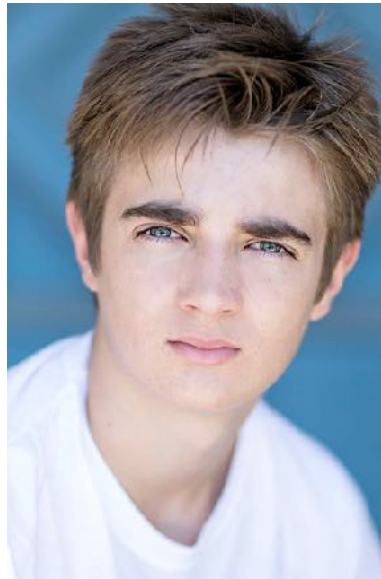
Melanie is an actress of both stage and screen and is known for her work on *Sons of Anarchy* and *The Consultants*.



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).



Madison Rojas checks out the POV shot of his character Milo.
Photo Credit: Marcos Durian

FISH HEAD

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Fish Head is an extremely personal project, based on actual events and has been gestating and evolving for many years. It existed first as a feature length script, which I wrote back in 1998. At the time, most studios or producers had little to no interest in a Filipino-American centric coming of age story. I even had a few exec's say that if I changed the lead characters to Caucasian or African American I might have better luck. I gave it some thought, and after writing close to twenty pages, I shelved it knowing that the heart of the story was lost. Flash forward to today and diversity is on the rise. In hindsight, the reality is that if I tried to make this short film ten to fifteen years ago, I probably would never have found the incredibly talented Filipino-American cast that leads this film, namely Madison Rojas, Aina Dumlao, Cynthia San Luis and Michael Kuya.

In sharing this story, I was surprised to learn how many other people had similar experiences with using baby powder or other means to lighten their skin hoping for acceptance at school. I thought I was the only crazy kid that ever tried and failed miserably at it. My hope is that an audience will find the characters and themes explored in Fish Head relatable and that the film will both appeal and resonate with anyone that has dealt with adversities in their youth, such as being bullied, issues of identity or anyone that grew up never knowing one of their parents.

Although coming of age stories are nothing new, it's rare that we see this type of story shared through an Asian-American or specifically Filipino-American lens, which not only validates our community but sheds light on our culture, experience and record. Having worked in the industry for close to twenty years, it's always been important to me as a filmmaker to tell diverse stories that reflect not only the Filipino-American experience but also contributions... I hope this is just the beginning.

The cast and crew of Fish Head is an incredibly talented, diverse, melting pot of industry professionals. Many are women of whom numerous are FilAm or persons identifying as AAPI or URM. It was an emotional experience to be surrounded with such an amazing group of individuals! It takes a village and I have to thank my entire cast and crew for all their hard work and efforts to make Fish Head a reality. I couldn't have done it without each and every one of them and I'm extremely grateful to have had them all be a part of this project.

We hope you enjoy the film!



Director/DP Marcos Durian fine tunes the negative fill with Key Grip David Diamata Stacey.
Photo Credit: Stacey Nation

FISH HEAD

C A S T & C R E W L I S T

Written | Photographed | Directed by
MARCOS DURIAN

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

Associate Producer
SNOG | DEBORAH BURCH

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/Father	BILL LIPPINCOTT

CINETAGM
Presents
A MARCOS DURIAN FILM

Casting Director
JEFF HIGHTOWER

Composer
JOY NGIAW

Costume Designer
ROSALYN BAUTISTA ISIDRO

Production Designer
TONY PIZZA

CREW

First Assistant Director STACEY NATION
Second Assistant Directors CARI PAK
ABBY ZAHURANEC
SEAN DODDS
Production Supervisor ALISHA WARD

Steadicam Operator BADRA HAIDRA
1st Assistant Camera TED ENDRES
2nd Assistant Camera ASER SANTOS JR.
Additional 2nd AC's PHILIP HOANG
ASHER STRAUCH

Set Sound Recordist JENNIFER ZHANG

Art Directors JAKE RYAN ARZOLA
RUSSEL VANNORTWICK

Make Up/Hair ROCZANE ENRIQUEZ
MONICA REYES

Script Supervisor	RHONA RUBIO
Additional Script Supervisors	AMELIA FERRONI TAI WEINMAN
Gaffer	JOSEPH TAN
Key Grip	DAVID DIAMATA STACEY
G&E Swing	JOAQUIN CRUZ
G&E Intern	HEANOK MELESE
Fight Co-ordinator	DANTE FERNANDEZ
Production Assistants	DAMIAN LANG DARAH R. MACARAEG STEVE RAE TYLER HIGGINS
Original Comic Book Artwork	RICARDO DELGADO
Visual Effects Supervisor	ARVIN BAUTISTA
Sound Design & Mix	JULIAN BEESTON
Cellist	TREVOR JARVIS
Score Mix	ALVIN WEE
Studio Teachers	MAX ZAROU AMY STANOSZEK RON BAKER
BTS Footage	BRANT HADFIELD
Craft Services	MAX DOMMINGUEZ RAUL AGUIRRE II
Catering	FOOD FETISH EAGLE CATERING

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

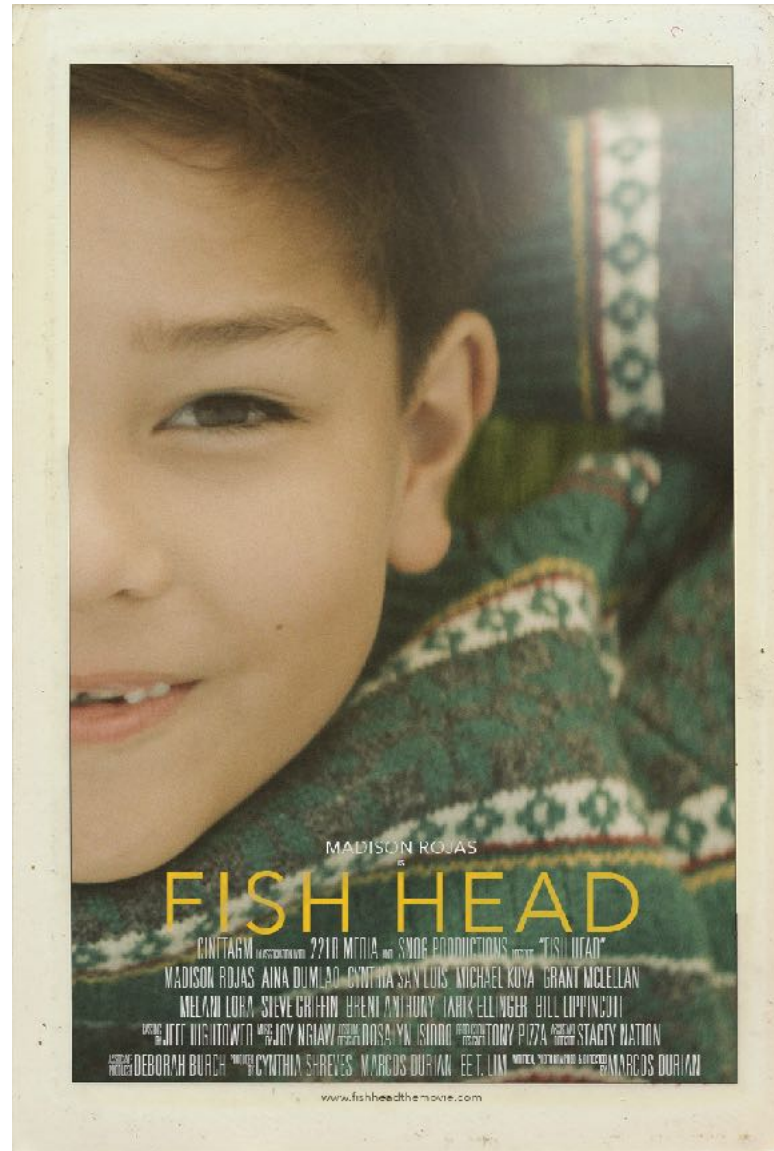
SPECIAL THANKS

LORENZA DURIAN, ROBERT & SUSAN SHREVES,
THE CARAG FAMILY, THE CUMMINGS FAMILY, THE ROUSE FAMILY,
THE DELOS SANTOS FAMILY, AJ CALOMAY, ARLYN DELA PENA,
TYLER CHAPLEAU, MARK BACCI, DANNIS KOROMILAS, BRET KOEHLER,
KELLEY HARRON, NORMAN LESPERANCE, THOMAS HANCZ, BOYAN STANIVUKOVICH,
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

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

FISH HEAD

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



Fish Head Official Movie Poster.



Fish Head Official 4x5 Postcard.

FISH HEAD

E L E C T R O N I C P R E S S K I T



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