

# FISH HEAD

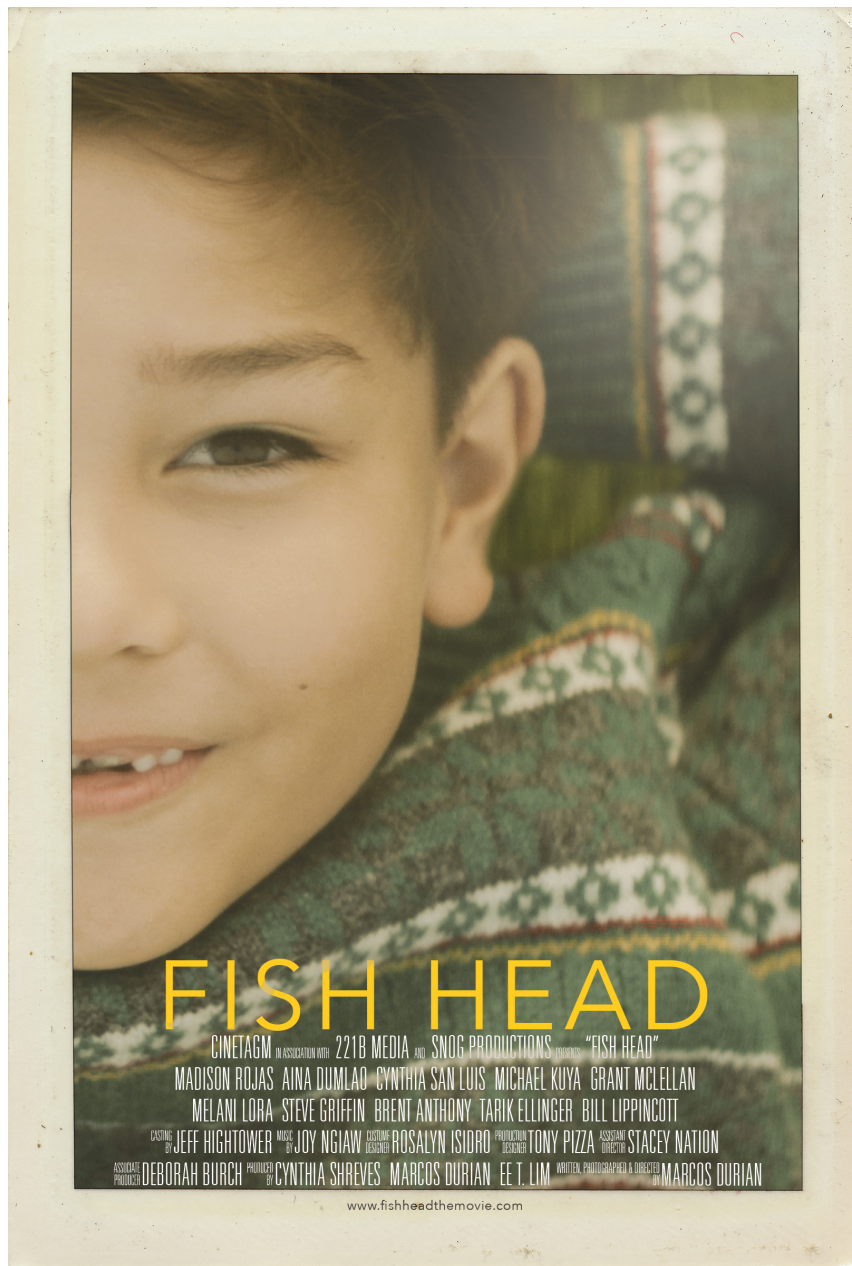
A MARCOS DURIAN FILM





# 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 support and love 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

NEWS | UPDATES



Just after we wrapped principle photography the script for Fish Head was named as one of the semi-finalists of the **ScreenCraft Short Screenplay Competition**.

<https://screencraft.org/2018/10/12/announcing-the-2018-screencraft-short-screenplay-contest-semifinalists/>



Fish Head recently had it's World Premiere at the **Dances With Films** film festival in Hollywood, CA it was an amazing experience and we were fortunate enough to share our journey to Dances With Films with Pasadena Weekly.

<https://www.pasadenaweekly.com/2019/06/13/pasadena-filmmaker-marcos-durian-turns-a-tough-childhood-into-great-art-with-his-new-short-fish-head/>



We are incredibly excited to announce that our Writer, Director and Cinematographer Marcos Durian has been selected as one of the honorees to receive the **2019 Emerging Cinematographers Award** from the International Cinematographers Guild (IATSE Local 600) for his work on Fish Head.

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/behind-screen/icg-names-recipients-emerging-cinematographer-awards-1216050>



Fish Head was recently honored with laurels from **Asians On Film Festival** winning Best Drama/Marcos Durian, Best Actress/Aina Dumlao, Best Original Score/Joy Ngiaw and a Honorable Mention for Best Director/Marcos Durian. Fish Head will screen at the AOFF in January 2020 in Los Angeles, CA.

<http://www.asiansonfilm.com/asians-on-film-festival-of-shorts-fall-quarter-winners-2/>

We are also hard at work re-tooling the feature length version of Fish Head which explores the same themes of being bullied, identity, and family but where the feature differs in a big way is that we follow Milo into his adolescent years similar to films like Boyhood and Moonlight where Milo must overcome a series of tragic events and culminating in his eventual journey to find the Father he never new.



# FISH HEAD

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Fish Head is a deeply personal project, based on actual events about the complexities of youth. A realistic portrait of moments where circumstances build to a harsh moment of clarity, abandonment of naivety and how some things no matter how trivial can have a lasting significance.

This story has been developing and evolving for many years. It existed first as a feature length script, which I wrote back in 2003. Unfortunately, at the time, telling inclusive stories such as this was incredibly challenging to finance and make. I 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 which inspired me to make the film as a short. In hindsight, the reality is that if I tried to make this 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 (Milo) and Aina Dumlao (Lorena).

In sharing this story, I was surprised to learn how many people had similar experiences 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 you 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 and experience. Having worked in the industry for over fifteen 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 it's 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!

# 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) *Grant me Hope: Love between Aliens and Robots* (2017) and *The Possessed* (2018).



# FISH HEAD

C A S T



MELANIE LORA

MRS. DAVENPORT

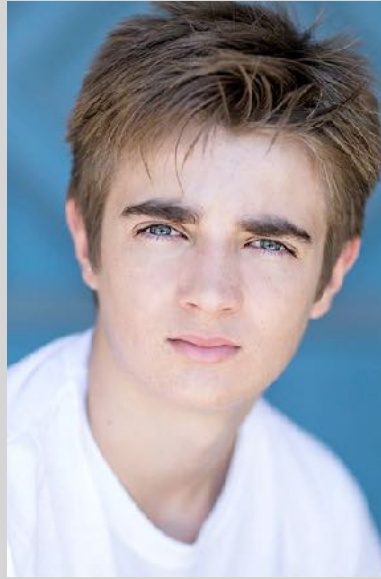
Melanie is an actress of both stage and screen and is known for her work on *Sons of Anarchy* and *The Consultants*.



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

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 TV commercial productions. My first movie credit was on Steve Buscemi's "Trees Lounge" which I was a Production Office Intern.

I grew up on a steady diet of films by Spielberg, Lucas, Scorsese, Coppola, Burton, Carpenter, Hughes, Cameron and Zemeckis and was enamored by movies from the French New Wave, Kurosawa and Malick.

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 with and learn from them all.



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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

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







# FISH HEAD

C O N T A C T I N F O



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