

# SELECTED THEATER PRODUCTIONS JANUARY—DECEMBER 2014

*RIVALRY* / Jan. 17–19 @ Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Pasay City

Dir: Ed Lacson Jr. The 4th Wall Theatre Company.

A restaging of the musical about the Ateneo–La Salle rivalry.

*WAIT UNTIL DARK* / Jan. 17–Feb. 9 @ Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1, Makati City  
Dir: Miguel Faustmann. Repertory Philippines.

Liesl Batucan won the 2014 Best Actress (Non-Musical) Aliw Award for her portrayal of Susy, a blind woman put through a harrowing ordeal by criminals trying to locate a heroin-stuffed doll.

*RAK OF AEGIS* / Jan. 31–Mar. 9 @ PETA Theater, Quezon City

Dir: Maribel Legarda. Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA).

Sporting songs by Aegis, this Aliw Award-winning jukebox musical garnered many citations and was staged repeatedly throughout the year. Inspired by the resilience of Filipinos amid disasters, *Rak of Aegis* shows how the lives of the residents of the flooded village of Villa Venezia are turned upside down when the daughter of their barangay captain, Aileen, achieves fame and puts everyone on the spotlight.

*RED* / Jan. 31–Feb. 9 @ Tanghalang Huseng Batute, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Bart Guingona. The Necessary Theatre.

Bart Guingona received the 2013 Aliw Awards for Best Actor and for Best Director for this restaging of the play about abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko.

*WILLIAM* / Jan. 31–Feb. 16 @ Star Theater, Manila

Dir: Maribel Legarda. PETA.

PETA restaged Ron Capinding's rap musical, making more accessible to young audiences the work of the great playwright William Shakespeare, featuring excerpts from *The Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.

*SUGA TULA* / Feb. 4–16 @ Mindanao State University, Iligan City

Dir: Steven P. G. Fernandez. Integrated Performing Arts Guild (IPAG).

The IPAG of MSU–IIT transcreated various poems of Southern Philippine writers.

The performances explore the longings and conflicts of the multicultural communities of the South.

*ANG NAWAWALANG KAPATID* / Feb. 5–23 @ Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Quezon City

Dir: Dexter M. Santos. Dulaang UP.

A spectacularly physical staging of Floy Quintos's adaptation of India's *Mahabharata*.

Ceejay Javier composed the score. The musical was restaged later the same year.

*BREAKAWAY ANTIGONE* / Feb. 6–22 @ Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

Dir: Ricardo Abad. Tanghalang Ateneo.

Sophocles' *Antigone* is transformed into a rock musical by composers William Elvin Manzano and Ceejay Javier and writer Floy Quintos.

*KINARA: PHILIPPINE DANCE EVOLUTION* / Feb. 8 @ Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World, Manila

Headlined by the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group and other acclaimed dance companies, this interpretative dance-based show features the evolution of the Filipino spirit from the colonial period to modern times.

*MARCO POLO: AN UNTOLD LOVE STORY* / Feb. 8–9 @ Meralco Theater, Pasig City

Dir: Rogelio Saldo Chua. Artist Theatre Company.

Written and composed by Rogelio Saldo Chua, this musical was first launched in June 2012 in New York before being brought to the Philippines. Chua brings to life the little-known love affair between Marco Polo and Princess Kogajin, Kublai Khan's daughter.

*TOILET* / Feb. 12–Mar. 1 @ Exhibit Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

Dir: Bym Buhain and Miyo Sta. Maria. Ateneo Blue Repertory.

Up-and-coming composer Ejay Yatco's first full-length original musical. Although the book was found wanting, Yatco's compositions show a lot of promise.

*THE ART OF DANCE* / Feb. 14–22 @ Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza,  
Makati City

Ballet Philippines.

This grand 44<sup>th</sup> Season Finale features both classical and contemporary ballet choreographed by company members including veterans Agnes Locsin and Paul Alexander Morales.

*AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY* / Feb. 21–Mar. 16 @ Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1,  
Makati City

Dir: Chris Millado. Repertory Philippines.

A staging of Tracy Lett's Pulitzer Prize-winning black comedy about a dysfunctional American family coming to terms with the disappearance of their patriarch. Theater veteran Baby Barredo plays Violet, the unstable, drug-addicted mother of three daughters. The staging garnered many citations for both acting and direction.

*HEART 2 HEART: BALLET AND BALLADS* / Feb. 21–Mar. 2 @ Aliw Theater,  
Manila

Ballet Manila.

A post-Valentine performance, the show features classical and neo-classical ballet pieces.

*MGA AMA, MGA ANAK* / Feb. 21–Mar. 9 @ Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, CCP,  
Pasay City

Dir: Joel Lamangan. Tanghalang Pilipino.

An adaptation of Nick Joaquin's classic story "Three Generations," about the conflict between father and sons. The cast includes veterans Eddie Garcia and Celeste Legaspi.

*GAMES PEOPLE PLAY* / Feb. 26–Mar. 1 @ Black Box Theater, Ateneo de Manila  
University, Quezon City

Dir: Ed Lacson Jr.

Earning an Aliw Award for Best Ensemble, this play by Glenn Mas explores how a person's childhood could have shaped him. Production designer and director Ed Lacson Jr. kept to the essentials, drawing attention to Mas's script and the delicate performances of Abner Delina, Kalil Almonte, and Thea Yrastorza. It won acclaim and was restaged multiple times.

*COCK* / Mar. 7–Apr. 6, restaged Oct. 3–5 @ Whitespace, Makati City

Dir: Rem Zamora. Red Turnip Theater.

An interpretation of Mike Bartlett's *Cock*, a witty comedy about sexual identity. The play features veteran Audie Gemora, with Niccolo Manahan, Jenny Jamora, and Topper Fabregas.

*FULL GALLOP* / Mar. 14–23 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Bart Guingona. MyOwn Mann Productions, Inc. and Actor's Actors Inc.

Cherie Gil headlines this one-woman play about the iconic *Vogue* editor Diana Vreeland.

*NOISES OFF* / Mar. 28–Apr. 27 @ Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Makati City

Dir: Miguel Faustmann. Repertory Philippines.

A hilarious play-within-a-play which features a theater company staging *Noises On*, an English sex farce, with the company all the while dealing with their own drama backstage.

*GHOST THE MUSICAL* / Apr. 25–May 11 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions.

Headlined by Ima Castro, Cris Villonco, and Mark Bautista, the musical is an adaptation of the 1990 romantic drama film of the same name.

*PRISCILLA: QUEEN OF THE DESERT* / May 9–Jul. 13 @ Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila, Pasay City

Based on the popular movie of the same name, the musical follows the colorful journey of three drag artists. The powerhouse cast includes veterans Leo Valdez, Jon Santos, Bituin Escalante, and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo.

*DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN* / Jun. 13–22 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Michael Williams and Cathy Azanza-Dy.

Joel Trinidad headlines this comedic solo play written by Rob Becker about the modern relationship.

*THE VIRGIN LABFEST* / Jun. 25–Jul. 6 @ CCP, Pasay City

A festival held annually at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the 10th Virgin Labfest featured the new plays of emerging and established playwrights, including Liza Magtoto, Allan Lopez, and Layeta Bucoy.

*CARMEN* / Jul. 5 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

Philippine Ballet Theatre.

Set to Georges Bizet's music and choreographed by its artistic director Ronilo Jaynario, the Philippine Ballet Theatre interpreted the tale of Carmen, a seductive Spanish gypsy who holds all the village's men in thrall.

*DANI GIRL* / Jul. 11–27 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Toff de Venecia. The Sandbox Collective.

This new theater company debuted with a musical by Michael Kooman and Christopher Dimond. It follows the story of an imaginative girl named Dani, who battles cancer. This show was touted as "good for the soul."

*KLEPTOMANIACS* / Jul. 11–27 @ Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Tuxqs Rutaquio. Tanghalang Pilipino.

Tanghalang Pilipino opened its 28th season with an ambitious rap musical depicting the nation's struggle with poverty, natural calamities, and corruption.

*FLUID* / Jul. 24–26 @ SDA Theater School of Design and Arts Campus of DLS–CSB, Manila

Dir: Floy Quintos. DLS–CSB Technical Theater Program.

This reinterpretation of the Palanca award-winning play by Quintos explores the struggles young Filipino artists must face for their art.

*LA REVOLUCION FILIPINA* / Jul. 25–27 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

Ballet Philippines.

In commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, Ballet Philippines opened its 45th season with this full-length ballet production. First staged during the 1990s, the ballet narrates the nation's struggle for independence, first from the Spaniards and later on from the Americans.

*VENUS IN FUR* / Jul. 25–27 @ Tanghalang Huseng Batute, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Bart Guingona. The Necessary Theatre.

Starring real-life husband and wife, David Bianco and Jennifer Blair-Bianco, this David Ives play-within-a-play features a writer-director named Thomas Novachek looking for an actress to play the lead in his adaptation of *Venus in Furs*, the novel that inspired the term “masochism.” New actress Vanda Johnson arrives on the scene, and what is supposed to be a simple audition becomes an exploration of gender power struggle. Blair-Bianco was cited by critic Gibbs Cadiz for her “bravura display of range” and “crystalline control.”

*RONY FORTICH: BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE* / Jul. 26 @ Teatrino, Greenhills, San Juan City

Hong Kong Disneyland musical director and composer Rony Fortich gathered performers from various Philippine musical theater companies for a one-night-only concert of hit musical theater songs and his own compositions.

*MIDDLE FINGER* / Aug. 1–22 @ Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

Dir: Ed Lacson Jr. Tanghalang Ateneo.

An adaptation of Frank Wedekind’s play, *Spring Awakening*, Hans Ong’s *Middle Finger* is a coming-of-age story of two Filipino teenagers, Jakob Rodriguez and Benjamin Lunga, studying in a Catholic school in America. This production was cited by Gibbs Cadiz as the best full-length original Filipino play of the year.

*RABBIT HOLE* / Aug. 1–31 @ Whitespace, Makati City

Dir: Topper Fabregas. Red Turnip Theater.

Kickstarting their second season, the Red Turnip Theater opened with this 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner by David Lindsay-Abaire. The play is about how a couple cope with the loss of their young son to a car accident.

*APIR, DISAPIR* / Aug. 5–16 @ Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

Dir: Vix La Victoria and Thirdy Villarey. Entablado.

A twin bill production of Orlando Nadres’s *Paraisong Parisukat* and Rogelio Braga’s *Ang Bayot, ang Meranao, at ang Habal-habal sa Isang Nakababagot na Paghibinay sa Kanto ng Lanao del Norte*. Both plays explore the theme of societal oppression.

*SUHI* / Aug. 8–15 @ Mindanao State University, Iligan City

Dir: Steven P. C. Fernandez. IPAG.

An adaptation of Sophocles's classic, *Oedipus Rex*, set in Mindanao and retold through dance, music, and multimedia. It was well received and toured internationally, getting staged in the 2014 Asia Pacific Bureau Theater Schools Festival held at Shanghai Theatre Academy.

*THE LAST FIVE YEARS* / Aug. 9–31 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Robbie Guevarra. 9 Works Theatrical.

A staging of Jason Robert Brown's musical about how a couple named Jamie and Cathy fell in and out of love. The musical featured Joaquin Valdes as Jamie and Nikki Gil as Cathy.

*ANG PRINSIPITO: YUGYUGANAT KANTAHAN SA SALIW NG KALAWAKAN* / Aug. 15–31 @ DITO: Bahay ng Sining, Marikina City

Dir: BJ Crisostomo. Ikarus.

A Filipino adaptation by Joaquin Cerdas of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*, featuring music by the band Never the Stranger's JP del Mundo.

*PINOCCHIO* / Aug. 16–Dec. 14 @ Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1, Makati City

Dir: Joy Virata. Repertory Philippines.

A musical rendition of the beloved fairy tale about a puppet that wanted to become a real boy.

*MEASURE FOR MEASURE* / Aug. 20–Sep. 7 @ Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Quezon City

Dir: Alexander Cortez. Dulaang UP.

In this Shakespearean problem play, Duke Vicentio disguises himself as a friar to see how justice is implemented in his realm. It was staged both in English and Filipino, with the Filipino translation by Ron Capinding.

*SANDOSENANG SAPATOS* / Aug. 27–31 @ Tanghalang Huseng Batute, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Tuxqs Rutaquio. Tanghalang Pilipino.

Adapted from Luis Gatmaitan's children's story of the same name, this hit, now on its third run, brings to life the tale of a shoemaker and his young daughter who has

no legs. Layeta Bucoy's libretto interweaves fantasy and reality through colorful production design and a lively cast on rollerblades. The musical later represented the Philippines in the Beijing International Theater Olympics.

*MUSIKAL* / Sep. 5–6 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

A celebration of the Filipino musical, the concert includes numbers from hit productions like *Katy*, *Magsimula Ka*, *Maxie the Musical*, *ZsaZsa Zaturrnah Ze Muzikal*, *Labaw Donggon*, *Walang Sugat*, and *Sa Wakas*. Gerard Salonga conducts the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

*NOLI ME TANGERE THE OPERA* / Sep. 11–28 @ Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila, Pasay City

Dir: Freddie Santos.

This opera, adapted from Jose Rizal's novel in 1953 by National Artists Felipe de Leon and Guillermo Tolentino, went through sold-out performances in New York before it was brought to Manila. Rachele Gerodias and Myramae Meneses headline as Maria Clara, while Sal Malaki and Ivan Nery play Crisostomo Ibarra.

*BLUE MOON SERIES* / Sep. 19–28 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

Ballet Philippines.

A series in three parts: Ballet Philippines staged the ballet *Giselle*, featuring Stella Abrera and James Whiteside as Giselle and Albrecht, respectively, from September 19 to 21. It was followed by *The Blue Moon Gala*, which included works like Bam Damian's *Minamahal Sinasamba*, on September 26 and 27. Capping it all off on September 28 was *The Homecoming Gala*, where Ballet Philippines shared the stage with the companies, dance schools, and artists that had sprung from it.

*SHREK THE MUSICAL* / Sep. 19–Oct. 12 @ Meralco Theater, Pasig City

Dir: Bobby Garcia. Atlantis Productions.

An adaptation of the famous movie *Shrek*. Set in a world where fairy tales collide with one another, the musical focuses on the reclusive ogre who became the kingdom's unlikely hero.

*PAHIMAKAS NG ISANG AHENTE* / Sep. 26–Oct. 19 @ Tanghalang Huseng Batute, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Chris Millado. Tanghalang Pilipino.

A staging of Arthur Miller's *The Death of a Salesman*. *The Philippine Daily Inquirer* gave Jonathan Tadioan, a 29-year-old actor playing 63-year-old Willy Loman, recognition for his performance.

*GOD OF THE MACHINE* / Sep. 27–Oct. 12 @ DITO: Bahay ng Sining, Marikina City

Dir: BJ Crisostomo. Ikarus.

A staging of BJ Crisostomo's Palanca award-winning play about a playwright who falls in love with his own character and goes through metafictional lengths to possess her.

*ANG HULING LAGDA NI APOLINARIO MABINI* / Oct. 1–24 @ Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Quezon City

Dir: Dexter Santos.

Following Aguinaldo's oath of allegiance to the United States, the exiled Apolinario Mabini has to contend with swearing fealty to a sovereignty he is against if he ever wants to return to the Motherland.

*GOLD: LISA MACUJA, A TRULY CLASSICAL CONCERT* / Oct. 4 @ Aliw Theater, Manila

This one-night only performance celebrates Lisa Macuja's 50th birthday as well as her 30th anniversary as a professional ballerina. Excerpts from Marius Petipa's *Sleeping Beauty* among others.

*TWO!* / Oct. 10–12 @ Aliw Theater, Manila

Ballet Manila.

A premiere of the works of London-based choreographers Jonathan Watkins and Martin Lawrence. The show features Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and Kremlin Ballet principal danseur Mikhail Martynyuk.

*THE IMAGINARIUM* / Oct. 28–31 @ PETA Theater, Quezon City

The Sandbox Collective in partnership with Philippine Educational Theatre Association (PETA).

A four-day multi-arts festival highlighting the "theater of the absurd."

*TALE AS OLD AS TIME* / Nov. 8–9 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

The ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra plays timeless tunes from various Disney movies, from their most recent hit *Frozen* to classics like *Beauty and the Beast*. The concert also features high-resolution film sequences and a cartoon short.

*EL FILIBUSTERISMO* / Nov. 14–29 @ the AFP Theater, and subsequently at Star Theater (Manila) and SM Southmall (Alabang)

Dir: Jose Jeffrey Camanag. The Gantimpala Theater Foundation.

An adaptation of Jose Rizal's sequel to *Noli me tangere*.

*GREASE* / Nov. 15–Dec. 7 @ Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Dir: Robbie Guevarra. 9 Works Theatrical.

A Broadway classic about unlikely high school sweethearts Sandy Dumbrowski and Danny Zuko.

*THE NUTCRACKER* / Nov. 15–16 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

Philippine Ballet Theater.

A Christmas ballet classic.

*SWAN LAKE* / Nov. 15–16 @ Aliw Theater, Manila

Ballet Manila welcomed Maxim Chaschegorov and Katherina Markowskaj of the Bavarian State Ballet as guests for its latest staging of this classic. In order to undo the spell that keeps the beautiful Odette a swan by day, Prince Siegfried has to swear eternal fidelity. The evil sorcerer Rothbart is determined to put their bond to the test.

*THE COUNTRY WIFE* / *ANG MISIS KONG PROMDI* / Nov. 19–Dec. 7 @ Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Quezon City

Dir: Tony Mabesa. Dulaang UP.

A comedy of manners written by William Wycherley in 1675, this play satirizes the hypocrisy of the Puritan Regime. A Filipino translation by Nicolas B. Pichay was also staged.

*SCROOGE* / Nov. 21–Dec. 14 @ Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1, Makati City

Dir: Baby Barredo. Repertory Philippines.

A musical adaptation of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. The irascible Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by ghosts and reminded of the true spirit of Christmas.

*AGYU* / Nov. 26–29 @ Black Box Theater, DLS–CSB, Manila

Dir: Delphine Buencamino. Siklab Productions.

A dance theater adaptation of the Manobo epic *Ulahingen*. It depicts the struggle of a human family as they try to meet the challenges of their gods in order to enter Nelendangan—paradise.

*PRINSIPE MUNTI* / Nov. 27–Dec. 7 @ Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, CCP, Pasay City

Dir: Tuxqs Rutaquio. Tanghalang Pilipino.

Mixing live performance with puppetry, this is an adaptation by Layeta Bucoy of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. Ms. Teta Tulay of the Anino Shadowplay Collective, along with Karilyo, the shadowplay group of De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde, led the puppetry.

*RITE OF PASSAGE* / Nov. 27–Dec. 13 @ Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City

Dir: Glenn Sevilla Mas. Tanghalang Ateneo.

An adaptation of Ma. Milagros Geremia Lachica's Kiniray-a short story, "Sa Pagtubukang Tahud," where a young man wants to escape the monotony of a rural life in Visayas. *Philippine Daily Inquirer* praised Frances Makil-Ignacio's performance as Tiyay Susing, the spinster aunt living a life of regret and recrimination.

*CINDERELLA* / Nov. 28–Dec. 7 @ Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, CCP, Pasay City

Ballet Philippines.

A retelling of *Cinderella*, by National Artist Alice Reyes, set to the music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Denise Parungao and Monica Amanda Gana play the titular role. Notably, Madame Isabelle Garachon, the wife of the French Ambassador to the Philippines and former professional dancer, plays the role of Cinderella's wicked stepmother, while alternating with Ballet Philippines President Margie Moran-Floirendo.

*CLOSE ENKANTOS OF THE CHRISTMAS KIND* / Nov. 29–30 @ Activity Center, Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City  
An original by Joel Trinidad and Regie Tan, the musical featured famous Filipino *enkantos* on a journey to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

*SONGS OF AN ELECTRIC SOUL* / Nov. 29–Dec. 14 @ Sev’s Café, Legaspi Tower, Malate, Manila  
Called a “mind expansion ritual.” Artist Christopher Aronson fashioned a multimedia show, using projection mapping and electronic music to challenge the boundaries of theater as we know it.

*MY FRIEND HAS COME* / Dec. 4–13 @ DITO: Bahay ng Sining, Marikina City  
Dir: Ricardo Abad. Ikarus and the Japan Foundation.  
A staging of Japanese playwright Suzue Toshiro’s play, which tackles the issues of friendship and loss.

*KAILAN AT BAKIT* / Dec. 12–14 @ PETA Blackbox Theater, Quezon City  
Dalanghita Productions.  
A staging of three one-act plays, namely, *Betang* by J-mee Katanyag, directed by Ed Lacson Jr.; *Freshman*, written and directed by Chris Martinez; and *Mga Bulong ni Rara* by Pertee Briñas, directed by Claudia Fernandez.

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