

## Logline

Set against the 1981 Manila Film Center collapse, this reimagined drama follows workers whose stories intersect racing to meet an impossible deadline—unaware that in 12 hours tragedy would strike.

## Synopsis

Manila, 1981. As Marcos's dictatorship weakens, the regime rushes to complete the Manila Film Center—designed to showcase the country's "greatness" and distract from mounting unrest.

Beneath the grand facade, lives intertwine. Jun, the exhausted foreman, faces an ultimatum: find a criminal hiding among his crew or lose his job. Jing 2 desperately searches to clear his name after being accused of stealing a power drill, unaware that Jing 1 is the actual thief, trading stolen tools for meth to survive triple shifts.

# Heaven Help Us

tor Otrou DIGITAL DREAMS

BATOLATO SA LANGIT ANG TAMAMAN MAGAGALIT (HEAVEN HELP US!)

A FEATURE IN DEVELOPMENT BY EVE BASWEL

FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES APM Asian Project Market ACF Asian Cinema Fund QPM Cinema Project Market PURPLE TREE

**DIRECTOR:** Eve Baswel  
**PRODUCERS:** John Torres, Jules Katanyag

**Technical info:**  
**Genre:** Fiction / Drama, Historical reimagining  
**Production country:** Philippines  
**Language:** Filipino, Bisaya  
**Total budget:** \$ 850,000  
**Funds secured:** \$ 247,000 (29%)

During a hailstorm amid water shortage, workers collect raindrops like miracles while others paint dreams on unfinished walls. But as deadlines loom and corners are cut, the building weakens. Built with substandard materials and rushed timelines, it cannot bear its own ambition.

When collapse comes, it buries not just bodies but individual struggles—debts, dreams, desperate choices. As authorities pour concrete over buried workers to hide the tragedy, muffled voices persist beneath—truth rumbling under Imelda's architectural fantasy and the regime's desperation for immortality.

## Director's Note

I chose the Manila Film Center workers to understand my father's suffering. Through stories of men enslaved by survival, I reconstruct him from fragments of memory.

Each character is him at different stages – the young father dreaming of home, the middle-aged man bartering stolen tools for meth between brutal shifts, the old man still promising tomorrow.

Through this historical tragedy, I search for my father in other broken men who chose leaving over family. The film digs beneath the stories my father told to find the man he couldn't bear to be.



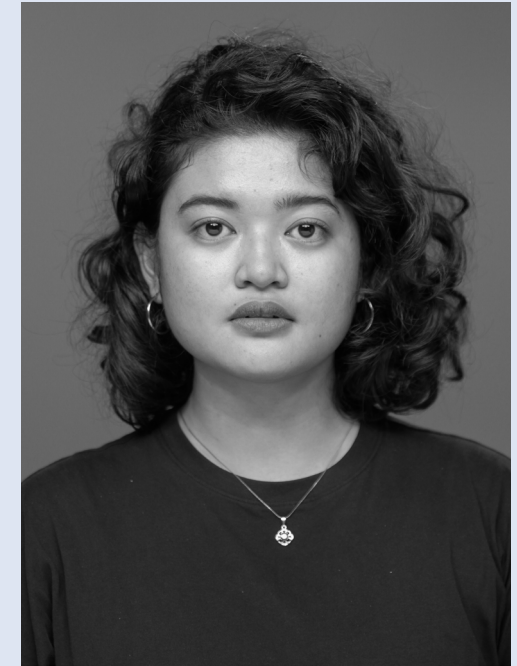
## Director Eve Baswel

Writer & Director Eve Baswel (b. 1995) emerged from conflict-laden Maguindanao where early experiences shaped her distinct artistic vision. Her stories and visuals capture ephemeral human moments, balancing cultural specificity with universal themes of isolation, vulnerability, and resilience.

Eve was selected for Directors Factory 2024.

Her short film **Walay Balay** premiered at the 77th Cannes Directors' Fortnight and was part of the opening film for QCinema International Film Festival 2024. Her debut feature **Tia Madre** garnered eight nominations including Best Picture and Best Director at CinemaOne Originals 2019, winning Best Cinematography. Netflix Philippines acquired its rights.

At QCinema Project Market 2024, her second feature **Bato-Bato Sa Langit Ang Tamaan Magagalit (Heaven Help Us!)** won the top Philippine co-production grant and CMB Discovery award. The project received additional support from the Asian Cinema Fund and went on to win both the Sorfond Award and Kongchak Studio Award at the Asian Project Market 2025 in Busan, Korea, where it was the only Filipino project selected.





**Producer**  
**John Torres**

John Torres is an independent filmmaker, musician, and writer. He co-runs Los Otros, a Manila-based space, film lab, and platform, committed to the intersections of film and art, with a focus on process over product. He directed and produced five feature films, including **Todo Todo Teros** (2006), which won the Dragons & Tigers Award at Vancouver International Film Festival 2006, and **Lukas The Strange** (2013), part of the Art of the Real series 2014 at Film at Lincoln Center.



**Producer**  
**Jules Katanyag**

Jules Katanyag is a writer, director, and producer who creates in the mainstream and independent cinema spaces. He directed and produced the absurdist film **Magdalola and the idiots** (2016), a jury prize winner in the CinemaOne Film Festival. His notable producing works include **Dog Days** (2019) and **12 Weeks** (2022), which won numerous awards and critical acclaim.

## **Production Company Bios**

**Los Otros** is a film and video studio and platform dedicated to supporting works with unique personal voices. It has produced the films of John Torres and Shireen Seno, including **Todo Todo Teros** (2006), **Lukas the Strange** (2013), and **Nervous Translation** (2017). These films have screened at various festivals, including New Horizons International Film Festival (2013), Vienna International Film Festival (2018), and Festival des 3 Continents (2018), and have received awards such as Best First Film and the Special Jury Prize at Lima Independiente International Film Festival (2018).

**Digital Dreams International (DDi)** is an award-winning Filipino production company that champions complex and personal Filipino stories. Notable productions include **Dog Days** (2018), winner of the NETPAC and Best Supporting Actor awards at QCinema International Film Festival (2018), and later screened in the Bright Future section at IFFR (2019); and **12 Weeks** (2022), which earned the NETPAC and Best Actress awards at Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival (2022).

## **Additional Information**

### **Developed at:**

- Full Circle Lab Philippines 2023
- Purple Tree

### **Presented at:**

- Asian Project Market 2025
- Qcinema Project Market 2024
- Directors Factory during 77th Cannes 2024

## **Support/Grants/Awards Received:**

- Asian Cinema Film Fund- Script Development Fund - KRW 10 Million
- Qcinema Project Market Philippine Co-Production Grant- USD 34,000
- Sørfond Award (APM 2025)
- Kongchak Studio Award (APM 2025)- USD 25,000
- CMB Discovery Award (QPM 2024)- Php 500,000

**This project was selected from Asian Project Market in 2025.**

**Director Eve Baswel will be presenting the project at the Sørfond Pitching Forum.**