



News from the

# Philippine Cinema Showcase

## PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Cinema Showcase  
San Diego Asian Film Foundation Office  
7290 Engineer Road, Suite A  
San Diego, CA 92111-0212  
[www.philippinecinemashowcase.org](http://www.philippinecinemashowcase.org)  
[info@philippinecinemashowcase.org](mailto:info@philippinecinemashowcase.org)

**CONTACT:** Arnold Marquez, 619-804-8424, [marqueza@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:marqueza@stanfordalumni.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SUSPENSEFUL, THRILLING “BLACKOUT” FEATURES DE NIRO-ESQUE PERFORMANCE BY “BAD BOY” OF PHILIPPINE MOVIES ROBIN PADILLA**

The Philippine Cinema Showcase is proud to present Ato Bautista’s taut psychological thriller *Blackout*, starring 1990s Philippine “bad boy” Robin Padilla. The film, which played at San Diego Asian Film Festival 2007 to enthusiastic audiences, makes its commercial theatrical premiere in a week-long engagement starting Friday, October 3, 2008. The film will screen at the Goldilocks Theater, UltraStar Chula Vista Cinemas, located at 555 Broadway, Chula Vista, California. *Blackout* is in Filipino language with English subtitles and runs 85 minutes.

Padilla plays Gil, a lowly apartment landlord who suffers frequent blackouts due to his heavy drinking. His alcoholism drives his wife away, leaving Gil to take care of his adorable son, Niño (John Michael Reyes). Gil awakens from another drunken blackout to discover a mysterious bloody rear bumper on his run-down Mercedes, and tragically, his neighbor (Iza Calzado) Belen’s daughter Isabel (Ella Guevarra) is missing. Gil must struggle against hysteria to uncover truth where the lines between real and unreal blur.

During the 1990s, Padilla rose to stardom as an action star in movies such as *Anak ni Baby Ama*, *Bad Boy* and *Grease Gun Gang*. Following a conviction on charges of illegal firearm possession in the mid-90s, Padilla was released in 1998. A self-confessed drug addict, during his prison term Padilla converted to Islam, and his career since release has largely been in romantic vehicles, starring with Regine Velasquez (*Kailangan ko’y Ikaw*), Sharon Cuneta (*Pagdating ng panahon*), Pops Fernandez (*Videoke King*), Tanya Garcia (*Sanib*), Judy Ann Santos (*Jeannie, Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang*), and Regine Velasquez (*Till I Met You*).

For *Blackout*, director Ato Bautista asked Padilla to put on the pounds, a la Robert De Niro for his role in Martin Scorsese’s *Raging Bull*. Says Padilla, “My weight rose from 160 lbs. to 180 lbs. I also

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stopped shaving. I would sleep for only two hours every night so I would have eyebags. For days, I slept at the small house where my character is supposed to live. I had to look dirty.”

**PRINCIPAL CAST**

<i>Gil Blanco</i>	Robin Padilla
<i>Belen</i>	Iza Calzado
<i>Isabel</i>	Ella Guevara
<i>Nino</i>	John Michael Reyes

**CREW**

<i>Director</i>	Ato Bautista
<i>Screenplay</i>	Ato Bautista and Shugo Praico
<i>Executive Producer</i>	Tony Gloria
<i>Cinematographer</i>	Lyle Sacris
<i>Editor</i>	Richard Barnett

**ABOUT ULTRASTAR DIGITAL CINEMA**

UltraStar Cinemas is headquartered in San Diego County and operates 102 screens at 13 sites throughout Southern California. In 2006, UltraStar Cinemas became the first theater company in the world to be fully equipped with Pure Digital Cinema® powered by DLP Cinema® technology in all of its locations. UltraStar Cinemas has historically been an innovator on the cutting edge of theater technology and continues to be a pioneer of the digital age of cinema by bringing alternative entertainment to the big screen, including such live events as the Academy Awards® and SuperBowl XL.

**ABOUT SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FOUNDATION**

San Diego Asian Film Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 organization dedicated to promoting the Pan Asian experience through the media arts. Its San Diego Asian Film Festival, San Diego’s largest pan Asian cultural event, celebrated its eighth year in 2007: a record 15,000 attendees experienced over 150 short and feature films from 15 different countries.

**ABOUT PHILIPPINE CINEMA SHOWCASE**

The Philippine Cinema Showcase is a year-long film series offering Filipino language films for 365 consecutive days following its premiere at the UltraStar Chula Vista 10 theaters located at 555 Broadway, Chula Vista, California. The Showcase is part of San Diego Asian Film Foundation’s new *Asian Picture Show* program, designed to increase awareness and appreciation of films from Asia.

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**WHO**

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San Diego Asian Film Foundation Office  
7290 Engineer Road, Suite A  
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**WHAT**

The psychological thriller *Blackout*, directed by Ato Bautista, makes its San Diego County commercial theatrical premiere.

**WHERE**

The Goldilocks Theater, UltraStar Chula Vista 10 Cinemas, located at 555 Broadway, Chula Vista, California.

**WHEN**

Friday through Thursday, October 3 through 9, 2008 at 10 a.m.; 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, and 8:00 p.m.; also 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

**WHY**

The Philippine Cinema Showcase is a year-long film series designed to serve San Diego's Filipino Americans, the largest of the county's Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities.

**CONTACT**

Arnold Marquez, 619-804-8424, [marqueza@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:marqueza@stanfordalumni.org).