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A PUBLICATION OF FILAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - HOLLYWOOD

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**FACCHO PRESIDENT** 

### **EDWIN A SANTOS**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### **KATHERINE BERCASIO**

ART DIRECTOR

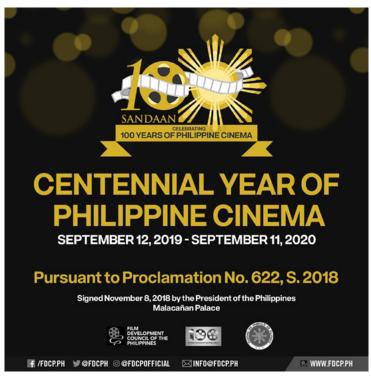
### REAL IMAGES REN ARRIETA

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ALEX MENDELSON
DOM ARGANA







### **||**EDWIN'S PERSPECTIVE:



# I'M BACK, AND I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO GET OFF MY CHEST

Philippine Cinema, I am fascinated with films coming out in the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s; significant eras to include the youth movement ("questioning authority"), the birth of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, Martial Law, the assassination of Ninoy Aquino and the People Power Revolution led by his wife and first female president, Corazon Aquino that followed and ousted the Marcos regime.

At that time, there were films that often address taboo subjects the conservative commercial establishment usually avoids and blocks from release.

IN THE 1960S, CINEMA **BECAME THE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS** FOR DISENFRANCHISED FILMMAKERS AS THEY **MADE FILMS OUTSIDE** THE CONSERVATIVE **MAINSTREAM NORM SUCH AS VIOLENT ACTION MOVIES** AND "BOLD" (OR, SOFTCORE **ADULT FILMS): FILMS** THAT WERE RELEASED THEATRICALLY AND FILMS THAT ADDRESSED THE RIGHT AND FREEDOM TO BE **CRITICAL AT THE POWERS** THAT BE BEFORE BEING SILENCED.

I remember spending two summer vacations as a child in 1977 and 1978 and lived there as a teen from 1980 to 1981 in the Philippines, I noticed the dichotomy between the conservative, quiet and strict upbringing and influence through family, government and the teachings of the Roman Catholic church that bled into television screens versus the progressive independent films I saw at small movie houses there. It was an amazing yet, explosive time. It's probably why my entire film career is devoted to indie films which is another entirely different subject to address.

Established mainstream streamers like Amazon Prime are coming in as producers and telling indie filmmakers to remove certain elements from their own films in order to continue having them streamed on their platforms. It didn't used to be that way... In fact, they invited indie filmmakers to stream their films to a wider

FILIPINO
CINEMATIC
HISTORIANS SAY
THAT THE GOLDEN
AGE OF FILM
OCCURRED IN THE
1950S AFTER THE
DEVASTATION OF
WORLD WAR II.

audience. Amazon Prime was built on the blood, sweat and tears of indie films, let's not forget that. They wouldn't be where they are without the indie voice.

An unknown Filipino
filmmaker referred to as Kidlat
Tahimik made a film called
"Mababangong Bangungot" in
1977 and won the International
Critic's Prize in the Berlin
Film Festival. His rise to fame
defined the distance between
established mainstream cinema
and rogue independent cinema.
With him, the indie film
movement embedded its form
well into Philippine Cinema. It
also gave birth to film festivals
to spotlight the voice of the

voiceless a chance to shine.

Filipino cinematic historians say that the Golden Age of film occurred in the 1950s. after the devastation of World War II. But like what happened in the U.S. where there were two Golden Ages of Cinema in the late 1960/ early 1970s, and in the 1990s - all to include unheard voices from Generation X, women and PoC, the Philippines' second Golden Age should be during those turbulent and volatile eras noted earlier. Independent cinema and the freedom to criticize and discuss subjects using other media delivery platforms and clever storytelling continue to be tested by contemporary Filipino and other Asian filmmakers today.

Other than the digital streamers, film festivals are the last bastions of showcasing indie filmmaking to its truest form - uncut and unafraid.

#SupportIndieFilm

# LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF PHILIPPINE CINEMA

notes the Centennial Celebration of Philippine Cinema with the theatrical release of Jose Nepomuceno's

"Dalagang Bukid" on September 12, 1919. Based on a popular and critically raved musical play by Hemogenes Ilagan and Leon Ignacio, "Dalagang Bukid" is the first Filipino albeit, silent film produced in the Philippines, and Nepomuceno became known as the Father of Philippine Cinema.

The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) has been designated as the lead agency for the celebration of the Centennial Year of Philippine Cinema from September 12, 2019 to September 11, 2020.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 622 Series of 2018, the Centennial Year of Philippine Cinema was declared in honor of

"Dalagang Bukid" by Jose Nepomuceno, considered



"For our 35th edition, we are thrilled to bookend our festival with two world premieres, "Yellow Rose" (Opening Night) and "Empty By Design" (Closing Night), by two Filipina American filmmakers, **Diane Paragas** and Andrea A. Walter. respectively," shared Lindy Leong, LAAPFF Senior Programmer & Programmer Manager. "This truly is an extraordinary moment of historical significance for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) film and indie film festivals, and it is a win for broader representation of and support of both women and Southeast Asian American stories from the heartland

the first Filipino-produced and directed feature film. It was released in **September 12, 1919**. "The One Hundred Years of Philippine Cinema is a once-in-a-lifetime celebration in honor of the journey of this incredible art form and cultural marker. Film is a part of every Filipino as one of the most accessible

and affective mediums that tell our stories, struggles, victories, and our growth as a people.

Across the Pacific and five months early, this year's Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) selected two narrative Filipino feature length films in celebration of the Centennial.

FILM IS A PART OF EVERY FILIPINO AS ONE OF THE MOST ACCESSIBLE AND AFFECTIVE MEDIUMS THAT TELL OUR STORIES, STRUGGLES, VICTORIES, AND OUR GROWTH AS A PEOPLE.

to the homeland. Most importantly, both films tell compelling humanist stories and demonstrate strong indie storytelling voices in the making."

In fact, the director of "Yellow Rose," Diana Paragas is the first Filipina American filmmaker to open LAAPFF in festival history! It is also her directorial feature film debut.

"The Festival is excited to showcase Diane Paragas as our first ever Filipina American Opening Night presentation", says Francis Cullado, Executive Director of Visual Communications that hosts and supports LAAPFF. "We feel that [the film's] themes stemming from our collective experiences of what defines American can create cultural cross-connections throughout our diverse communities."

In an interview with Deadline, Paragas said, "I am so humbled that our film has been chosen for this honor." She continues, "Yellow **Rose**" has taken over fifteen

"I'VE ATTENDED **FILM FESTIVALS FOR OVER A** DECADE NOW. **FROM SUNDANCE** IN THE U.S. TO **CINEMALAYA IN** THE PHILIPPINES," SAID DIRECTOR **WALTER.** "I **LOVE THEM SO** MUCH I BEGAN PROGRAMMING AND **VOLUNTEERING** AT ONE OF THE FESTIVALS.

years to make and it couldn't come at a more important time when anti-immigrant sentiment is at an all-time high. This is a story for everyone facing challenges in finding their voice, their dreams and, more importantly, their home."

The Opening Night film stars Tony Award-winning actress and Broadway icon Lea Salonga and Tony Award nominee Eva Noblezada in the lead role about a headstrong Filipino girl from a small Texas town who fights to pursue her

dreams as a country music star while facing the threat of deportation.

Joining Salonga and Noblezada in the film are country music star Dale Watson, Liam Booth, **Gustavo Gomez** ("The Walking Dead"), **Libby** Villari ("Boyhood") and Princess Punzalan ("Mula Sa Puso"). The film features original songs written by Watson, Paragas, Noblezada and the cast.

Paragas also serves as producer alongside Cecilia Mejia, Orian Williams, Rey Cuerdo ("Ulam: Main Dish," "Motherland") and coproducer Jeremiah Abraham. "Yellow Rose" is supported by New York-based Asian CineVision, Cinematografo Originals (ABS-CBN Global), and was awarded the Ravenal Foundation Feature Film Grant last year by the New York Women in Film & Television.

LAAPFF's Closing Night film, "Empty By Design" tells the story of Samantha (Rhian Ramos of "Saving Sally," "The Road"), who



long been looking for. The film also stars Chris Pang ("Crazy Rich Asians"), Dante Basco ("Hook"), Desmond Chiam ("Now Apocalyspe"), Yoshi Sudarso ("Power Rangers: Ninja Steel"), and Madeleine Humphries ("The Stepdaughters"). The film is produced by Chau, Pang, and Basco.

"I've attended film festivals for over a decade now, from Sundance in the U.S. to Cinemalaya in the Philippines," said director Walter. "I love them so much I began programming and volunteering at one of the festivals. The other

moves back home to Manila from the U.S. after a loss in her family, and Eric (Osric Chau of "Supernatural," "2012") also travels back for a job. Both ex-patriates find themselves struggling with their new identities. Despite the disconnection to their culture, they find a sense of place by confiding in each other and eventually discover what they have





year I decided to bring my roommate to his first Sundance, where we sacrificed sleep and warmth to watch four to five films a day. When we got back to LA, we thought, how come we aren't a part of this? How come we aren't doing this with our own community? It was then, we decided to attend LAAPFF in its entirety, not just the Opening and Closing Night films and parties, but for everything. We showed up every day and watched movies, partied, and we invited every single one of our friends to join us. By the end of the Festival, we were not only filled with so much love from our community,

but were completely inspired to finally take the step to tell our own stories and make our film. Now, one year later and I can't express in words or thought on how excited and thankful we are to screen our film at this year's Festival. No matter how crazy the Fest will get for me, my colleagues and my friends will continue in the spirit of what we did last year and show up everyday in support of as many filmmakers as we can in the hopes of sharing even a bit of the magic we had last year."

Members of the cast and crew will be in attendance for a Q&A following the World Premiere screening of "Yellow Rose" on Opening

Night, Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 7PM at the Aratani Theatre at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles.

Members of the cast and crew will be in attendance for a Q&A following the World Premiere screening of "Empty By Design" on Closing Night, Friday, May 10, 2019 at 7PM at the Regal L.A. Live in Downtown Los Angeles.

LAAPFF is also pleased to present a vast selection of incredible and important Special Presentations such as the screening of the digitally

"THESE ARE IMPORTANT FILMS. FILMMAKERS. AND IS EXCITED TO SHARE WITH ALL FEST-GOERS. THESE PROGRAMS REPRESENT THE PAST. PRESENT. AND FUTURE FOR ALL OF **OUR STORIES** STORYTELLERS. AND ARTISTS. -CULLADO

restored and remastered Philippine cult film classic. 1977's "Omeng Satanasia" starring the late "King of Comedy," **Dolphy**, in his award winning, multi-role performance. Also starring Babalu. Azenith Briones and Maricel Sariano, the film is a Faustian tale told with equal parts campy surreal fantasy, touching melodrama, and Dolphy's trademark comic mastery. Directed with exuberant experimentation by then first time director Frank Gray Jr.

"Our Special Presentations will highlight important moments in the Asian Pacific and Asian American film diaspora," said Cullado. "These are important films, filmmakers, and stories that the Festival is excited to share with all fest-goers. These programs represent the past, present, and future for all of our stories, storytellers, and artists."

The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Hollywood (FACCHO) is a Community Partner again this year for films from the Philippines and the U.S. for the 35th Annual Los

Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) from May 2-10, 2019. And, we are



Filmmaker & Cast of EMPTY BY DESIGN

co-presenting three films/ programs this year: EERIE, I GOTCHU FAM, ALWAYS (SHORTS PROGRAM) and JOURNEY TO IFUGAO.

And, since you are a monthly subscriber of FACCHO's ABE E-Magazine you're reading now, you can use our discount code - VC19FACC - before you purchase tickets to our three premiere screenings.

**FACCHO Vice Presidents** Edwin A. Santos and Craig Obligacion Wilson will copresent the North American Premiere of EERIE directed by Mikhail Red ("Birdshot," "Neomanila") starring Bea Alonzo, Charo Santos and Jake Cuenca on Friday, May 3rd at 9:30pm at Downtown Independent in Downtown Los Angeles. Filmmaker In Attendance, Tickets



FACCHO Vice Presidents

Edwin A. Santos and Craig Obligacion Wilson will copresent the seven short films including "The Patients" directed by Tess Paras ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," "Grimm") stars Paras, Jon Jon Briones ("The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story,") Eugene Cordero ("Kong: Skull Island"), Melody Butiu, Josephine de Jesus ("Bitter Melon"), Lilan Bowden ("Andi Mack") and Haneefah Wood ("Nurse Jackie," "One Day At A Time"). And, "Weekends" directed by Trevor Jimenez, an Academy Award nominated short. Filmmakers in Attendance. Tickets:



FACCHO Vice President Edwin A. Santos and **Public Relations Annie** Nepomuceno will co-present the World Premiere of Nicanor Evangelista Jr.'s JOURNEY

TO IFUGAO on Wednesday, May 8th at 6:45pm at Regal L.A. Live's Theater #13 in Downtown Los Angeles. Filmmakers in Attendance. Tickets:



And, at the C3 Conference's Conference For Creative Content: Breaking Through on Friday, May 3rd at 12pm at the Aratani Central Hall at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, DTLA, there will be a free program. Learn about NBC's talent development initiatives from some of the writers and directors that have experienced them first-hand. Then, take a deeper dive into the complexities of Filipino identity within the Asian American monolith in media with four panelists: Anthony C. Ocampo, PH. D. (author of "The Latinos of Asia: How Filipino Americans Break







**The Patients** 

The Rules of Race"), Tess Paras (actress, "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend," filmmaker, "The Patients"), Krystal Banzon (writer of NBC's "I Feel Bad") and Heather Jack (filmmaker, "Superstore").

LAAPFF launches the celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month through this year's slate of over one hundred films from both Asian

Pacific American and Asian international artists. For over three decades, the Festival has presented close to four thousand films by Asian Pacific American and Asian international talent. This year, the Festival has over a dozen films from local filmmakers.

Presented by Visual
Communications, the 35th
Los Angeles Asian Pacific
Film Festival will be May
2 - May 10, 2019. LAAPFF
is the premiere showcase
for the best and brightest of
Asian Pacific American and
international cinema. The
largest festival of its kind in
Southern California, LAAPFF
is also a proud Academy
Award®-qualifying film
festival for the Short Film
Awards. �

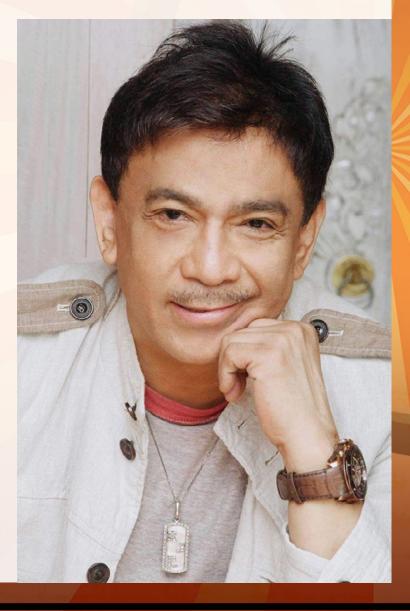
# REEL AWARDS

The Los Angeles Philippine International Film Festival presents the inaugural REEL Awards In Film and Television honoring Filipino individuals in various media capacities. And the honorary recipients are...

UBEN V. NEPALES, an awardwinning journalist for Inquirer Entertainment, an author and a Board Member of the Hollywood Press Association.

**JANET R. NEPALES**, Manila Bulletin's Hollywood correspondent and a Board Member of the Hollywood Press Association.

**MARK AJ NAZA**L, an Emmy winning Visual Effects Artist and filmmaker best known for











[K]

Reel Awards

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### **II SPECIAL FEATURE**





his work on Fox's primetime show, "Gotham."

### **ANTHONY FRANCISCO,**

a visual designer who worked on the 'Dora Milaje' costumes for 2018's "Black Panther." The costumes appeared again in 2018's "Avengers Infinity War" and the recent release, "Avengers Endgame."

RICO J. PUNO, a Filipino singer, composer, comedian, actor and television host who was credited as a pioneer-promoter of original Pilipino music (OPM). He started the trend of incorporating Tagalog

lyrics in his rendition of the American song, "The Way We Were" and other foreign songs.

...and more!

The REEL Awards is taking place Saturday, May 11, 2019; 7pm at the Holiday Inn Torrance at 19800 South Vermont Avenue, Torrance, CA 90502. Tickets are \$50 (General), \$80 (VIP) and \$100 (Super VIP). Reserve your tickets now at fekoons@aol. com or lousabas.lss@gmail. com.

# MOVIES & TV TO WATCH



**EERIE** directed by MIKHAIL RED and starring BEA ALONZO, CHARO **SANTOS** and **JAKE CUENCA** makes its North American Premiere at the 35th Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on Friday. May 3 at 9:30pm at the Downtown Independent in DTLA.



**EMPTY BY DESIGN** directed by ANDREA A. WALTER and starring OSRIC CHAU, RHIAN RAMOS, CHRIS PANG and DANTE BASCO makes its World Premiere at Closing Night of the 35th Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on Friday. May 10 at Regal L.A. Live in DTLA.



A Fox Original Production,

### **MALEDICTO**

directed by MARK
MELLY and starring
JASMINE CURTISSMITH, TOM
RODRIGUEZ and
MILES OCAMPO opens
on Wednesday, May 1
in the Philippines.







MARIA directed by PEDRING A. LOPEZ and starring CRISTINE REYES and SONNY SISON premieres on Friday, May 17 on Netflix.

# CONGRATULATIONS

# To **EVA NOBLEZADA**

(actress) for her Tony Award nomination for Best Actress In A Musical for "Hadestown."

### To KATHRYN BERNARDO

(actress) who won the hearts of children around the world by winning the Kids Choice Awards as the top viral celebrity on social media in the Philippines.

### To **DON SURATOS**

(illustrator) when he became the FIRST Filipino illustrator commissioned by Paramount Pictures to execute an alternative movie poster for the feature film version of Stephen King's classic, "Pet Semetary"





### To MARC ANTHONY NICOLAS

(producer)
as his CBS
daytime
talk show,
"The Talk" is
renewed for
another season.

# To **CLINT RAMOS**

(costume designer) for his Tony Award nomination for Best Costume Design for "Torch Song."



# HOLLYWOOD BOOKINGS



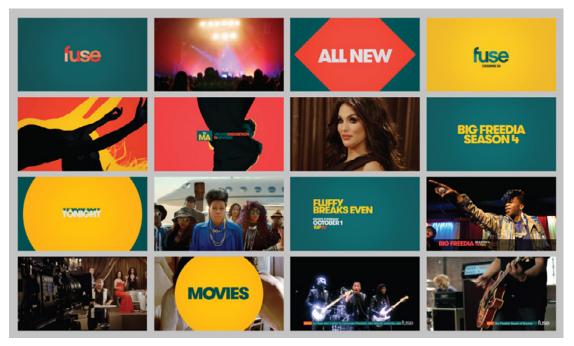
**DAVE BAUTISTA** will star in Zack Snyder's ARMY OF THE DEAD for Netflix.

**SHAY MITCHELL** has joined the ten episode Hulu comedy series, **DOLLFACE** opposite Kat Dennings and Brenda Song.



# **HOLLYWOOD BOOKINGS**





# FUSE MEDIA FUSING INTO BANKRUPTCY

use Media Inc., a privately held television broadcasting company based in Glendale, filed for bankruptcy in an effort to reduce its debt by some \$200 million.

The struggling firm also filed a preliminary plan to restructure as part of the voluntary Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which was filed April 22 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

Fuse said in its filings that it has lost millions of subscribers in recent years, and missed a scheduled debt payment in January on \$242 million in loans it took on last year.

The company said in its filings that the restructuring plan has the support of 80% of shareholders, including Jennifer Lopez's Westwood-based entertainment company, Nuyorican Productions,

which is a major shareholder.

A Fuse spokesman confirmed that Fuse had \$201.2 million in assets as of Dec. 31 and \$242 million in secured debt.

The company also said it has between \$10 million and \$25 million in unsecured obligations. Fuse, which reported revenue of \$114.7 million in 2018, aims to emerge from bankruptcy by June 30.

## EVENTS/

### **THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019:**

World Premiere of YELLOW ROSE directed by DIANA PARAGAS and starring EVA NOBLEZADA, LEA SALONGA and PRINCESS PUNZALAN at the Aratani Theater at 7pm at the Aratani Theatere in Little Tokyo, DTLA.

### FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019:

North American Premiere of EERIE at 9:30pm at the Downtown Independent Theater in DTLA.

### **SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019:**

- Achara 3RD Anniversary PARTY at 12pm at Brewyard Beer Company in Glendale.
- I GOTCHU FAM, ALWAYS (SHORTS PROGRAM) with directors TREVOR JIMENEZ and TESS PARAS and with actors JON JON BRIONES, EUGENE CORDERO, MELODY BUTIU and JOSEPHINE DE JESUS at 7pm at the Downtown Independent Theater in DTLA.
- RE-SCORED with JOY NGIAW. DIWA DE LEON and WINSTON RAVAL at 7pm at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in Little Tokyo, DTLA.

### **WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2019:**

- JOURNEY TO IFUGAO at 6:45pm at the Regal L.A. Live in DTLA.
- An Evening with LEA SALONGA at 8pm at the Soraya in Northridge.

### FRIDAY. MAY 10. 2019:

World Premiere of EMPTY BY DESIGN directed by ANDREA A. WALTER and starring DANTE BASCO, RHIAN RAMOS and MICA JAVIER at 7pm at Regal L.A. Live in DTLA.

### **THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019:**

Opening Night of MAMMA MIA! starring JOAN ALMEDILLA, ALAN ARIANO, JULES AURORA, DANNY BERNARDO, ANTHEA NERI, MICHAEL PALMA, KEVIN PERDIDO, AJ RAFAEL, NICOLE SANTIAGO, ALA TIATIA. STEVEN AGEPPA and EDELYN OKANO with music direction by MARC MACALINTAL at 8pm at East West Players in Little Tokyo, DTLA.

### **SATURDAY MAY 18 - SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019:**

Downtown Burbank Arts Festival at 11am in Burbank.

### **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019:**

An Evening with LEA SALONGA at 8pm at the Soraya in Northridge.























# **WARNER BROTHERS** EXPANSION WITH GEHRY

arner Brothers Entertainment has announced maior expansion plans for its Burbank headquarters, which will include the acquisition of a nearby studio complex and the creation of two Frank Gehry-designed office towers near its main lot in the Burbank Media District across from the 134 Freeway.

Warner Bros., a unit of WarnerMedia Inc., will purchase a portion of the Burbank Studios and become the sole and long-term tenant of the

two Gehry towers, which Worthe Real Estate Group and partner Stockbridge Real Estate Fund will develop.

It has dubbed the new endeavor "Second Century Project," in homage to the movie studio's centennial. which it will celebrate in 2023 with the completion of the entire project. Construction will begin this fall, with occupancy of Phase I slated for 2022 and Phase II occupancy unfurling in 2023.

Burbank Studios is currently home to the soap opera "Days of Our Lives," iHeartRadio Theater and Blizzard eSports Arena, where Overwatch League competes. The complex once served as the headquarters of NBC Entertainment as well as the site of Studio 1, where "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" and later, "The **Tonight Show Starring** Jay Leno" was taped. **Burbank Studios features** production office space, eight soundstages and a commissary.

Also as part of the deal, Worthe Real Estate Group and Stockbridge will purchase three office



buildings currently owned by Warner Bros.— the Triangle Building (4001 West Olive Ave.), Glass Building (3903 West Olive Ave.) and Wood Building (111 N. Hollywood Way) — as well as the 30-acre Warner Brothers Ranch located on Hollywood Way.

The sale of the three buildings is targeted to take place in late 2019, with Warner Bros. leasing the space back from Worthe/Stockbridge until those employees are moved to the new office space. The sale of the Ranch property and Warner Bros.' purchase of the Burbank Studios is expected to take place in 2023. Warner Bros. will also move employees from other leased space around the lot to the new

campus.

Warner Bros. will complete its purchase of Burbank Studios and build the new Gehry office towers by 2023. The Ranch will continue to operate as a studio and office complex, with as much as one million square feet available for the potential development of more office and production facilities.

LOS ANGELES PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



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