

ORIGANE FILMS and QCINEMA present  
A COOLLAB STUDIOS, OYA FILMS and TIMEWRAP PRODUCTION  
In association with ALCHEMY OF VISION AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS and THIRTYSIX-O INDUSTRIES



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM**  
2017

# WAILINGS IN THE FOREST

(BABOY HALAS)

PRESS KIT

Supported by

QUEZON CITY FILM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, BARANGAY COUNCIL OF BAGANIHAN and PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION Introducing the *LUMAD* (Indigenous people) OF MARILOG, DAVAO CITY, PHILIPPINES



ALCHEMY OF VISION & LIGHT  
FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS

THIRTY SIX O  
INDUSTRIES

VOCAL

Blackmagicdesign







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## SYNOPSIS

A family of the last forest people of old copes with the unusual changes in their ancient environment, disturbed by the imposing lifestyle and customs of the tribes on the plains.





*A family of the last forest people of old copes with the unusual changes in their ancient environment, disturbed by the imposing lifestyle and customs of the tribes on the plains.*



(BABOY HALAS)

# WAILINGS IN THE FOREST

AN ORIGANE FILMS AND QCINEMA PRESENTATION - A COOLAB STUDIOS, OYA FILMS, AND TIMEWRAP PRODUCTIONS - IN ASSOCIATION WITH ALCHEMY OF VISION AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS AND THIRTYSIX-O INDUSTRIES  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF QUEZON CITY FILM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, BARANGAY COUNCIL OF BAGANIHAN AND PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION - WITH SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF THE LUMADS OF MAHARLIKA, DAWAG AND TABONTABON - MARILOG DISTRICT DAVAO CITY. PRODUCERS ANGELY CHU, ALLEI RODRIGUEZ, BENE GO, BEBS GONNETA, BEILAN LAMININ LARANAO, CHING AMOR, DEBIE KAROL BUTAY, GLOFFPEARL DY KAZAMI, JOANNE AMANO, LOU RAPHAEL CAÑEDO, JAY ROSAS, MICHAEL NACARDO, RALPH ELUSA, PABLO PASOVAL, RYON DE LOS SANTOS, ROLYN PREGUNTA, RUDOLPH VAN ALANA, SOCORRO FIOLA, AND YAM PALMA  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MARK LIMBAGA AND RAPHAEL METING - PRODUCTION DESIGN BY JOEL GEOLAMEN - PRODUCTION SOUND WILLIE APA JR WITH CHARLIE DACLAN - EDITING BY BAGANE FIOLA AND WILLIE APA JR  
SOUND DESIGN AND COLOR GRADING BY WILLIE APA JR - SUBTITLES BY MELONA GRACE MASCARIÑAS, BEM DI LERA AND JANNA MOYA - SCREENPLAY BY BAGANE FIOLA WITH BEM DI LERA AND JANNA MOYA - STORY AND DIRECTION BY BAGANE FIOLA



## DETAILS

Official Sites	<a href="http://www.origanefilms.com">www.origanefilms.com</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OriganeFilmsWailingsInTheForest">www.facebook.com/OriganeFilmsWailingsInTheForest</a>
Country	Philippines
Language	Matigsalog with English Subtitle
Release Date	14 Oct 2016 (Manila, Philippines)
Filming Locations	Sitio Maharlika, Barangay Baganihan, Marilog District, Davao City, Philippines
Film Budget	25,000 EUR

## TECHNICAL SPECS

Runtime	1hr 45 min (105 min)
Sound Mix	Stereo
Color	Color
Aspect Ratio	2.39:1 (cinemascope cropped)
Camera	Sony A7sii
Negative Format	XAVC-S (4K)
Cinematographic Process	ProRes 444 (2K 24p) (master format) ProRes 444 (1080 24p)
Colorgraded on	DaVinci Resolve by BlackMagic Design
Printed File Format	DCP (2K)

## COMPANY CREDITS

Production Co: ORIGANE FILMS | TIMEWRAP | COOLAB STUDIOS | OYA FILM PRODUCTIONS | ALCHEMY OF VISION AND LIGHTS PRODUCTIONS | THIRTYSIX-O INDUSTRIES

## AWARDS

Winner of the NETPAC Jury Prize and Best Artistic Contribution in Cinematography - QCinema International Film Festival, Manila, Philippines

Winner of Best Cinematography and Visual Design - Film Desk of the Young Critics Circle, Manila, Philippines

Illustration by Dabo Ibao

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## CAST

Major: OMELES LAGLAGAN | AILYN LAGLAGAN | VANGELYN PANIHAO | JHEA MAE LAGLAGAN

Minor: JOHN PHILIP LAGLAGAN | RUBEN LANTONG | DANILO CASIG | PEPE LAGLAGAN

DANIEL DAGSIL | LOLITA LANTONG LITA CASIG | MARCELINO SINGKIANON | ARAIS PANIHAO | SADAM DAGSIL | ROLLY PANIHAO | HENYO PANIHAO | ERNESTO CAPAL  
DANIEL ADANG | DANIEL NARAN | JULIUS LAGLAGAN | MAD LAGLAGAN RENATO LUMIN | APRIL LAGLAGAN | TAISAN PANIHAO | NUEME PANIHAO | EMILY DAGSIL  
NENITA GORDO | NENA SINGKIANON | MERCY LAGLAGAN | BEAH MAGUANA | JANETH LANTONG | FELIPE LANTONG FELIX LAGLAGAN | ELVIE MAGWANA | SHERYL  
ARENDAIN | JESSA JAIME | MERLIE LANTONG | IMELDA LASCUÑA | LITA LANTONG | JASMEN FLORES

The film “Wailings in the Forest” was performed and well participated by the Matigsalug tribe of Sitio Maharlika, Barangay Baganihan, Marilog District, Davao City, Philippines







## MATIGSALUG

Matigsalug tribe is one of the 18 *Lumad*—indigenous tribes in Davao City, Philippines. “Matigsalug” is a term which means “people along the Salug River—now called the Davao River”.

The Matigsalug, in earlier years, practiced a hunting-and-gathering lifestyle with minimal agriculture efforts. Very recently, by the influence of migrant farmers and businessmen from northern Philippines and the island provinces, the Matigsalug shifted to sedentary land cultivation with more or less permanent villages.

What remains of their earlier lifestyle is now found in their cultural and artistic expression. This is evidenced by their costume of bright colored mid-rib blouses and short skirts, and with skillful hunting and gathering techniques. This early lifestyle is also shown in their music, songs, dances, poetry, epic, and spiritual expressions.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Early last year, I worked on an experimental documentary film. It was during the early phase of its production that the conception of “Wailings in the Forest” was developed. On our first day of shooting in Mindanao, the southern part of the Philippines, I was fortunate to have listened to a wonderful fable told by a former rebel commander. He seemed to have mastered the art of telling the story of his Moro ancestors, passed on through a lyrical poem sang in their native tongue to each generation before it was written in Arabic in the 50’s. The first part of the fable really lingered in my mind. It is the story of the origin of their clan; how their first father was impassioned to wake up every night just to fall in love with a beautiful nymph, which only his eyes can see. To others, the nymph appears as a mere pig.

Eventually the story flourished beyond what I could imagine. Until “Wailings in the Forest” was produced, inspired by that wonderful fable.

Though “Wailings in the Forest” is a different story, I think it represents cultures beyond that of the Moros’, for boar hunting is a common practice of the *Lumad* (the indigenous people in Mindanao), such as that of the Matigsalug tribe.

I feel honored and excited that the film “Wailings in the Forest” will be having its international premiere in the prestigious 46<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam. I commend the filmmakers who, for 17 days, over 400 hours, roamed and braved the rainforest of Maharlika—one of the last forests in Mindanao—to capture beautiful and untamed stories that nature has provided us. With the blessings of *Manana* (god) and the guidance of the tribes people, the “Wailings in the Forest” lives on as we share it to the world.

**BAGANE FIOLA**

Director | Producer  
Davao City, Philippines

<https://www.facebook.com/baganefiola>

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(+63) 932 312 1552





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## FILMMAKERS

Story & Direction

BAGANE FIOLA

Screenplay

BAGANE FIOLA | BEM DI LERA | JANNA MOYA

Subtitles

BEM DI LERA | MELONA GRACE MASCARIÑAS | JANNA MOYA

Cinematography

MARK LIMBAGA | RAPHAEL METING

Production Design

JOEL GEOLAMEN

Production Sound

WILLIE APA JR | CHARLIE DACLAN

Video Editing

WILLIE APA JR | BAGANE FIOLA

Color & Sound Design

WILLIE APA JR

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## PRODUCERS

ANGELY CHI | ALELI RODRIGUEZ | BEBE GO | BEBS GOHETIA | BEULAH LAWANIN LARANJO | CHING AMO | DEBBIE KAROL BUTAY | GLORYPEARL DY | KAZAMI JOANNE AMANO | LOU RAPHAEL CAÑEDO | JAY ROSAS MCROBERT NACARIO | RALPH ELUSFA | PAWLO PASCUAL | RHON DE LOS SANTOS | ROLYN PREGUNTA RUDOLPH IAN ALAMA | SOCORRO FIOLA | YAM PALMA



## WORLD PREMIERE

QCinema International Film Festival,  
Quezon City, Philippines | October 2016

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## PHILIPPINE SCREENINGS

Salamindanaw Asian Film Festival,  
General Santos City, Philippines | November 2016

Mindanao Film Festival,  
Davao City, Philippines | December 2016

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## INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



OFFICIAL SELECTION

**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM**

2017

46<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam,  
Rotterdam, Netherlands | January - February 2017







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## REVIEWS

“The story itself is quite fascinating, one that blends FOLKLORE AND SURVIVAL in a setting that is both contained within the depths of a forest whose boundaries are homes to warring tribes.”

- OGGS CRUZ, FILM CRITIC

“IMMERSIVE AND PROFOUNDLY ATMOSPHERIC providing the viewer an opportunity to inhabit not only the lush topography of the jungle but also the psychology of the characters whose existence is closely tied with nature.”

- GUTIERREZ MANGANSAKAN II, MORO FILMMAKER

“A beguiling showcase of the lumad and their MYSTICAL ENVIRONMENT...”

- SKILTY LABASTILLA, MEMBER OF YOUNG CRITICS CIRCLE

“...it raises an EXISTENTIAL QUESTION for the sanity of men.”

- PHILIP CHEAH, FILM CRITIC

“...it is an attempt not to exoticize the communities we endear to call 'TRIBES'.”

- TITO VALIENTE, MANUNURI NG PELIKULANG PILIPINO

“It has elements of VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY that alludes to the rhythms and detours that inhabits the film's setting... is a powerful look at what might be the end of our indigenous ancestry -- when the hunter becomes the hunted.”

- JAY ROSAS, FILM CRITIC

“Journey to the forest, a JOURNEY TO THE PAST.”

- RUDOLPH IAN ALAMA, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR OF MINDANAO FILM FESTIVAL

“...it strives to illustrate the remains of the forgotten FOREST AND NATIVES in Mindanao.”

- EMIL NOR RIGBY, FILM ENTHUSIAST

“It is the ORIGINAL RARELY ENCOUNTERED in Philippine Cinema with a seemingly deliberate artlessness, with a pleasantly “feminine” or tempered instead of a crude or violent presentation of life in the forest...”

- ROBERT CERDA, FILM ENTHUSIAST

“LUSH AND FLUID CINEMATOGRAPHY captures the core and tedium of going through life when everything in it is fading.”

- ARCHIE DEL MUNDO, FILM CRITIC

...the film attempts to find out how a life that relies so much on the natural world is possible.

- EMERALD FLAVIANO, MEMBER OF YOUNG CRITIC CIRCLE





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## CONTACT

BAGANE FIOLA *Director | Producer*

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Bagane Fiola is a Filipino filmmaker from Mindanao, the southern part of the Philippines.

“Wailings in the Forest” is his first directorial feature film that is officially selected in an international film festival outside the country.

DEBBIE KAROL BUTAY *Producer*

*London, United Kingdom | [debbiekarol@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekarol@gmail.com) | +44 791 482 3355*


Raised in Davao City Philippines, Debbie lived in Roskilde, Abu Dhabi and is now based in London.

As an Erasmus Mundus CoMundus scholar in media, communications and cultural studies, Debbie’s research discussed the construct of the other Mindanawon in the production of a narrative as a form of single collective memory.

Her interests include discourses on visual representations of nature, environment and cinematic spaces.

Debbie’s work include producing Origane Film’s “Sonata Maria” (2014) and “Wailing in the Forest” (2016).



The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest. The trees are silhouetted against a very dark, overcast sky, creating a moody and mysterious atmosphere. The lighting is low, with some subtle highlights on the foliage, suggesting a misty or rainy day.

# BABOY HALAS

WAILINGS IN THE FOREST