

VIRGIN LABFEST 19: PINTOG

June 12 – 30, 2024 | 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

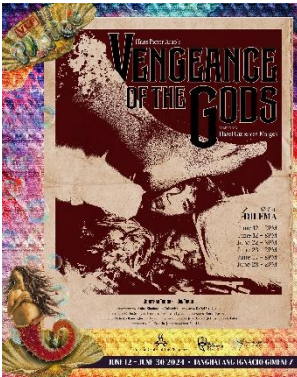
Tanghalang Ignacio Gimenez (CCP Black Box Theater)

Synopses of the Featured Works

Set A: DILEMAS

2:00 PM – June 12, 23, 28, 2024

8:00 PM – June 12, 22, 27, 2024

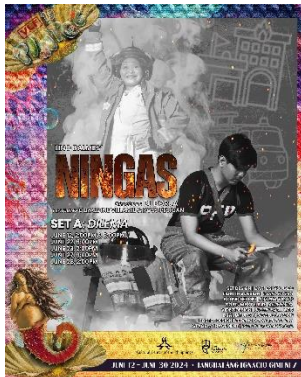


VENGEANCE OF THE GODS

Playwright: Hans Pieter Arao

Director: Hazel Gutierrez-Marges and the Anino Shadowplay Collective

After a possession in public, Ifan, the town mayor's chief of staff who claims to know the real reason for the phenomenon, tries to convince Odie, the possessed's father, to join him in his quest for justice. Based on an event in Cagayan, the playwright delves into his fascination in the continued trust, belief and credence still placed in folk beliefs even in this era of science and technology.



NINGAS

Playwright: Lino Balmes

Director: BJ Borja

The story revolves around a woman asking a man to give her a name. In a nutshell, the play is a kid-versus-no-kids debate, where the characters show the struggles people go through to conform to societal expectations of building a family and having children.



LOVE ON THE BRAIN

Playwright: Rick Patriarca

Director: John Mark Yap

Ex-lovers Ryan and Jake realize how grueling modern gay dating can be when the former's current boyfriend Mike, a popular social media influencer, discovers that they have HIV. Through the play, the creative team hopes to educate the audience about HIV and address the stigma about the sexually transmitted disease. More than that, it encourages the audience to protect themselves from misinformation on the virus.

Set B: BINGIT

2:00 PM – June 13, 19, 29, 2024

8:00 PM – June 13, 23, 28, 2024



SENTENARYO

Playwright: Herlyn Alegre

Director: Ian Segarra

A family fights over the birthday money of their patriarch. But the centenarian dies before he receives the money from the government official. The story was inspired by news from Japan about a mother and her son who pretended that a family member was still alive so they could receive the pension and other benefits from the government. The scheme was later revealed when the man's body was found. Alegre explored how this situation would play out if it was set in the Philippines.



THE DIVINE FAMILY

Playwright: Dip Mariposque

Director: Roobak Valle

Set during COVID when people were mandatorily put under one roof, the play narrates what will happen when individuals with secrets to hide are brought together in their family house and are forced to confront their realities. Mariposque wanted to explore the idea of writing about emancipation and played with the idea of writing with no rules.



IDENTITÉ

Playwright: Jhudiel Clare Sosa

Director: Meann Espinosa

They say that a daughter is molded in the image of her mother. "Like mother, like daughter." But is she really? A shocking secret will be found inside a wardrobe, shaking and putting on the edge the relationship between mother and daughter, Luz and Regina. Only two things can happen to their relationship: it can either deepen or completely fall apart. *Identité* is about the journey of self-discovery and identity, revolving around a mother and a daughter. It opens the conversation on how a person perceives himself, vis-a-vis how other people perceive them.

Set C: PU-TIM

2:00 PM – June 14, 20, 30, 2024

8:00 PM – June 14, 19, 29, 2024



PAGKAPIT SA HANGIN

Playwright: Joshua Lim So

Director: José Estrella

August 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 delta wave. The frontliners had been working continuously for over twenty-four hours due to the large number of admissions at the only hospital on the island. The situation worsened when the delivery of oxygen tanks did not arrive. In the Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facility (TTMF) of this public hospital, a doctor and two staff nurses decided to reduce the oxygen supply for patients they knew were already on the brink of death, to conserve the remaining air

supply. However, they were caught by a watcher, a patient's attendant, who refused to accept that there was no longer any hope for his dying father. The play was inspired by the playwrights encounter with a doctor for research.



LIPISTIK AT PULBURA

Playwright: Ara Jenika Vinzon

Director: Charles Yee

1943. Abucay, Bataan. A town unearthed from the ashes according to legend. A woman with a pre-battle ritual. A war cry to restore men's dwindling faith. This is not a historical retelling of Erlinda ng Bataan. Instead, this is an exploration of the moral complexities faced by storytellers in times of war, particularly those on the losing side. Through the eyes of a writer grappling with the choice between fidelity and freedom, the story unfolds - all against the mundane backdrop of a hair and makeup session between friends at lunchtime.



THE FOXTROT

Playwright: Chesie Galvez-Carino

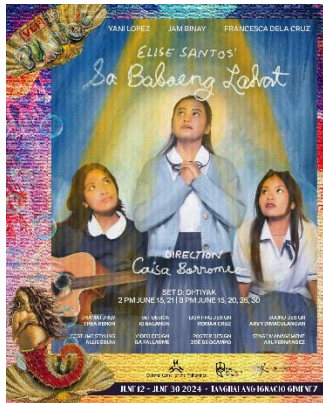
Director: Paul Morales

During their last rehearsal for an amateur ballroom dancing competition, Anna, a middle-aged matron of substantial means, and Diego, a respectable and educated dance instructor, master the complexities of the Foxtrot and their relationship. Their dance of words brings them to a very compromising position and revelation.

Set D: DI-TIYAK

2:00 PM – June 15, 21, 26, 2024

8:00 PM – June 15, 20, 30, 2024



SA BABAENG LAHAT

Playwright: Elise Santos

Director: Caisa Borromeo

A few days before the celebration of National Bible Week at an all-girls Catholic school in Quezon City, 14 year-old Marie believes she has been chosen by God to be the next Immaculate Conception. However, she is unsure and not quite ready to accept her fate. Meanwhile, her best friend Regina struggles with her feelings for Gab, the school's resident tibo, as they practice for the Bible Week singing competition. The play follows the three girls' interconnected journeys towards figuring out their relationship with religion, sexuality, each other, and ultimately, their own selves.

Playwright Santos herself came from an all-girls Catholic school. She wrote the play as she believed her former school was filled with potential, waiting to be seen.



ANG MUNTING LIWANAG SA MADILIM NA SULOK NG ISANG SERBESERYE SA MAYNILA

Playwright: Dustin Celestino

Director: Toni Go-Yadao

Gary and Joseph – two psychology professors – went to a beer house to visit Gary's favorite GRO. While there, they would discuss their beliefs about marriage, love, and privilege. Through the play, Celestino explores the general perception of Filipinos towards sex work and prostitution. The play questions how people often project their insecurities onto the sex workers they encounter.



SI HESUS NA'A SA US

Playwright: Neil Arkhe Azcuna

Director: Phil Noble

Estranged couple Luna and Marlon are on their way to NAIA to pick up Luna's "AFAM" who will take her to America. While they are on their way to the airport, their past will be unearthed. Set in Bohol, the play focuses on one of the main characters, a woman, who is presented with a chance to follow her mother's footsteps or to make her own. Based on real stories from his hometown in Mindanao, Azcuna pays homage to his grandparents.

Set E: SAGAD (Revisited)

2:00 PM – June 16, 22, 27, 2024

8:00PM – June 16, 21, 26, 2024

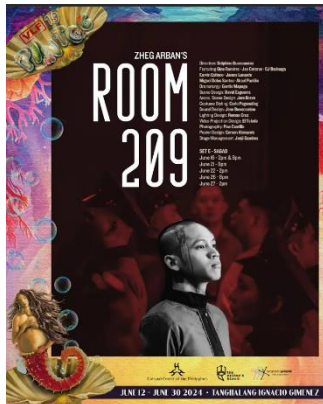


DOMINADOR GONZALES: NATIONAL ARTIST

Playwright: Dingdong Novenario

Director: George De Jesús III

A playwright reunites with his former mentor and lover for a possible collaboration that would greatly help to revive his playwriting career. Riki Benedicto, Joel Saracho and AJ Sison take the lead.



ROOM 209

Playwright: Zheg Arban

Director: Delphine Buencamino

Set inside a military academy, the story tells of how a room can become so much more for a young cadet, becoming a testimony to a culture that has been passed on and serves as a witness of the lives it has touched. "Room 209" will put culture into sharp focus. The cast members are Jao Catarus, Gino Ramirez, CJ Barinaga, Denmark Brinces, Raphne Catorce, Earvin Estioco and James Lanante.



ANG AWIT NG DALAGANG MARMOL

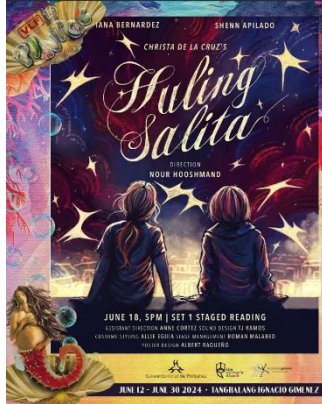
Playwright: Andrew Estacio

Director: Nazer Degayo Salcedo

A group of artists and actors plans to reimagine a popular classic song and stage it as a theater production. As the group pushes through, an untold truth about the song resurfaces. Bringing the story to life are Adrienne Vergara, Kath Castillo, Jasmine Balunes, Andrew Cruz, Enzo Lapresca, Dane Hinol, Pee wee O’Hara, Jeremy Ampongan and Psyche Queen Dorothy Saberon.

Staged Readings

Staged Readings Set 1:
June 11, 2023 | 5:00 PM



HULING SALITA

Playwright: Christa De La Cruz
Director: Nour Hooshmand

On the night of Cathy's *despedida*, she was contemplating confessing her feelings to her friend Sarah. Besides wanting to preserve their relationship and the bond they shared, another obstacle was her friend's playful nature. In a game called “poem oracle,” the two would consult words and verses to ease their doubts, especially Cathy's big question. The oracle's answer was uncertain—it could spell tragedy if she opened her mouth, but on the other hand, it also hinted at the truth that love should be risked. In the end, neither of them would remain silent.



PABILI NG CHRISTMAS TREE

Playwright: Dia Sales
Director: Eric de la Cruz

A member of the Martilyo Gang entered the stockroom of the Decor department in a department store in mid-December, demanding a Christmas tree. The manager was about to give in to the man's whim, but one of the staff arrived with the news that she was about to give birth.

Staged Readings Set 2:
June 18, 2023 | 5:00 PM



SHIVER

Playwright: Atria Pacaña
Director: Cholo Ledesma

Bright and cheerful university student Shiela “Shi” Abad dies on a hot afternoon, but it isn't until an immortal grim reaper named Soul Collector shows up in her dormitory that she realizes it. On her way to the afterlife, Shi asks if she could do her unfinished business first before leaving. The Collector grants her request, but only in the form of minimal errand-like actions called "Chores" to be done within the room, and expects the girl to call her family like all the other souls do.



PATAYIN ANG MGA SUROT

Playwright: Floyd Scott Tiogangco
Director: Lhorvie Nuevo-Tadioan

On his last night as the president of the country, Rodrigo Duterte declared a widespread Oplan Tokhang in Manila. Meanwhile, the couple Mommy and Daddy couldn't sleep because their bed was infested with bedbugs again.