

THE MAFFAA JOURNAL

Mid Atlantic
MAFFAA
Foundation for Asian Artists

August 2015

Greetings & Welcome to August!



As the summer heat and season comes to a close in the coming months and **we begin the transition into a new season**, I write to each and every one of you with much excitement! Excitement for the cooler temperatures and return of regular routines in our academic and professional schedules, but most importantly the New York City debut and the presentation of **Spoliarium, The Opera** taking place this fall at the prestigious BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center! In collaboration with the **Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc. (FFAI)** and **Pierre Le Saint Events (PLS)**, we are pleased to announce the generous support and acceptance of Philippine Ambassador to the United States, **His Excellency Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and his wife Madame Victoria** as this groundbreaking event's honorary co-chairs.

Furthermore, we expect all audiences to be in awe by the participation of **world renowned Philippine opera singer, Fides Cuyugan-Asensio** as well as by the musical production of the one and only **Mr. Ryan Cayabyab**. Directed by the internationally recognized director and playwright, **Dr. Anton Juan of the University of Notre Dame**, and top billed by several accomplished Asian artists this opera brings forth a new take on the underlying themes pertaining to the quest for Philippine sovereignty at the close of the 19th century.

Ticket prices for this historical event begin at **\$20 (Thursday, October 1 only)**, with mezzanine level seats ranging from \$48 - \$58, and **orchestra seating starting at \$75 for October 2 and 3**. **Premium seating is also available for our exclusive sponsors and donors.**

To learn more on how you can contribute to the success of Spoliarium, **please visit our website at www.maffaa.org** or call **1-443-240-8734** today. Electronic payments will be processed online and those electing to submit payments via check should make them payable to MAFFAA with the notation "Spoliarium" in the memo line.

Thank you and I do hope to see you there!

Respectfully,
Patrick Realiza
Editor-in-Chief, The MAFFAA Journal

SPOLIARIUM, THE OPERA: OCTOBER 1 - 3, 2015
BMCC TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER NEW YORK, NY

Mid Atlantic

MAFFAA

Foundation for Asian Artists

invites you to the premiere of **SPOLIARIUM, THE OPERA**

Originally conceived by Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, one of the Philippines' foremost opera singers and with music by Ryan Cayabyab, the opera will transport audiences back to Paris, France to the days preceding the **Philippine Revolution**, when figures such as José Rizal, Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Félix Hidalgo, and Juan Luna were synonymous with the movement for Philippine sovereignty.

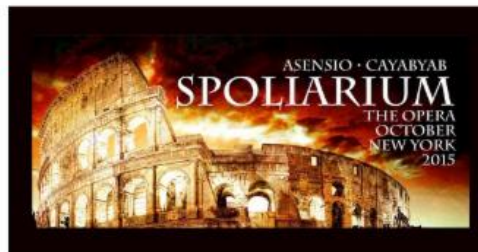
MAFFAA, Inc. invites you to witness this groundbreaking presentation in New York City (October 1 – 3, 2015).

Ticket Prices: Mezzanine [\$48 / \$58 / \$75] Orchestra [\$75 / \$100]

Gala Reception: Richard Harris Terrace Hall (Saturday, October 3)

BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center

199 Chambers Street New York, NY 10006



The First Filipino Opera Written in English

For more information, please contact MAFFAA's Public Relations Director, Patrick Realiza, at (202) 735-4301 or via email at patrick.realiza@outlook.com.

For Ticket Purchases: www.maffaainc.org

Juan Luna, a distinguished world class Filipino painter brought honors to the Filipino people through his acclaimed international masterpieces. Among his most notable achievements was the acquisition of the gold medal in the Exposición de Bellas Artes (Madrid Art Exposition) for his painting, the **Spoliarium** in 1884. This oil-on-canvas painting features a glimpse of Roman history centered on the bloody carnage in the wake of the gladiatorial matches and is currently the largest painting in the Philippines.

Spoliarium, The Opera is based on the true story of Mr. Luna's ill-fated marriage and his famous painting. Dubbed as **the first Filipino opera written in the English language**, Spoliarium is a three-act neo-romantic opera that is guaranteed to give all audiences a unique musical experience.

Originally conceived by Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, one of the Philippines' foremost opera singers and with music by Ryan Cayabyab, the opera will transport audiences back to Paris, France to the days preceding the **Philippine Revolution**, where figures such as José Rizal, Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Félix Hidalgo, and Antonio and Juan Luna were synonymous with the movement for Philippine sovereignty.

COMING SOON: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015
THREE WAVES OF MIGRATION: THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY



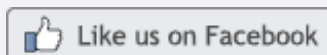
The [Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc. \(MAFFAA\)](#) & [Philippine American Coalition \(PhilAmCo\)](#) of [American University](#)

Join MAFFAA and PhilAmCo for an evening of student performances at American University in Washington, DC, **highlighting the three major waves of migration** that aided in the development and **creation of the Filipino-American community** in the United States today.

Under the direction of MAFFAA's newly appointed Artistic Director, Anna Etsuko Tsuru, the evening will **showcase the rich history and cultural diversity of Filipino immigrants** from the turn of the twentieth century to the present day.

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