

THE MAFFAA JOURNAL

Mid Atlantic
MAFFAA
Foundation for Asian Artists

September 2015

Message from Editor-in-Chief



Spoliarium is (almost) here! That's right it, in approximately thirty days, the **Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc. (MAFFAA)** and the **Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc. (FFAI)** will be presenting the first Filipino opera written in the English language! Taking place at the prestigious BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City, this groundbreaking and historic event will begin the month long celebration of **Filipino American History Month** in the United States. As noted from last month's edition, we are grateful for the support and acceptance of **His Excellency Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.** and New York City-based business entrepreneur, **Loida Nicolas Lewis of the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation** as this event's honorary co-chairs.

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 including, **Michael Kuhn (Juan Luna)**, **Bianca Camille Lopez (Paz)**, **Aida Gamboa (Dona Juliana)**, and **Andrew Fernandez (Tini)**, 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.

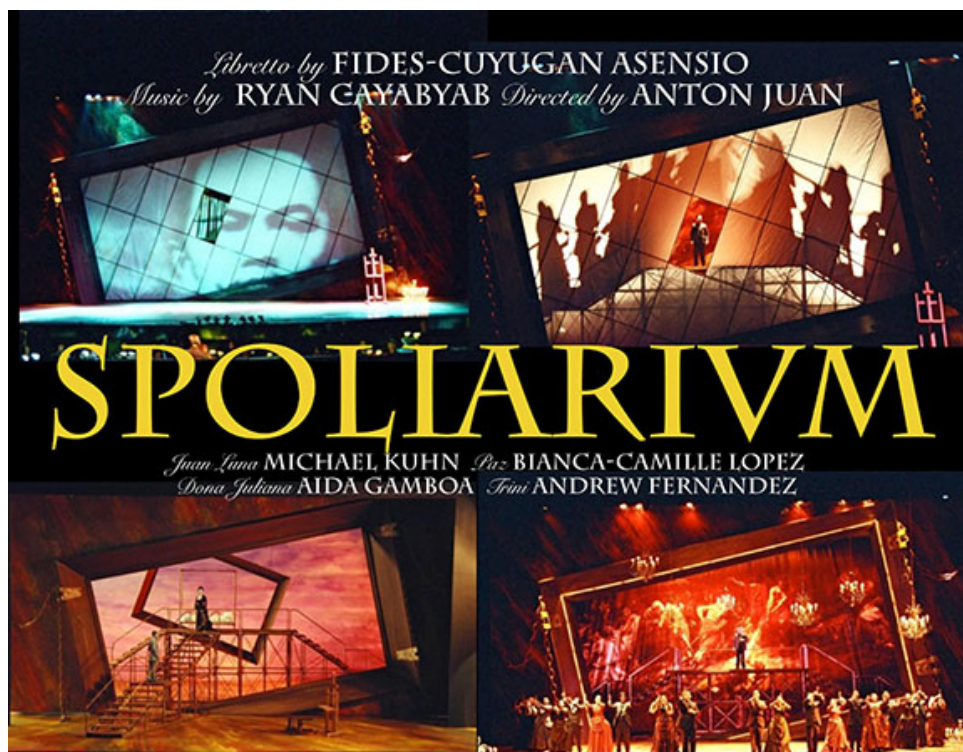
Ticket prices for this historical event begin at **\$20 (Thursday, October 1 only)**, with mezzanine level seats ranging from \$48 - \$58, and **orchestra seating starting at \$75 for October 2 and 3. Premium seating is also available for our exclusive sponsors and donors.**

To learn more on how you can contribute to the success of **Spoliarium**, **please visit our website at www.maffaa.org** or call **1-202-735-4301** 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 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



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

FOR TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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COMING SOON: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015

THREE WAVES OF MIGRATION: THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY

Mid Atlantic

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On behalf of the Executive Board of Directors of the **Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc. (MAFFAA)**, I wish to cordially invite you for an evening of spectacular student performances as presented by the **Philippine American Coalition (PhilAmCo)** at American University in Washington, DC taking place on Saturday, October 10, 2015. PhilAmCo's event will seek to

celebrate **Filipino American History Month** by highlighting the three major waves of migration that aided in the development and creation of the present day Filipino-American community.

Under the direction of **MAFFAA's Artistic Director, Anna Etsuko Tsuri** and choreographed by fellow board member, **Matthew Aninzo**, this evening will showcase the rich history and cultural diversity of Filipino immigrants from the turn of the twentieth century to contemporary times through dance, music and art.

For more information on how you can assist in making this important cultural celebration a reality, please contact me at (202) 735 - 4301 or via e-mail at patrick.realiza@outlook.com. All sponsorship submissions must be received on or before Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

Respectfully,
Patrick Realiza
Public Relations Director
Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP TIER: LAUNCHING THIS FALL!



MAFFAA Executive Board with representatives from the Philippine American Coalition: **Nicole Gasmen, Erika Acosta and Miguel Codiñera**

MAFFAA, Inc. is pleased to announce the **launching of its student membership tier for all current and recent college graduates this fall.**

Seeking to carry out the mission of promoting an international understanding and friendship through cultural exchange, performances and public education, this newly developed membership tier is targeted at fostering and cultivating the next set of Asian and Asian-American artists.

For a nominal annual rate, members of this category will have access to number of benefits including preferred seating at sponsored events, advance notice and access to programs, opportunities to be part of future productions and related projects, mentorship opportunities with key artists in the industry and much more!

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

Please stay tuned for announcements on the creation of other membership tiers.

**CALLING ALL STUDENTS!
THE MAFFAA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Scholarships

Seeking to open and expand opportunities for aspiring Asian and Asian-American artists, **MAFFAA, Inc. is currently in the process of developing a general scholarship fund to assist young talented individuals** who are passionate about pursuing their artistic goals and aspirations.

The scholarship is **open to all incoming and current college students, effective September 1, 2015**. Students must be pursuing an Associate's or Bachelor's degree at an accredited university or institution of higher education in an artistic discipline in the United States. In addition, the selection committee will review a number of factors including academic performance, a personal statement, and other relevant supporting documentation and/or materials as deemed necessary. **Further details will be released upon approval and confirmation.**

Individual and group contributions to this fund are strongly encouraged and may be deemed tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by the law.

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

Exclusive Meet & Greet with King and I Broadway Cast Members (08/01/15)



(Left & Right): **Dr. Seidel and Mr. Aninzo capture post-show selfies with six-time Tony Award nominee, Kelli O'hara**

(Center) MAFFAA's Executive Board of Directors pose backstage with Mr. Alan Ariano and Mr. Jose Llana, who play the Kralahome, and King respectively



(Left to Right): **Mr. Realiza posing beside the show's market props during backstage tour**
Promotional poster of the King and I outside the entrance of the Lincoln Center Theater
MAFFAA's Executive Board of Directors on stage with Mr. Ariano



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