



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

MCS & TRIBE Screen We Drank Our Tears

by Lori Lyn Lirio for Marianas Variety



The creative leadership behind the "We Drank Our Tears" series included (left to right) student director Angelo Manese, school president and director/producer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, student director Justin Ocampo, and 2005 AlumKnight and TRIBE Marianas creative director Rob Travilla.

Tickets to the one-night screening of "We Drank Our Tears" at the Saipan Regal Megaplex on Wednesday evening were sold out.

Filming "We Drank Our Tears" was the dream and vision of Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Rob Travilla. Deleon Guerrero wrote, produced and directed the three films in the series: Francisco Babauta's Story, Benjamin Abadilla's Story and Rafael Mafnas's Story.

"We Drank Our Tears" was adapted from the book of the same title – a collection of oral histories of civilians who survived the World War II battles of Saipan and Tinian.

First to be screened on Wednesday evening was Francisco Babauta's Story which was named the best local production in the 2017 Marianas International Film Festival. It was also a finalist for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 7th Annual Guam International Film Festival.

Next to be screened was Benjamin Abadilla's Story which was written by Deleon Guerrero.

It tells the story of 10-year-old Abadilla during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. He and his family had travel to from place to place to escape the advancing Japanese soldiers. He was eventually separated from his family.

Rafael Mafnas's story, which was also written by Deleon Guerrero, was directed by Mount Carmel School students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo.

It is about two friends who hid in a cave in order to escape the intense fighting between American and Japanese soldiers.

Of the 60 stories in the book, Deleon Guerrero said they chose Babauta, Abadilla and Mafnas's because they embodied the most prominent theme – thirst.

"Everybody was thirsty, and one of the consistent themes in this book is the civilian experience –people just wanted basic stuff like food, shelter, water. 'We drank our tears.' People were drinking their sadness," Deleon Guerrero said.

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Spring Band Concert Tonight



Members of Mount Carmel School's Concert Band rehearse for their Spring Band Concert under the direction of conductor, Julia Greening (far left).

Mount Carmel School is inviting the whole community to its Spring Band Concert tonight, Friday, May 4, at the Governor Pedro P.Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, starting at 6:00 p. m. The concert will feature the school's Concert Band, conducted by Julian Greening, and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, conducted by Atsuko Eck.

Greening is very excited about the concert. He said, "The audience should expect the joy of music through listening to band music." He added, "Especially for parents and guardians of band students, they will see how much their kids have improved throughout this year because they worked so hard."

The school revived its band this school year after working for two years to build a budget to fund the teaching position and start-up costs for the program. While the program has featured student performances in various shows throughout the year, the Spring Band Concert will serve as the program's first official performance since starting in August of last year.

Reviving the program has not been easy though. As Greening put it, "Starting from scratch was difficult because of equipment problems such as non-working instruments and having no stands." Fortunately, the school continued to support the program. "With the support of school administration, I was able to begin band practices in a suitable condition."

Despite this rough start, the music program has been a positive experience for its students.

5th grade student, Malina Tenorio, said, "It's hard, but it's really fun. Mr. Greening is strict but positive. I've enjoyed everyone in the band." For the upcoming concert, Malina looks forward to performing Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" in an ensemble.

Greening has been very happy with the progress of the students.. "I was very amazed to see many talented musicians at Mount Carmel School and I am very happy to work with all the students here. I am looking forward teaching next school year and see how they develop."

Admission for Mount Carmel School's Spring Band Concert will be free of charge. Doors for the show will open at 5:30 p. m.

Announcements

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS ENDS TODAY

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT. The Early Bird Registration Discount is \$200 (normally \$400) per student. To apply online, simply access the admissions link on our school website. If you need assistance, contact our Information Technology Director, Jonathon "JC" Clark, at jc@saipantech.com.

Spring Band Concert

MCS proudly presents a Spring Band Concert, featuring the MCS Concert Band and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, conducted by Julian Greening and Atsuko Eck, TONIGHT at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm) at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Reminders for Confirmation and Communion Students

TOMORROW, Saturday, May 5

6:00 pm: Practice for First Communicants WITH PARENTS and Confirmandi WITH SPONSORS

Sunday, May 6

8:30 am: Assemble at Cathedral
9:00 am: First Holy Communion and Confirmation

In the Future

Spring Band Concert

TONIGHT, 6:00 pm at Multi-Purpose Center

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Sunday, May 6

STUCO Elections

May 7: Inauguration Day

Senior Shaved Ice

Tuesday, May 8, Thursday, May 10

8th Grade Mini-Carnival

Wednesday, May 9

7th Grade Mothers Day Flower Grams

Friday, May 11

Freshmen Bake Sale

Friday, May 11

ESLR of the Week

#6. Develop continually as an independent lifelong learner.

We Drank Our Tears

continued from front



Benjamin Abadilla's family members were among those who watched the screening of "We Drank Our Tears" at the Regal Saipan Megaplex.

In the Abadilla film, Deleon Guerrero said he wanted to show that the war affected entire families.

Manese and Ocampo said they selected Mafnas's story because "it has very interesting conflict.">

"The goal of the civilians in this book is survival. War stories are usually told from the soldiers' perspective and we seldom see a movie about the civilians. We wanted to give the audience a new and enlightening perspective."

Among the members of the audience were members of Abadilla's family. Judy Santos, Abadilla's daughter, said she was moved to see her father's story come to life.

"It was my daughter, Jonah, who interviewed my father. She was still a student at Dandan Middle School when she wrote about the war experience of her grandfather. The story was included in 'We Drank Our Tears' which was published in 2004. My father arrived on Saipan in 1972."

Deleon Guerrero said they plan to enter two new films in the Guam International Film Festival and other film festivals.

Parent Council Corner

End of Year Carnival and Raffle

May 30, 2018

\$500 Grand Prize • \$300 Baby Grand Prize

and many more prizes!

Proceeds to fund repairs of student restrooms. • Winners need not be present to win.

Enroll today for
**School Year
2018-2019**

Early Bird Registration Fee
\$200 per child (normally \$400) until May 4

Family Discounts
\$600 off for 2nd child, \$1000 for 3rd child,
\$1500 for 4th child

Scholarships & Financial Aid
Application forms available May 31