

A NEW INDEPENDENT FEATURE IN DEVELOPMENT
FROM AUDIENCE FILMS LTD.



BALETE is a thrilling, tension-filled horror movie – a UK/Philippines production set amid provincial village and jungle locations, combining the strong eco-theme of illegal logging with a gripping narrative and a rich assembly of both Filipino and British characters – brought together in a chilling tale of Filipino folklore, terrifying sub-human creatures and the revenge of nature on its human destructors.

An International Feature Film to be shot in the Philippines.
Written and Directed by Terence Daw

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BALETE - STORY OUTLINE

Northern Luzon, Philippines - 1569.

Dense, tropical forest. A unit of Conquistador Soldiers attempt to cut down a massive, towering Balete Tree, its giant gnarled trunk and tortuously tangled roots dominating a low incline. Their violent attack with axes incurs the wrath of the mythic Balete, as nature turns on its destructors. A spine-chilling wail echoes over the jungle - with the fleeting glimpse of something hideous and sub-human emerging from the fabric of the tree, savaging the soldiers - before we time-jump to:

Northern Luzon, Philippines - 2023.

En route to her red cross hospital in the remote Taguan village, in the northern Philippines, British Nurse Erin clashes with illegal loggers about to destroy a giant, ancient Balete Tree. Amid the chaos and shooting of her Filipino colleague the spirits of the tree come alive in the shape of vicious, terrifying creatures who savage the loggers, leaving Erin alive but haunted by the horrors she witnessed. Two years later in the village British architect Xander and his young restoration team (British & Filipino) uncover a hidden mural in the old Spanish church, depicting the Conquistadors under attack from the same vengeful tree creatures. Xander notes Erin's shock at the images, and comes under strict orders from the church's fiery priest, Father Aduarte, to cover over the 'ungodly' mural. This leads Aduarte into conflict with both Xander and Mang Tindoc, a local Shaman, who warns of another rising of the Balete creatures, taking revenge for the destruction of the forests.

When a unit of armed Filipino Land Protectors, fighters of corporate deforestation and led by Baya & Mercy, arrive in Taguan with a hostage from the logging company - they find themselves joining forces with Erin, Xander, Aduarte and the villagers in a desperate fight against an onslaught of the mythic tree creatures - children of the ancient Balete.

Aduarte in desperation asks Tindoc for help. The old Shaman tells them all that only a human sacrifice will appease the spirits within the Balete and put it once more to rest.

Who will that be, and can they stop the terrifying onslaught of the vengeful Balete?

BALETE is a heart-pounding horror movie - a UK/Philippines co-production made for International Release, featuring both leading Filipino and British actors - bringing together the skills of top professional technical, creative and production talent.

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"The Children of the Balete are coming.... you cannot stop them."



To be filmed entirely in the Philippines – with picture post production in Manila, and audio post production in the UK.

PRODUCTION & POST-PRODUCTION TEAM ATTACHED -
AS OF JUNE 2026:

TERENCE DAW
WRITER-DIRECTOR-CO-PRODUCER



An experienced UK director and writer in TV and Film, Terence has enjoyed an extensive career in the entertainment industry, having trained in theatre before moving into TV film cutting rooms, learning the craft of editing and going on to write, edit and produce promo trailers for ITV network company London Weekend Television. His early TV directing work included documentaries, children's series, music & arts and live shows. He subsequently directed a wide range of UK episodic TV Drama, including prime time series *The Bill*, *Brookside*, *Emmerdale*, *Heartbeat*, *Thieftakers*, *Emmerdale Revenge Feature-Length Special* among others. He also wrote, directed and co-produced the internationally released UK/SA feature film *SURVIVING EVIL* starring Billy Zane, Joel Torre and Natalie Mendoza, which he shot in South Africa.

Terence is the Author of two thriller novels and Owner/Manager of Audience Films Ltd., a Film & TV production company developing an exciting slate of TV scripted drama & feature film projects.

JOHANNA KIRSTEN LAGMAN
CO-PRODUCER



Johanna Kirsten Lagman is a Filipino producer and founder of Mandala Productions. With over two decades of experience across film, television and documentary production, she has built a strong global track record through collaboration, creative exchange and enduring industry relationships. She leads Mandala with a commitment to integrity, inspired creativity and sustainable growth, working alongside filmmakers, producers and studios as a trusted creative and strategic partner, supporting meaningful storytelling across borders. Johanna brings her wealth of experience to *Balete* as our Philippines-based Co-Producer.

JUVZ TESALONA
LINE PRODUCER (PHILIPPINES)



Juvz is a highly experienced Line Producer with an extensive list of feature film credits, having worked with most of the major production companies in the Philippines. Her films include *Spring in Prague*, *Untold*, *Biyernes Santo*, *Selina's Gold* and many others where her role has also included Associate Producer.

ODIE FLORES
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



Odyssey Flores is an award-winning Filipino cinematographer renowned for his distinctive visual storytelling in both independent and mainstream cinema, with a vast range of credits that include *Lola*, *Siargao*, *Mindanao*, Netflix release *The Time That Remains* and award-winning features *Kinatay*, and *Ma' Rosa*. He has collaborated with leading filmmakers on internationally screened works, cementing his reputation as one of the Philippines' most accomplished cinematographers.

ERICSON NAVARRO
PRODUCTION DESIGNER



Ericson is a multi award-winning Production Designer, having worked in the Philippine Film and TV industry for over 30 years. He recently won the coveted Manila Film Festival Hall of Fame Award for his outstanding work across a wide range of feature film and TV credits, working with some of the most respected film directors. His films include *Sana Dati*, *Magikland* and *Seklusyon*. His extensive work in the horror genre make him the ideal production designer for *Balete*.

SONNY SISON
STUNT CO-ORDINATOR/FIGHT CHOREGRAPHER



With over 30 years of experience working in Hollywood and SE Asia as a stunt performer, fight choreographer and action co-ordinator, Sonny's extensive list of Film & TV credits include *Godzilla*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *Magnum PI*, *NCIS Hawaii*, *Shadow Transit* and Philippines' action movie *BuyBust*. Sonny will be bringing his talents to the numerous action and stunt sequences in *Balete*.

CENTRAL DIGITAL LAB POST PRODUCTION



Situated in Makati City, Manila, Central Digital Lab holds a valued reputation as one of the leading post production outfits in the Philippines. Their team of experienced editors and creatives have worked on a wide range of feature films, TV dramas & commercials, and they will be bringing their expertise to the picture post-production for *Balete* – including editing, grading and subtitling.

ANDRE JACQUEMIN
SOUND DESIGNER (UK)



Working from his acclaimed studio in the UK, Andre is a multi award-winning Sound Supervisor, Sound Designer and Composer. His many credits include feature films *Arthur's Whisky*, *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*, *Surviving Evil* and *Monty Python's Meaning of Life*. He will be bringing his unique skills to the sound design of *Balete* – elevating the soundtrack for its international release.

BLEAT AUDIO POST PRODUCTION (UK)



Bleat is a highly regarded audio post facility and sound studio in London, with the very highest acoustic Dolby Atmos Theatrical and HETV specifications, having provided audio post on a number of successful feature film and TV productions. The highly skilled Bleat team will be undertaking the Final Sound Mix of *Balete*.

SIMON LAMBROS COMPOSER & CONDUCTOR (UK)



Simon is an award-winning UK composer and conductor. His score for the film *Puritan* received critical acclaim as did the soundtrack to the film *Cleanskin*. More recently his score for the film *Reborn* won Best Score in a Feature Film at the Hollywood Horrible Imaginings Film Festival. He has also created the score for BBC period dramas including *Full Throttle* and *Queen of the East*, along with sound and music for the OSCAR nominated animation film *Blindscape*.

CAST SO FAR ATTACHED (Subject to Contract) – AS OF JUNE 2026:

JOEL TORRE



Joel is an acclaimed veteran Filipino actor of stage and screen, having appeared in a long list of successful films and TV series, including feature films *On The Job*, *Lolo and the Kid*, *Isolated*, and Terence Daw's film *Surviving Evil*. He will taking on the role of fiery priest Father Aduarte.

SAMANTHA HERRERA



Samantha is a Filipina/American actress with a strong background in Theatre and Performing Arts. She has starred in Marvel's *Iron Fist*, also directing and acting in several award-winning Short Films including *Tales of a Shadowboxer*, *Heights* and *Saint Vegas* – which she wrote and directed. She will be taking on the role of Mercy –one of the unit of Filipino Land Protectors.

ADDITIONAL CAST, CREATIVES & CO-PRODUCERS (UK & PHILIPPINES) TO BE ADDED.





BALETE – DIRECTOR'S VISION by Terence Daw

Of all the film genres, horror movies have remained the most consistently popular and successful at the global box office. As both writer and director of *BALETE*, my aim is to make a compelling, thrilling and above all spine-chilling feature film for worldwide release.

With a rich ensemble of both Filipino & British characters, we are presenting a character-driven story rooted in Filipino folklore and culture that takes us from Conquistador invaders to present day Illegal Loggers and their violent conflict with Land Protectors, balancing a timely eco-message with the wrath of nature's justice and the human terror it brings. I'm excited to bring my experience as a Film & TV director to creating a stand-out horror movie for a global audience.

Shooting wide-screen with the latest camera technology alongside a top-level local crew, ambitious production design and a brilliant assembly of actors and creatives, *BALETE* will have a truly cinematic look, embracing the stunning jungle and village locations – painting our scenes with bold colours and rich texture. Our lenses, camera movements and lighting will combine to heighten the pace and tension, boldly following the trajectory of our principal characters, their relationships, battles against deforestation and ultimately their desperate fight for survival against hideous sub-human creatures. In all of this, Practical SFX will be the priority. The terrifying tribe-like tree creatures will be real people, human performers.

We will have two cameras for the entire shoot, to achieve the best coverage of performance and storytelling, with additional cameras to cover action sequences. Sound design will also play an integral part in creating the atmosphere and bringing our story to life, as will a specially-composed soundtrack score.

Bringing all of these elements together with my co-producers and creative collaborators in the Philippines and in the UK, I'm confident of delivering a successful feature with a captivating story, compelling characters and high production values. *BALETE* will have all the commercial potential and prospects for international distribution for both theatrical release and streaming platforms.



Some images from Terence Daw's horror film *SURVIVING EVIL* starring Billy Zane, Joel Torre & Natalie Mendoza. View Trailer at: youtube.com/watch?v=6GFegPlFBso



Surviving Evil – Focus Films/Audience Films