

# One boy's dream becomes everyone's journey



### Tall As Trees Giveaways

As part of the promotions for the movie *Tall as Trees*, Late in Life Productions will be giving one free roundtrip airfare to London and 25 figurines (2.5") of St. Michael the Archangel. The figurine was featured in the movie as the protagonist's (Jude) "Protector." Each movie patron will be eligible to win these prizes. Winners will be drawn on Nov. 6 and notified by email or phone call.

### Tall As Trees and Bantay Bata

Late in Life Productions is proud to announce its partnership with the Philippine charitable organization Bantay Bata ([www.bantaybata163.com](http://www.bantaybata163.com)), a child welfare program of ABS-CBN Foundation that not only rescues and rehabilitates sick and abused children, but also

provides shelter, therapy and quality home care for rescued children until they can be reunited with their families or referred to proper child-caring agencies.

The movie and the organization share the same vision of providing hopes, dreams, and opportunities to children left with no choice but to face insurmountable challenges in life. Part of the proceeds of *Tall as Trees* will go towards this amazing organization.

Bantay Bata started in 1997 – on Valentines Day as our gift of love to the Filipino children. What began as a hotline and rescue operation has evolved into a truly holistic system which includes therapy, after care and preventive programs.

BB163 gives emphasis to the family through the following services: training and advocacy

on child abuse prevention, rehabilitation of families in crisis, educational scholarships, livelihood, community outreach and medical and dental missions.

In August 2000, it established its first provincial base in Davao. Through the support of the ABS-CBN Regional Network Group, Cebu and Iloilo offices were launched in January 2005a. A centralized national call center was established in July 2005. Plans are underway to open offices in Bacolod, Bicol and Baguio. BB 163 also shares its expertise with the world as Child Helpline International's taskforce chairman for the Asia Pacific region and as a member of the International Social Service.

BB 163 has the following core services:

- Direct Child Protective Services
- Residential Services
- Community and Family Support Services

In the teeming streets of Manila, a young American boy gets lost in the world of its street children but finds vivid beauty that thrives when one knows where to look. Through newfound friends, the love of his father, and the help of an angel, Jude finds a way to grow amid the chaos and color, the violence and freedom of a life in the streets.

Jude (introducing Carlo Lacana), an 8-yr old Amerasian

boy, leads a life of privilege on the island of Palawan in the Philippines. Jude's father, William (Brent David Fraser), a Caucasian American Boeing employee assigned to the Philippines, receives a promotion and leaves for Seattle, expecting Jude and his mother, Maria (Chin-Chin Gutierrez), to follow soon. Both Jude and Maria are hesitant to leave their home island but the strength of family spurs them on to a new life, to be reunited with William in America. En route to Seattle, Jude and Maria stop in Manila to obtain the final papers needed for immigration from the US Embassy there. A violent typhoon floods the streets of Manila and separates Jude from his mother, changing his life forever. Alone, hungry and disconsolate on the streets of Manila, Jude runs into Bhotong (Pierro Rodriguez III), a violent street kid who demands a price for being in his territory. When he seeks help from Amador (Monsour Del Rosario), a crooked cop, Jude quickly learns he must be wary and trust no one.

After an apparition of the Archangel St. Michael delivers Jude from the malevolent *kapre* (Philippine bogeyman) of dreams and children's stories, Jude meets Shutoy (Alejandro Quiban Jr.) and an unlikely but unbreakable bond of friendship forms. Shutoy, a street-smart boy, shows Jude not only how

to survive on the streets but how to love life there. Soon, Jude and Shutoy meet Mira (Apple Domingo), a young girl who teaches both boys how to find beauty even when it seems there is none. Through his friends, Jude learns the art of cunning and endeavors to make enough money to find his way home to his father in America. William searches desperately for Jude but cruel twists of timing and the greedy dishonesty of Amador keep them apart. The violence of the street, the desperate love of William and the tenacity of Jude's purpose lead to an overwhelming collision that changes everyone involved forever.

Jude's journey is one of hope, perseverance and revelation. He struggles against hopelessness and the depravity of the streets but his goal is etched in the burning fire of his dream. Along the way he fights to protect what is his, finds peace in a violent world and learns that anyone, with faith, love and purpose can grow as tall as the trees. Starring Brent David Fraser (William), Chin-Chin Gutierrez (Maria), Monsour del Rosario (Amador) and introducing Carlo Lacana (Jude).

The Director (*Tall as Trees*) – This directorial-debut film of Gil Ponce will be showing on the big screen at the Edwards Theater, Cerritos CA. This is a family movie you will be proud to share with everyone you know.

Meet the director, producer and writer of *Tall as Trees* at the lobby of Edwards Theater. Gil is Filipino-American filmmaker born and raised in Manila, Philippines now living in Seattle, Washington USA. As a young boy of 11, while helping his parents run the family-owned movie theater by selling peanuts,

running up and down the aisle of the theater yelling "peanuts, peanuts for sale!", Gil would take a break and position himself in a front row seat of the theater. Enthralled and fascinated by the world of movies, Gil would get lost daydreaming about one day creating his own movie.

Infused with the value of a college education by his hardworking parents, Gil pursued a Chemical Engineering degree in Manila, Philippines and eventually finished 4th in the country's Professional Licensing Examination. He went to the University of Washington in Seattle to further his studies and shortly thereafter landed a job with the airplane manufacturer Boeing. Gil put his engineering and management skills to work traveling Asia and Europe to oversee various suppliers of Boeing and was based in Japan and England for 10 years.

Upon his return to Seattle in 2002, Gil immersed himself in his dream: he attended a filmmaking seminar in Seattle, he took part in a two-week pre-production of a 30-minute narrative in Vancouver and he participated as an observer for two months in the production of a full-length feature film in Manila, Philippines. Feeling inadequate about his accumulated knowledge and experience and insecure about his lack of filmography, Gil took a leap of faith that would completely steer his life in a completely different direction...

he studied filmmaking by making a 35mm feature film. Armed with a story idea, Gil put aside his Boeing wings and took flight on his first feature film *Tall as Trees* as a director/producer/co-writer.

(Advertising Supplement)



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## USA digital gives the ultimate viewing experience

FOR most of us, there is one thing we look forward to after a hard day's work at the office: plopping ourselves comfortably on our living room sofas in front of the TV and enjoy our favorite TV programs. USA digital knows exactly about this habit of ours and has found a way to make this experience even better as they aim to provide their customers the ultimate viewing experience through DIRECTV.

Established in 1997 as a dealer of DIRECTV in Glendale, California, USA digital is the only authorized dealer for residential, commercial and multi-dwelling units and cater to non-American communities, including the Filipino community, providing them with the programming they enjoyed back at home right at their residences in California, making them feel as if they never left home in the first place, while at the same time keeping them attuned with top US TV shows so they can adjust well to their new location.

USA digital also makes sure that every customer is provided with the best set-up in their house by sending only those technicians certified by the state of California to install the equipment that will be the first step into getting the ultimate viewing experience. Also, these well-trained technicians give essential information to customers on how to maximize the use of the product for their full satisfaction.

The company has recently moved to a bigger location in Sun Valley to service an even bigger group of customers and has also recently established a branch in Colorado. With the growing popularity of TV shows in high definition, USA digital now offers high definition digital video programming and recording and also provide plasma TV and surround sound installation—all the better to enjoy one's well-loved TV programs.

With the high-quality USA digital provides, resulting to their customers' 100 percent satisfaction, there is no question why they have been awarded with the International Dealer of the Year award for two consecutive years now (2006 and 2007).

For interested parties, please e-mail [expresstv1@yahoo.com](mailto:expresstv1@yahoo.com) or call them at their toll-free no. 1-800-801-1145. For existing DIRECTV subscribers, there is good news for you! Refer a person you know to DIRECTV and you will be both credited with \$50 each upon billing.

(Advertising Supplement)

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