

# WHERE THE NIGHT STANDS STILL

A FILM BY LIRYC DELA CRUZ

Original Title: Come la Notte  
Italy, Philippines | 2025 | 75'  
Black & White

## PRESS NOTES

Further press materials  
available [HERE](#)

Berlinale  75<sup>th</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Perspectives



# Contacts

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## Production

**Pelircula / Il Mio Filippino Collective**

Liryc Dela Cruz

[lirycpdelacruz@gmail.com](mailto:lirycpdelacruz@gmail.com)

## Co-Production

**Ozono Studio**

Leonardo Birindelli

[info@ozonostudio.it](mailto:info@ozonostudio.it)

Evelyn Vargas-Knaebel

[evelyn.vargas-knaebel@netplus.ch](mailto:evelyn.vargas-knaebel@netplus.ch)

## Sales

**Alpha Violet**

Virginie Devesa

+33 6 2041 1137

Keiko Funato

+33 6 2983 5108

[info@alphaviolet.com](mailto:info@alphaviolet.com)

[alphaviolet.com](http://alphaviolet.com)

## Publicist

**NOISE Film & TV**

Kai Hermann

+49 152 53450955

[kai@noisefilmpr.com](mailto:kai@noisefilmpr.com)

[noisefilmpr.com](http://noisefilmpr.com)



# Logline

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Three Filipino siblings, all domestic workers in Italy, meet in the villa that one of the sisters has inherited. Shared memories and buried grievances come to the surface and put their fragile relationship to the test.

# Short Synopsis

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Three Filipino siblings, all domestic workers in Italy, reunite in their sister Lilia's inherited villa. As the night unfolds, buried grievances, shared memories, and long-held silences surface, testing their fragile bond.

# Synopsis

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After years of separation, three Filipino siblings, all domestic workers in Italy, reunite in their older sister Lilia's inherited villa. As the night deepens, their long-awaited reunion stirs old memories and unspoken grievances. The air is thick with the weight of what has been left unsaid over time, as the siblings navigate the delicate distance that has grown between them. In the stillness of the villa, they wrestle with an unnameable ache, their shared history unfolding in fragments, revealing the quiet yet profound marks of absence, longing, and fractured connection.

# Director's Statement

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This film is a deeply personal exploration of the silent, corrosive legacy that colonialism has left on the Filipino psyche, its insidious power to fracture not only nations, but also families and individuals. Through the story of three siblings, all domestic workers in Italy, I wanted to examine how centuries of oppression, displacement, and survival have shaped the intimate dynamics of family, creating spaces where unresolved pain festers in silence.

The villa where the siblings reunite is a symbolic extension of their entrapment within a foreign world that has imposed its architecture upon their lives. The distances between them are not just physical, they are the echoes of an unspoken history that haunts them. The scars of migration, of always serving in someone else's home, reveal a fractured sense of belonging, where care is tainted by resentment, and love is inseparable from bitterness.

At its core, this film reflects a deeper, darker truth: when the oppressed internalize the violence of their oppressors, the result can be even more devastating. Colonialism's most sinister legacy is how it twists pain into power, turning those who have suffered into unwitting vessels of harm. The siblings' unraveling is not simply the result of their own personal failings, but a symptom of a much larger, more pervasive evil; one that transforms victimhood into a weapon.

The most tragic outcome of this legacy is when the oppressed, scarred by years of struggle, unknowingly become agents of the very oppression they once fought against. This film serves as a cautionary tale, a reminder that the wounds inflicted by history do not disappear; they can mutate, turning inward, poisoning even our closest relationships. If we do not confront this cycle, the pain of the past will continue to claim new victims, sometimes even at our own hands.

## Liryc Dela Cruz - Director/Producer

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**Liryc Dela Cruz** is an artist and filmmaker from Tupi, South Cotabato in Mindanao, Philippines and Rome, Italy. His works has been performed and shown at numerous international film festivals and contemporary art venues, including: Locarno Film Festival, Matadero (Madrid), La Neomudéjar (Madrid), Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris), UK New Artist, Artissima (Turin), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin), Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Roma (MACRO), Teatro di Roma (Rome), Santarcangelo Festival (Rimini), Far East Film Festival (Udine), PACT Zollverein (Germany), Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival (Taiwan), La Biennale di Venezia and Ocean Space (Venice). At a young age, Dela Cruz received the Bamboo Camera Award from the Father of Philippine independent cinema, Kidlat Tahimik. In 2020, he was selected as one of the young emerging filmmakers of Berlinale Talents representing Italy during the 70th Berlin International Film Festival. Dela Cruz's films are thematically related to his origins, history, biography and interiority, while his performances and research are focused on care, hospitality, indigenous practices, decolonial practices, post-colonial Philippines, and the transpacific trade of enslaved people. In 2023, Dela Cruz inaugurated his first major exhibition "IL Mio Filippino: For Those Who Care To See" in Mattatoio di Roma about the trajectory of his multi-year research on exhaustion, slavery, care, hospitality and colonial history of the Philippines. In 2024, Dela Cruz was nominated by Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum as their artist for Artica Residency. This 2025, Dela Cruz has been selected by Art Explora and Cité internationale des arts to develop his new work in Paris.



## Liryc Dela Cruz - Filmography

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|------|---|
| 2008 | <b>Tundong</b> (short)                                      |
| 2015 | <b>The Ebb of Forgetting</b> (short)                        |
| 2017 | <b>Notes From Unknown Maladies</b> (mid-length documentary) |
| 2020 | <b>On Endings</b> (documentary)                             |
| 2022 | <b>Santelmo</b> (mid-length fiction)                        |
| 2025 | <b>When the Night Stands Still</b> (feature film)           |

# About the Production & Co-Production Companies

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**Pelircula** is an independent film production platform founded by Liryc Dela Cruz in 2015 as part of the growing Mindanao Cinema. It began with the production of 'The Ebb of Forgetting' which premiered during the 68th Locarno Film Festival and continues to focus on personal and experimental cinematic works. Now, **Pelircula** is also expanding its research and collaborations overseas.

**OZONO Studio** is an independent video production company founded in 2023, bringing together a team of young filmmakers. OZONO produces cinematic documentaries, fiction films, and music videos, always striving for a distinctive vision. The collective is driven by a passion for pushing creative boundaries and capturing human experiences. **OZONO** is presenting its debut feature film at 2025 Berlin International Film Festival.

**Reckless Natarajan Pictures**, founded in 2012, is a film production company that develops and produces films from Mindanao, in southern Philippines. It specializes in art house cinema that tackles themes such as memory, colonization, gender and class struggle, armed conflict, religious freedom and state fascism.

It has produced several films namely Gutierrez Mangansakan II's Qiyamah (2012), Daughters of the Three Tailed Banner (2016), Forbidden Memory (2016), and Salome (2024); Dempster Samarista's Banahaw – Sacred and Profane (2017), Age of Blight, an omnibus film on the pandemic directed by various filmmakers from Southeast Asia and Japan (2020), Joshua Caesar Medroso's Trench (2024), and Liryc Dela Cruz's Come La Notte (2025).

# About Il Mio Filippino Collective

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**Il Mio Filippino Collective** is a collective of Filipino domestic and care workers, artists, community organizers and members of the diaspora based in Italy. Their mission is to collaborate, co-create and co-imagine with people and groups who are dedicated to fostering communities of resistance, care, and hospitality; environments where transformation, new imaginations and self-determination flourish. Their work and research are deeply anchored in the values of care, hospitality, anti-racist, anti-colonial resistance and decolonial practices. Through their flagship project, "Il Mio Filippino," they highlight the effects of racial capitalism, colonial borders and the militarized control of bodies, minds, and communities. They are interested in creating encounters, workshops and performances that include grassroots community and the diaspora.



# Credits

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## Cast

Tess Magallanes  
Jenny Llanto Caringal  
Benjamin Vasquez Barcellano Jr.

Lilia  
Rosa  
Manny

## Crew

Director / Screenplay  
Story

Liryc Dela Cruz  
Liryc Dela Cruz  
Jenny Llanto Caringal  
Tess Magallanes  
Benjamin Barcellano Jr.  
Sheryl Aluan  
Liryc Dela Cruz

Cinematographer / Editor /  
Production Design

Sound Design

Produced by

Co-Produced by

Antonio Giannantonio  
Pelircula  
Ozono  
Il Mio Filippino Collective  
Reckless Natarajan Pictures

## Producer

Co-Producers

## Executive Producers

## Production Manager

Live Sound Recording

Production Assistants

## Production Coordinators

Sound Editor

Liryc Dela Cruz  
Leonardo Birindelli  
Gutierrez Mangansakan II  
Maira Lang  
Evelyn Vargas-Knaebel  
Benjamin Vasquez Barcellano Jr.  
Jenny Llanto Caringal  
Tess Magallanes  
Saro Vallejo  
Liryc Dela Cruz  
Leonardo Birindelli  
Benjamin Barcellano Jr.  
Saro Vallejo Matilde Ramini  
Jenny Llanto Caringal  
Tess Magallanes  
Giacomo AG  
Sheryl Palbacal-Aluan  
Gian Luca Catalfamo  
Lorenzo Amato

# Credits

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Additional Sound	Greg Farough Hugo Sanchez Gabriele Lepera
Assistant Editors	Giulia Papacci Serena Paglino
Colorist	Edoardo Aleandri
Post-Production Coordinators	Giulia Papacci Serena Paglino
Post-Production Facility	Ozono
Supported by	Spazio 500 Amsterdam Film Meeting Casa Fiamma

## Instagram

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Liryc Dela Cruz / [@lirycdc](#)  
Il Mio Filippino Collective / [@imf\\_kolektib](#)  
Ozono Studio / [@studio.ozono](#)  
Alpha Violet / [@alpha\\_violet](#)

