

REBUILDING THE SOUL

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EXT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

A crowd of faces reflect the ethnic diversity in this Los Angeles community. News cameras and reporters broadcast in front of the business.

KARLYN CIPRIANO, (20's), notes her cue and begins her segment. Jet black hair and strong Filipino features stand out.

KARLYN

Karlyn Cipriano reporting from the training grounds of our newest, real-life, Filipino American hero. Mr. Cedric A. Gonzales.

The crowd, heavy with descendants from the Philippine Islands, cheers loudly and proudly.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

GONZ (18), an African-American with Filipino facial features, stares intently, as sweat beads form on his brow. Rage and pain boil inside him. His alpha energy fills the room.

In his sights, three life-like, mannequin punching dummies. The humanish forms, stare back, blankly.

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Decorated for a Senior festival, Gonz looks happy surrounded by friends, all are dressed up.

Gonz takes IDA's, (18), dainty hand and kisses it as they join a table that they share with their friends.

KARLYN (O.S.)

Young, Mr. Gonzales came to enjoy another High School dance.

Clearly enchanted by each other, Gonz and his beautiful date, Ida take to the dancefloor for a slow love song. They smile.

IDA

I'll love you, forever.

Gonz pulls her close to him, closes his eyes, filling his soul with her essence.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

The hand of Gonz, wrapped for battle, hits a timer. It begins to tick away seconds. In his other hand, a Kali pole, about the same height as him.

He attacks the dummies with speed and abandon. The stick twirls around his body making a whizzing sound, before it crushes into the bodies of the mannequins.

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Ida collapses in Gonz's arms. He eases her body to the floor in slow motion, eyes wide. Slugs that zoom by him are unnoticed. He pulls his hand from her back. Blood.

GONZ

Ida? IDA! Nooo!

KARLYN (O.S.)

According to police, fellow student...and gunman, Foster McMillion, burst in and fired on the crowd.

Gonz glances to his table of friends. They are, 'no more'.

KARLYN (O.S.) (cont'd)

Unfortunately, Mr. Gonzales lost many friends that night...even his beloved girlfriend.

His face shows shock, horror...excruciating anger.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

The Kali stick is launched like a spear and hits a dummy between the eyes. Two Escrima sticks are snatched from a display of weapons, with urgency.

Baton-like in nature, he assaults the motionless foes with such fury, that if they had bones...they would shatter. Growls accompany each body blast.

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

The sound of GUNFIRE, SCREAMS AND SHELLS hitting the floor still hasn't registered with Gonz. He is frozen.

Gonz's eyes narrow, then sprints towards the back door exit. Over his shoulder he sees the BRIGHT FLASHES as the gun discharges.

Gonz assists people who have fallen, on his way to the door. The exit is locked. A few other guys ram their shoulders into the door. It starts to give a little.

In unison, five teens slam the door. The lock gives way and the outside MOONLIGHT streams in.

Suddenly a man's figure appears from the shadows outside. As he comes into the light, KIPLING MC MILLION (19), the shooter's brother, is seen clearly. So is his RIFLE.

All around Gonz, people are getting shot down. Kipling sees Gonz and marches toward him as he is shooting.

Gonz ducks and twirls away as the bullets barely miss him. Kipling corners him.

Just as he is about to pull the trigger, a lady chaperone hits him with a folding chair. As Kipling recovers, he turns to fire on her. Gonz grips the prom king's septor.

He cracks Kipling on the knee cap, then Gonz kicks the gun from his grasp. A spin kick cracks down into the other leg.

GONZ

Get up, punk.

Kipling scrambles for the gun. Gonz kicks it away. The lady chaperone picks it up.

Kipling tries to take it from her. Gonz uses a series of punches, kicks and bone breaking swings of the septor to beat Kipling silly. Kipling's body slumps to the floor.

Near the main entrance, a draped, serving table is rolled towards Foster with great velocity. The shooter fires at the approaching object.

A ridiculous amount of rounds are fired at the table before its momentum finally stops.

Suddenly, BRIGHT LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON. The man on the light switch is Gonz.

Foster looks at the once rolling serving table. The body that Foster just turned into ground beef is his own brother.

Shock...then Foster's red, contorted face trembles. His eyes water up and veins pop out of his forehead.

MC MILLION
NOOOOOO! NOOOOOOO!!!!!!

Mc Million looks back over to the light control panel. Gonz is no longer there.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

The Escrima sticks are jammed together and twisted at the end. They lock in place. Gonz tugs them apart and now a chain keeps them attached.

He whips them around his body as they whistle in the thick air of the gym. His moves with the weapon look artistic, but a galaxy of rage is in every blow he lands on the dummies.

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

People stampede through the door Kipling was guarding, as the gunman searches for a specific target now.

INSERT

A brown hand wraps around a wooden shaft. The large AMERICAN FLAG that flies in the rafters, is taken from its perch.

THE CATWALK

Gonz looks down on the action from his hiding spot in the RAFTERS above the ballroom. He grabs the flag in one hand, and a rope in the other. He jumps off of one of the steel beams, directly towards Mc Million.

GROUND LEVEL

Mc Million turns towards the SOUND OF WINGS FLAPPING. It is Gonz swinging down upon him and using the flagpole as a lance, eyes unwavering.

The flag billows around him poetically as he descends through the gun-smoke filled air.

Before Mc Million can react, the sharp end of the flagpole penetrates his torso and exits his back.

The GOLDEN EAGLE that was mounted on the tip of the flag, is now bright red. Gonz grits his teeth, as he twists it in him.

KARLYN (O.S.)
Single-handedly, with Filipino
martial arts, he neutralized, both
shooters.

Blood spills out. Now the flag's colors are only bright red. Mc Million falls. He tries to 'cross' himself, but Gonz grips his wrist to stop it.

GONZ
You ain't getting in heaven. Not
after this, asshole.

Gonz, gets in the killer's face and pulls his head backwards by the hair.

GONZ (cont'd)
What the fuck could make you do
this? WHAT??

Bloody teeth smile back.

MC MILLION
That's between me and the devil.

Mc Million's body slumps over, dead. Gonz rears back and punches him in the face as hard as he can.

GONZ
Consider that punch...something the
both of you can share.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

The num-chuks are thrown into the wall and crash to the floor as tears fall from Gonz's eyes.

Drenched in sweat, breathing hard, his fury and agony is unleashed on the dummies with his bare hands. Each fist and kick could destroy an ordinary man.

After exhausted from mauling the mannequins with every move he was ever taught...he grips one of them by throat and chokes it with all the energy still left in his body.

The face of McMillion on the dummy makes him squeeze harder.

KARLYN (O.S.)

After saving so many lives, we can truly call him, a Filipino American hero...of the highest order.

Fully spent, Gonz falls to his knees and weeps as the crowd outside cheers and chants his name.

CROWD (O.S.)

GONZ...GONZ...GONZ...

FLASHBACK - HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Gonz goes to Ida's side. Even though dead, she is still beautiful. Gonz holds her close and starts to sob uncontrollably. His other dead friends, makes him scream.

INT. GONZALES FILIPINO AMERICAN MARTIAL ARTS, LA - NIGHT

The outer door opens. MR. GONZALES (40s), a middle aged Filipino man and MRS. GONZALES (40s), an African American woman the same age, look on at the punishment their boy put himself through, very concerned.

They both peer outside to see the lights and TV News vans parked out front. The couple holds each other for support.

MR. GONZALES

Son. Hey son. I think all this is too much for you.

Gonz pretends not to hear him. He turns away and wipes tears, as the lights from News vans illuminate the Filipino flag on the wall.

MR. GONZALES (cont'd)

Cedric! Come here for a moment.

Sweat glistens off his muscular body. His breaths, heavy. His expression, pained. He is hugged by his mom.

GONZ

Okay, Dad...What's on your mind?

MR. GONZALES

You're on our mind, son. It's been a few days since--since that night. You're still suffering.

GONZ

Suffering? Dad, you don't know the half of it. I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP. I can't take the dreams.

(beat)

Every night, I relive the whole thing. The only time I feel at peace is when I workout.

MRS. GONZALES

I'm sorry, son. Come, we have a surprise for you.

GONZ

A surprise?

MR. GONZALES

Yes son, where you are going, you can put all of these things behind you and get your mind healed.

Dad puts his arm around his shoulders.

GONZ

Going? Where am I going?

MR. GONZALES

Your mom and I decided that you need a change. Something to challenge you, to learn from and prepare you for life.

GONZ

Forget it. I'm not a military man.
I refuse...

MRS. GONZALES

No son, it's not the service.
This will only last the Summer.
You'll be back in time to start
at Stanford in the fall.

Gonz breaks the embrace.

GONZ

Mom, I don't want to go to school.

MRS. GONZALES

That's another thing. You have a
full academic scholarship there and
you'd rather be a gym rat?

(scoffs)

Hopefully this will help you
appreciate your life and the value
of education.

GONZ

Great. Does this mean you got me a
job, dishing slop, at the soup
kitchen on skid row?

Dad laughs.

MR. GONZALES

If you cross my dad the wrong way,
a soup kitchen would be like the
Spa at a resort.

GONZ

Grandpa? Wait... No thanks, no way.

MR. GONZALES

Sorry son, it's a done deal.

GONZ

What? You're gonna ship me off to
The Philippines without even asking

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

me? Come on Dad. Tell me you're joking.

The father looks at the son, stone faced.

MR. GONZALES

No joke, son. He needs you and you need him. The time you'll spend together, will benefit you both.

GONZ

I'm not sure I know what you mean by that. How do we need each other?

MR. GONZALES

He needs your muscles to help him build a new martial arts school. This is your chance to prove to us that you don't need college.

GONZ

Gee Dad, thanks.

Gonz slumps, exhales and then gives in.

MR. GONZALES

No problem, son. I think that new surroundings and fresh air will do you good. Your martial arts will get better because you'll be learning from the master himself.

GONZ

That stuff is all great, but I really don't need this. Mom, tell him. I'm a hip-hop homeboy, raised in the city. I'll die over there.

MRS. GONZALES

Cedric stop. You're going. You need to discover the other side of your roots. You'll end up loving this experience.

Gonz glances at the window and the news vans outside.

GONZ

Fine. I guess. I have to find a way
to put this nightmare behind me.
Maybe learn some new stuff so I'll
never get caught off-guard...again.

EXT. MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A 747 taxis to a stop on the black tarmac. Palm trees and
huge mountains are seen in the background.

INT. MANILA AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Amazed by his surroundings, Gonz pulls out a picture of his
Grandad and looks around. The crowd of people are 97% Asian.

Gonz is intrigued, especially by the women. As his eyeballs
ride piggyback on a micro mini-skirt, he is tapped on the
shoulder. Startled, he jumps, and twirls around to see who
touched him.

An elderly Asian man with wise eyes and the body of a 30-year-
old stares back at him. Short, white hair covers the scalp of
the short brown man he knows as GRANDPA (late 70's).

GRANDPA

Good reflexes, very quick. Turn
and face the attack. My son has
taught you well.

GONZ

Gramps? Is that you? God, you
haven't changed in ten years. You
look great. I missed you.

Gonz hugs his grandfather. Grandpa smiles, immersed in his
grandson's love.

GRANDPA

It's great to see you boy. It's
been a long time. Welcome back...to
the home of your ancestors.

INT. AIRPORT BAR - LATER

Gonz and Grandpa enter the terminal's brightly painted cantina and get comfortable. Gonz puts his BAGS on the floor. Grandpa studies Gonz's face, he smiles.

GRANDPA

You look like your father did when he was your age. Cedric Aguinaldo Gonzales, you are quite a handsome young man. This is a special occasion. Join me in a toast. Waitress!

A dark haired beauty approaches them. The FILIPINA WAITRESS (20's) gives Gonz a 'special look'.

FILIPINA WAITRESS

Handa na po ba kayo?

GRANDPA

Two Tanduays, on the rocks. You drink, don't you boy?

Gonz eagerly shakes his head yes.

Later...Several empty glasses sit in front of the odd couple. Gonz's eyes look heavy, but Grandpa has not missed a beat.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

So then your daddy goes up to the biggest bully and says, "Unless you want the same beating that I gave your cousin, you better back off".

The old man chuckles.

That was the last time we had a problem with that family. Your dad could fight like a...HEY!!

Two teenagers grab a couple of Gonz's SUITCASES and dash off into the crowd.

GONZ

I'll get them.

Gonz gets off his chair, then falls on his face. Grandpa laughs at him.

GRANDPA

You stay here, I'll be back.
Waitress, bring that poor American
boy some food, Filipino food.

FILIPINA WAITRESS

No problem, sir.

Grandpa takes off after the thieves as Gonz picks himself up off of the cantina's floor. The waitress comes over with a platter full of broiled meat on skewers.

GONZ

What the heck is in that drink?

The waitress giggles and smiles at him. Gonz smiles back. He picks up a skewer and takes a bite. He seems to like the taste. He looks around for Grandpa.

As he scans the airport he sees many older, foreign men with young Filipino boys. A puzzled look crosses his face. He shakes it off, goes back to jawing down grub.

Time passes and the plate is nearly empty. Gonz wipes his greasy lips and pats his overstuffed belly. He hears laughing behind him.

He turns to see two beautiful Filipina women sitting there. He smiles at them. They giggle and speak Tagalog.

GONZ (cont'd)

I'm sorry. But since you don't
understand me, let me tell you
about the damage I could do to them
mini-skirts.

Gonz gets thudded in the back of the head. He spins around defensively as the girls laugh loudly. It is Grandpa. He is holding both bags.

Behind him, POLICE are putting HANDCUFFS on some teenagers with SWOLLEN EYES AND BLOODY NOSES.

GRANDPA

This is the Philippines, not Sunset Strip. You must respect woman here. You don't treat them like 'Hootchie-mama', understand?

GONZ

Yes sir, ouch, okay, okay.

The girls giggle out loud at Gonz's torture. Grandpa speaks to the girls in Tagalog and makes a gesture with his hands that something is very small. They laugh harder at him.

Gonz looks humiliated, picks up his bags and heads out of the bar stumbling. Grandpa catches up with him and puts his arm around his shoulder. The American is still hammered.

EXT. MANILA AIRPORT - DAY

Gonz squints from the sunlight as he and Grandpa stand outside the terminal waiting for their ride. The streets are busy and jammed with cabs, bicyclists and pedestrians.

GONZ

Thanks for getting my bags back, Grandpa. I hope I'm like you when I'm your age.

GRANDPA

Forget it boy. I'm one of a kind.

GONZ

What's the deal with all those old men at the airport with young boys? Are they having an adoption marathon or something?

GRANDPA

I know what you mean. I hope it is about adoptions, but it may be something else.

(MORE)

GRANDPA (CONT'D)

Our country is plagued by pedophiles. I hope that isn't what we saw.

GONZ

It better not be what I saw. If I caught one, the only thing they'd be molesting is the wheelchair I put them in.

GRANDPA

And I would help you. Your Uncle Rosalino should be here any second now to pick us up in the jeepney.

GONZ

Jeepney? What's a jeepney?

A TRUCK like nothing Gonz has ever seen pulls up to them. The truck itself is relatively new. The cab section in the back is large and could easily accommodate several couples.

BRIGHT COLORS, MIRRORS, BEADS AND TINSEL cover it. A traveling work of art. A big Filipino man drives the truck and gets out once it is parked. ROSALINO (30's) walks over to Gonz and Grandpa.

GRANDPA

Ah Rosey, come here and meet your American nephew.

ROSALINO

Cedric, how are you? Welcome to paradise. How's your dad doing?

GONZ

Good, real good. He's getting old but he's still quick. We might open another LA school in a year or two. Filipino martial arts is getting popular back there.

ROSALINO

Once the beauty of our style is seen, it's got you. Let me help you

(MORE)

ROSALINO (CONT'D)

with those bags so I can show you around town, before we go to the countryside.

INT. JEEPNEY - DAY

The three generations of Gonzales men slowly cruise through the streets of Manila. They drive through a nice neighborhood then come to a stop in front of a huge estate.

At the front of the property is a ornate gate and armed guards in uniform.

ROSALINO

This is where Ferdinand Marcos got his butt kicked. The Presidential palace of the Philippines.

GRANDPA

You should be proud that your people had a non-violent, uprising that lead to freedom. Quite a feat.

ROSALINO

Be double proud, Nephew. African Americans had a non-violent revolt too. Seems like they still have a long way to go though.

GONZ

You can say that again.

ROSALINO

While we are in the city, there is a special church I'd like you to check out. You'll find it... interesting.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The men walk into the old cathedral and look around. Rosalino crosses himself. Standing in front of him is a life-sized replica of Jesus. The thing is, this Christ is Black.

Agony and pain is etched into his face. The crown of thorns digs deep into the sides of his scalp. The punctured skin seems to bleed in bright red streams. In his eyes, defiance, power and compassion are seen.

GONZ

WOW...Man, that is, wow.

ROSALINO

I knew you'd like this. This is called the 'Church of the Black Nazarene'.

Gonz stares intently at the captivating sculpture. No words are spoken, as the African descendant is spiritually awestruck by the dark-skinned Messiah. His eyes, blank.

FLASHBACK

Gonz stands alone at the High School dance. Bullet holes have riddled the walls...and his friends. They lay dead, but a voice is heard from above. It is a familiar voice. Ida's voice. Gonz searches for its sources.

IDA (O.S.)

Gonz, we're in a better place now. Don't forget us, but you must let us go. Seek happiness, seek love and seek justice. I will love you always.

Ida materializes out of nowhere, right in front of Gonz. She is beautiful and wearing a flowing gown. Her smile is like sunshine. He smiles back through watery eyes. He stretches out his hand, rubs her brow.

BACK TO SCENE

In an instant, Gonz comes out of the flashback and finds himself gently stroking Christ's face. A sole tear runs down the Californian's cheek. Gonz is speechless.

GRANDPA

They say many miracles have been caused by this statue. Can you imagine that?

GONZ

Uh huh, yes...yes I can.

As they turn to leave, two priests approach them. FATHER CASAS (30s) is Filipino, BISHOP UNGER (50s) is a gray haired man with a strong resemblance to Winston Churchill and the grin of a lizard.

FATHER CASAS

Guros, it's so good to see you.

GRANDPA

Just passing through, Father Casas. No reason to get excited.

UNGER

Such a handsome young man, sir. So muscular. Is he a relative or...a friend?

The bishop winks at Grandpa.

GRANDPA

And what's your name priest? I haven't seen you around before.

FATHER CASAS

That's because you never go to church, Guro. This is Bishop Unger from America. He joined our parish just recently.

Bishop Unger shakes Rosalino's hand and then Grandpa's. Grandpa shudders slightly.

UNGER

Glad to finally meet you, sir. You are quite a hero around Manila and the countryside.

GRANDPA

Nice to meet you. Have a nice day.
We really must be on our way now.

UNGER

And the boy. What's his name?

GRANDPA

Ask him yourself.

Grandpa, normally as tranquil as the Dalai Lama, seems tense and agitated. Rosalino senses it too.

UNGER

Surely.

Unger turns to Gonz with a wide smile. Grandpa looks deep in his eyes as the Bishop extends his hand to shake with Gonz.

GONZ

I'm Cedric Gonzales. I'm from
America too. Just out here visiting
my Gramps. First day.

Unger holds the handshake uncomfortably long.

UNGER

Well, as one Yankee to another,
welcome to The Philippines. I have
started many youth-oriented
programs in the area. Please, feel
free to join some while you are
here, or just stop by and see me if
you get homesick. My satellite TV
can get all of the American
stations.

GONZ

Sounds good. I'll keep it in mind.

GRANDPA

I'm afraid he will be much too busy
in the countryside helping build
the new school and perfecting his
martial arts skills. Good day now.

Grandpa almost drags Gonz towards the door.

UNGER

Nice to meet you both. Maybe I'll
see you around in the countryside.
I'm often out that way.

The priests wave to the Gonzales family. Only Rosalino and
Gonz wave back.

GONZ

Cool. Hope to see you again soon.

EXT. GONZALES ACADEMY OF FILIPINO MARTIAL ARTS - DAY

The jeepney pulls up to a large COLORFUL BUILDING. Muscular
men and women walk in and out.

The brightly painted MURAL on the side of the building
features PRE-COLONIAL FILIPINO WARRIORS with native weapons.
Gonz, Grandpa and Rosalino get out.

INT. GONZALES ACADEMY OF FILIPINO MARTIAL ARTS - DAY

Gonz follows in behind Grandpa and Rosalino. Two large men
are just dismissing a class they were teaching. The gym area
is huge. It is lined with workout equipment, traditional
weapons, posters, and mirrors.

DESIDERIO and GIOVANNI (40's) quickly leave the class and
come over to Gonz and crew. They point at Gonz and smile.

GRANDPA

Aquinaldo, I want you to meet your
Uncles, Desiderio and Giovanni.

GONZ

Hi, uh....

Before he can say a full word, he is picked up, hugged and
kissed by his muscular uncles like he was a toddler.

GIOVANNI

Look, he's a strong one, huh?

DESIDERIO

Good to see you. We'll make you into a great fighter. You'll see.

GRANDPA

Come, we'll show you around. This school was started during the war. It used to be a warehouse. Under the Japanese, we risked our lives and taught Filipino Martial Arts.

DESIDERIO

Yes sir. Your grandfather was a great Filipino hero. He was the leader of the resistance in Manila and arranged guerilla attacks against the Japs.

Desiderio points to a FRAMED PICTURE of a wiry, but fierce looking brown man kicking a sandbag, another photo shows him holding swords, standing next to a burning Japanese Flag.

ROSALINO

Those Japs killed off a lot of our family. Most men would run, but your grandfather...Fought.

GIOVANNI

That's right. He then trained our people to fight. Mac Arthur and the Americans take credit...but WE drove those Japs out. We did! Don't let anyone tell you different.

DESIDERIO

After the war, Grandpa was granted this warehouse to use as a school to teach Filipino Martial Arts. This is our heritage Cedric, we're warriors.

Gonz's expression shows that he understands the importance of his family's place in the Filipino history and the mission of Grandpa's school.

EXT. STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

The men finish packing up the jeepney with EQUIPMENT, PADS AND WEAPONS. They close up the back door of the vehicle with barely an inch of room to spare. Gonz hugs his uncles, then crams himself in the back of the truck awkwardly.

Grandpa and Rosalino are comfortable in the front. The contorted American waves goodbye as the truck pulls off.

EXT. STREETS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MANILA - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The jeepney maneuvers through remote rural roads. Tall mountains and volcanoes are seen in the distance as palm and coconut trees line the main road.

INT. JEEPNEY - SAME

Grandpa points out the window. A MAN PLOWS HIS FIELD USING A WATER BUFFALO. Thick green vegetation fills the landscape. Gonz smiles, amazed at the scenery.

The SUN STARTS TO SET as they drive on through the countryside. The colors of the sunset are beautiful but soon the PITCH-BLACK RURAL ROADS are a little spooky to Gonz. No streetlights are found.

GONZ

I don't think I could live out here, it's too dark.

ROSALINO

Think of it as womb-like

GONZ

I think of it as tomb-like. Sorry, I'm not used to this.

GRANDPA

That's what I wanted. A school that is carved out of the raw wilderness where students learn the struggles of living...Like our ancestors.

GONZ
Old school, huh?

GRANDPA
What?

GONZ
Nothing. Do you mean there
is no TV, computers, electricity,
and running water?

GRANDPA
Have no fear, Aguinaldo. We have
electricity and plumbing. The
computer and TV are only for
administration.

GONZO
Since I am your Grandson, am I
considered an admin --?

GRANDPA
NO! This will be good for you and
all of our students. When we teach
Filipino history, culture and
fighting arts, it will be pure,
from the heart.

LIGHTS are up ahead. Torches light up a beautiful natural
sight. A WATERFALL, THAT EMPTIES INTO A LARGE WADING POOL.
DANCERS ENTERTAIN TOURISTS in brightly colored outfits.

Suddenly, a CARLOAD OF DRUNK FOREIGNERS weaves in the road
and almost hits their truck. Grandpa curses them in Tagalog.
Gonz adds icing to the cake.

GONZ
And your momma too!

GRANDPA
Boy, don't go down to this lake
alone. Those foreigners drink too
much and are crazy to begin with.
(MORE)

GRANDPA (CONT'D)

We are not far from here, so be careful, I've heard bad things.

GONZ

Okay.

GRANDPA

And that American priest back in Manila. I got a strange feeling about him. Be careful.

GONZ

Don't worry. I go to church even less than you do, and you never go.

EXT. GONZALES MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The jeepney turns into a WELL-LIT CONSTRUCTION SITE. They pull into the PAVED DRIVEWAY, as dozens of men do construction and develop landscape. The WORKERS wave at the truck as it parks. Some come over and help unload.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - NIGHT

Grandpa and Rosalino step out of the vehicle and stretch. Gonz tumbles out, lands on his face, gets up and looks the place over. The school is located on a large spread of land.

FIVE BUILDINGS SEEM FINISHED as others are being built. There are female students present also. One winks at him.

Students greet Gonz, Grandpa and Rosalino with warmth. It is apparent that this old man is loved.

GRANDPA

Aguinaldo, grab those weapons for me and let's get into the house. You look like you could use a bite to eat. We've prepared a dinner in your honor, come.

GONZ

You really didn't have to do that.

Gonz hoists the RACK OF SPEARS over his shoulder and walks next to the old master. Grandpa stops and smiles at him.

GRANDPA

I do this out of love for you.
You're right, I don't have to.
I want to. You are our future
and I want to rejoice that my
grandson is so worthy. Problem?

GONZ

No problem grandpa, I love you too.

INT. TRAVEL OFFICE - NIGHT

The moonlight shines off the foliage outside the windows. Posters of exotic places adorn the walls. The workspace is spotless and packed with high tech COMPUTERS.

Bishop Unger, in tennis gear, lights a smoke as he watches American news. The reporter, from Los Angeles. Photos of the McMillion brothers is on the screen behind her.

KARLYN

And they both left manifestos that
implicate a priest, and blame his
abuse, for their rage.

Unger butts the cigarette.

UNGER

Cry babies.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

The eating area is decorated with balloons and has a large BANNER that says "WELCOME CEDRIC AGUINALDO GONZALES - THE YOUNG DRAGON" The mess hall is packed with close to a hundred people. TRADITIONAL FILIPINO MUSIC plays over the PA system.

Gonz strolls in with his Grandpa. Both wear BARONG TAGALOG SHIRTS and black pants. The crowd applauds as they walk to the head of the table and take seats. As the clapping dies down, Grandpa stands to offer a toast.

GRANDPA

Thank you. I'd like to offer a toast to my American grandson, Cedric Aguinaldo Gonzales and his decision to spend the summer with us. Lets help to build him up emotionally and spiritually as well as physically.

Heads around the auditorium nod in agreement during applause.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

I want this facility to be a living testament to all Filipinos. Something that celebrates culture and our history. Something that will last long after our deaths.

Heads tip back and swallow down the libation all at once. After the toast, people talk among themselves as FOOD is brought out in covered dishes.

GONZ

Hey uncle, this hootch is pretty good. What do you call it?

ROSALINO

It's called Tuba, T-U-B-A. It's made from coconut juice. Like it?

GONZ

Heck yeah. I think I'll pour myself some more.

GRANDPA

Save room for dinner and don't get drunk, at least not till I can join you later.

The food is served to each table. Each dish is then uncovered. All the tables have the same items.

He sees a SOUP with strange looking vegetables, grilled FISH WITH HEAD STILL ON IT and steamed SHRIMP WITH LEGS AND ANTENNA STILL ATTACHED. Greasy ADOBO CHICKEN is also served.

While others dig in, Gonz just stares at the food in front of him. Most people eat with their fingers, even the rice.

Grandpa breaks the shrimp in half, then sucks the brains and juice from the head part, before discarding it.

Gonz is amazed and grossed out at the same time.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Eat up boy. This is good stuff.
It's the food that our forefathers
ate. If you expected cheeseburgers,
this isn't the place.

Other students laugh at Grandpa's joke. Gonz tries to avoid looking like a total wussy by putting some food on his plate. Most of what he serves himself is rice, and he uses his fork.

After dinner, Grandpa takes Gonz and introduces him around. Everyone smiles and is very nice to him. Grandpa then takes him to the ladies table.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

I want you ladies to meet my
Grandson from California, Cedric.
Aguinaldo. This is Marilyn,
Zenalyn, Jerilyn...And Renelyn.

Gonz and RENELYN (18) eyes, lock-up on each other. Her beauty has a fierceness to it. The silence seems to last a long time before Gonz speaks.

GONZ

Uh, yeah. Hi, my Grandpa calls me
Aguinaldo, but friends call me
Gonz.

GRANDPA

Gonz? That's what they call you in
America? Hmm, well I guess that
it's okay. I'm gonna still call you
Aguinaldo though.

GONZ

Grandpa, you can call me anything you like. I want to know what that cutie pie right there will call me.

Gonz nods towards Renelyn. She giggles and acts bashful. She looks him in the eye, playfully.

GRANDPA

Don't let her innocent looks fool you. She's lethal.

GONZ

Please, Grandpa, her? She's just a baby butterfly.

RENELYN

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. You better recognize.

Everyone at the party cracks up laughing. Gonz acts taken back. Her English is perfect, as is her verbal jab.

GONZ

Hey baby, I think I've already been stung.

INT. GONZ ROOM - NIGHT

The window of the American's room has a gentle breeze blowing through it. Gonz is into a deep sleep.

ROSALINO

Wake up! Wake up! Hey boy, time to get up. Let's go!

GONZ

What? Huh?

ROSALINO

It's time to begin your journey towards being a Martial Arts master. Here are your clothes, I'll meet you outside.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

Gonz and Rosalino stride up to the half-finished gymnasium. Gonz rubs his eyes, still sleepy. Some people already work.

GONZ

What's up Unc, the sun didn't even come up yet. Let me join up with y'all later and--

ROSALINO

I don't think so. This is good for your character. Don't fight it, you won't win anyway.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

The sun beams down on the workers at full power. Men and women mop sweat as they hammer, drill, cut and plaster. The gym will be huge when finished. Gonz has his shirt off and he already looks spent.

As he tries to work, he slaps at BUGS biting him. Gonz is clearly pissed off.

GONZ

This place stinks man. No power tools, no shade, 10 million bugs and hotter than black coffee in the Congo. When is lunch? Do they ever feed y'all around here or is this a secret Nike factory?

Rosalino comes over to him. The uncle doesn't look happy.

ROSALINO

So Nephew, you can't handle the work?

Just then, Renelyn walks by them, carrying TWO HEAVY BUCKETS OF WET CEMENT. She sweats and puffs, but manages a smile.

GONZ

Hi Renelyn. Need a hand?

Renelyn nods her head for a 'no' response.

ROSALINO

I thought this work was too hard
for you. I was about to send you to
the kiddy tent to have a popsicle.

GONZ

No, no I'm fine. Where did you hear
that nonsense from? This is fun.

ROSALINO

Good, I'm glad to hear it.

Rosalino grabs his bullhorn. His amplified voice carries to
all of the others.

ROSALINO (cont'd)

Lunch break, lunch break. For
everyone except my nephew, Cedric.

All the other workers laugh hard at the joke. Rosalino and
Renelyn laugh the most. Gonz doesn't get the humor.

RENELYN

Awe, he's gonna cry. Maybe we can
let him have lunch this one time if
he promises to behave.

ROSALINO

And stop whining?

GONZ

Oh yeah, don't worry, I'll be good.
I'll be better than good, if I can
escort this pretty lady to lunch.

RENELYN

You've got a bet big boy, let's go!

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

The sweaty, hungry workers stream into the dining area. Gonz
sits down right next to Renelyn.

Her girlfriends giggle at her, a few tables away. The food is brought out, it is the same type of stuff that Gonz passed-on the night before.

GONZ

Oh man, this again?

RENELYN

Did you say something?

Renelyn attacks the shrimp the same way Gonz's Grandpa did, head sucking and all. She scoops up some rice in her hand and crams it into her mouth. Gonz turns away so that he doesn't get grossed out.

GONZ

No, I didn't say anything.

RENELYN

I thought you were hungry. Dig in.

Gonz looks at the food, then at the people around him. He sips his water, then smiles.

GONZ

This is crazy. I can't...

RENELYN

Here, try it.

Renelyn rips a shrimp's head off and puts the rest in his mouth. Gonz rolls his eyes at first, then chews the shrimp like he enjoys it.

GONZ

Hey, you know, this ain't too bad.

RENELYN

Of course not. It's delicious and fresh. Here, try the head.

GONZ

No, No, No. I'm not ready for that yet sweetheart. No head on the first date.

She peels more shrimp for him and he wolfs them down. They smile and giggle as they eat. He tries to eat with his hands and makes a huge mess, everyone laughs.

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

FLOODLIGHTS AND TORCHES give light to a makeshift BOXING RING where students train and spar. Gonz uses the SPEED BAG and tries to look pretty when Renelyn and friends go by. She grins at him.

He comically misses a punch and the bag dings him in the head. Renelyn and the other girls laugh.

RENELYN

You're so silly. Come with us.
Maybe you can learn something.

GONZ

Girl, please. Who are y'all? The
Pink Dragons? Stop.

RENELYN

Stop...is what you'll be begging me
to do, when I get you in the ring.

CROWD

Ohhhhhh...Watch out...She's
tough...

GONZ

Please stop scaring me. I have a
delicate heart.

RENELYN

You're an American. Everything
about you is delicate, poor baby.
Let me show you a rough,
indelicate, Filipina warrior.

Gonz does a fake yawn, sits on a nearby rock.

GONZ

Well, if she shows up, wake me. All
this hot air makes me sleepy.

RENELYN

You're in for it buddy. Girls...

The ladies go to the center of the ring. Renelyn does a little stretch and some shadowboxing as her friends put on pads and protection gear for the sparring session. Renelyn puts on her gear too.

RENELYN (cont'd)

Rather than sparring teams, let's do it this way. Me, fighting all of you at once.

The other females look at her like she's nuts. ZENALYN, the biggest, pounds her boxing glove covered fists together.

ZENALYN

You're good, but not that good. This beating will help you realize that, little girl.

RENELYN

Well sister, lets rock and roll.

Gonz gets up from his seat genuinely concerned.

GONZ

Okay ladies. Calm down.

RENELYN

If it's too much for you, I have a Teddy Bear you can cuddle. If not, then stay out of my way.

Gonz is taken back. He comically acts as if his feelings were hurt and sits back down.

The ladies encircle Renelyn and prepared to battle. Rosalino bangs a GONG that begins the fighting.

The ladies don't hold back. They punch and kick with fury and power. Renelyn definitely has her hands full in the ring. The quickness of Jerilyn, the acrobatics of Marilyn and the sheer power of Zenalyn slightly get the best of her at first.

At one point, Renelyn is grabbed by the hair and thrown out of the ring by Zenalyn. Renelyn lands near Gonz who is now nursing a tall GLASS OF TUBA and enjoying the bout.

GONZ

Ouch...that had to hurt.

RENELYN

My hair? Oh no you didn't.

GONZ

I'm afraid she did.

RENELYN

Shut up. Give me that water.

GONZ

But it's...

RENELYN

What?

GONZ

Oh, nothing, chug it down so you don't get dehydrated.

The other girls are in the ring congratulating each other. They smile at Renelyn. Hot, sweaty and angry, Renelyn chugs down the entire drink in one gulp. As she finishes the drink, she smacks her lips, tosses the empty glass.

RENELYN

Ladies, we're not done yet.

Renelyn gets into the ring and goes on the attack. She screams as she throws punches and kicks now. In short time, she overpowers the competition and sends her sisters reeling. She victoriously goes up to Zenalyn.

RENELYN (cont'd)

Don't you ever ever...Even when playing, even when you're dreaming...Grab me by my hair.

Renelyn then stomps over to Gonz. He picks up a NEWSPAPER and ducks his head behind it.

RENELYN (cont'd)

And you...You, you clown. Why didn't you tell me that drink wasn't water?

GONZ

You didn't ask.

RENELYN

Ohhhh, you...

Renelyn chases him around as he laughs. The rest of the attendees have a good chuckle too.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Sound of heavy breathing, someone running through the woods. It sounds like a child afraid.

A Filipino boy at no more than 12 years, dashes through DENSE VEGETATION and he's in a hurry. Fear is painted across his face as he stumbles through the dark forest. His shirt rips on a tree branch, he pauses.

The sound of DOGS BARKING, PEOPLE YELLING AND FAST MOVING HORSES APPROACHING, makes him get up and continue his dash.

Legs of horses galloping full speed, pound the earth. The hooves kick up puffs of dust.

The boy plunders on. Tears well up in his eyes.

Horse nostrils flare out as the animal runs faster and faster. The riders have evil intentions etched into their eyes, SCARVES OVER THEIR FACES.

The boy huffs and puffs, then leans against a tree in order to catch his breath. The sound of the bloodhounds is very close now. He looks up the tree to its top branches.

Moments later...Several big DOGS BARK AND HOWL as their snouts point up a tree.

Soon the horses and their riders appear and encircle the tree. These faces are the same ones in the car that almost ran Grandpa's truck off the road.

The meanest looking man dismounts first. He walks up to the tree and spots the boy in his perch. The other men dismount also and join him. The boy is petrified. In broken English he pleads...

BOY

Please, please sir. No kill please!

The men laugh. The meanest man's eyes look 'priestly'.

UNGER

Sure boy. Come down here we'll have good fun. You'll love it.

BOY

No, I don't trust. No trust.

Unger pulls out a gun and points it at the child.

UNGER

Come down...Now!

INT. GONZ ROOM - NIGHT

Gonz thrashes in his sleep. Sweat beads on his forehead. He moans from the nightmare - in his mind.

DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL DANCE - NIGHT

Gonz sits with his buddies and their dates at the big dance. Robby, Sylvia, Todd, Cheryl and Ida are just hanging out, laughing and jovial.

Not Gonz...he is looking around for something. He looks uneasy, nervous...jumpy.

GONZ

Come on guys, let's get out of here, I have a bad feeling.

Gonz flickers his eyes around the gym. Behind doors, on the catwalk, under the tables. His girlfriend kids with him.

IDA

Baby, chill out, you're embarrassing me. There's nothing to worry about. Just kick back, relax.

GONZ

Yeah, you're right, okay, lets dance.

Gonz and Ida embrace each other and step to the dance floor. A slow romantic song plays.

IDA

I love you Gonz. I wish this night wouldn't end, ever.

He smiles like he is in heaven as he slow dances with her and hugs her tight. She squeezes him tight and they are lost in the moment. After a few moments, he opens his eyes and everything is hazy.

MC MILLION

Smoking party. Too bad your buddies aren't getting into it.

Gonz looks over and sees Mc Million. He is pale, with sunken eyes and a demonic look on his face. Mc Million points to Gonz's friends who are seated at a table. All are dead. Blood flows from bullet wounds, eyes blank.

GONZ

You psycho, I'll kill you!

MC MILLION

Stupid idiot. You killed me already. Can't you remember?

In a flash Mc Million stands before him with a flagpole stuck through one side and out the other.

The eagle tipped top at the pole sticks out from just below the belly button area for about 2 feet. The American flag on the pole is partially in his guts.

MC MILLION (cont'd)

See, what a memory. Look, you did this to me, ME! You can make it up to me though. Bring your sweetheart over here, let's boogie.

Mc Million does a couple crude pelvic thrusts. With the flagpole in him, it's comical looking, in a 'Beetlejuice' kind of way. Gonz holds Ida tighter.

GONZ

No, get away from us.

MC MILLION

Too late, studly. She's in my world now. Scat.

Ida's body goes totally limp and she slumps in his arms, fear, anger and disbelief are in Gonz's eyes.

GONZ

No baby, please.

In a dry, raspy voice, Ida speaks to him.

IDA

Honey, I'm dead. You can't help me, but you can help others. This monster was turned this way by a child molester. Promise me something.

GONZ

Yes, of course anything.

IDA

Don't let those filthy pigs make another monster. Don't let them ruin more innocent lives. You will be tested soon. The blood of the victims cry out for justice!

All around him DEAD BODIES MOAN AND CRY OUT IN PAINFUL SOUNDING WAILS.

They limp, crawl and roll towards Gonz. Some MISSING LIMBS, SOME HAVE HORRIBLE HEAD WOUNDS, yet they come towards Gonz as he holds Ida.

Mc Million stomps off in disgust. The flagpoles comically bouncing up and down as he walks. Ida starts to SCREAM.

He looks down and she has changed to a little boy. He is covered in blood. The boy is screaming.

GONZ

No, No, No!

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GONZ'S ROOM - SAME

The nightmare has generated some big time SWEAT. The SHEETS ARE SOAKED. Gonz is on his back, The but he flips around violently as if fighting something.

GONZ

No, No, No!

All of a sudden his eyes open. He breathes hard from the PTSD dream and looks scared to death.

As he tries to catch his breath, he hears SCREAMS coming from the outside. He listens carefully, hears it again, it sounds like a child.

Gonz bolts out of bed, as the screams become more desperate. He throws on some clothes and goes to his door. Others look out their doors also.

The sound doesn't come from the campus, but it isn't far away. Abruptly the WAILING STOPS MID-SCREAM.

EXT. OUTSIDE DORM ROOMS - NIGHT

Rosalino comes running out of his quarters over to the section where the younger students are sleeping. Kids stand in the doorway as he goes by. Gonz watches him approach.

ROSALINO

Get back inside, we've called the police. Go back to bed. Please go inside your rooms. There is nothing to see out here.

GONZ

What the heck is going on?

ROSALINO

We really don't know, maybe just a prank. We don't want to take chances.

INT. GONZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gonz steps back into his dark room.

The cobweb of a nightmare still haunts him as he picks up a framed PHOTO OF IDA and holds it to his heart. A single tear runs down his face as his soul longs for her.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

The no-nonsense POLICE CHIEF (40's) whispers to his men and they disperse into the THICK FOREST. The Chief goes to Gonz, Grandpa, and Rosalino.

POLICE CHIEF

We've been searching for five straight hours, still nothing.

ROSALINO

Do you think it was just local kids playing around?

GRANDPA

I don't. Those were real screams of pain. Once you've been in war, you can tell the difference.

POLICE CHIEF

Yeah Rosey, I think your dad is right. Kids from this area don't play around that way.

The overcast sky above rolls with THUNDER and FLASHES WITH LIGHTNING. RAIN FILTERS DOWN. The Chief yells to his crew.

POLICE CHIEF (cont'd)

Hey men, hurry up, it's starting to rain.

Gonz, Grandpa and Rosalino sit inside their truck to stay dry. The Chief lights a CIGARETTE and starts to walk back to his men.

He barely takes a couple of steps before a LIGHTENING STRIKE HITS A NEARBY TREE. The Chief butts his cig and yells.

POLICE CHIEF (cont'd)

Forget it boys, let's get out of here. We'll start again tomorrow. You guys better go home too, it's not safe here.

The Jeepney pulls away just as a downpour begins.

INT. GRANDPA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room is large but very plain. Framed PHOTOS of years gone by, line the walls. Grandpa is at his DRESSER, packing up a suitcase. Gonz KNOCKS on his open door. Grandpa looks around.

GRANDPA

Aguinaldo, come in, son. What can I help you with?

GONZ

Grandpa, I'm still having nightmares. I hate to sleep. Those dreams drive me nuts. Being awake ain't so great either.

GRANDPA

My son, you lived through a horrible experience. I've seen some bad things in war, but to see your innocent friends murdered, especially a girlfriend? That is very hard to accept.

Tears come to Gonz's eyes. He takes a seat near his grandfather. Hides his face in his hands and sobs.

GONZ

The thing is, I could have done more. It's my fault they are dead.

GRANDPA

Why do you say that?

GONZ

When the shots started... I froze. I can't forgive myself for that. If I would've acted quicker... Maybe my friends wouldn't be...

Gonz sobs harder.

GRANDPA

Aguinaldo, forgive yourself. The past is the past. I'm sure if another situation like that arises, you will be the first to react, while others freeze. It is the way of the warrior when he first faces death. Do not hate yourself.

Grandpa puts his arm around him.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Your spirit has been crushed, so now, you must fight to start rebuilding the soul. It is up to you, to determine if you will conquer life, or life will conquer you. I will try to help you win.

GONZ

How? How do you rebuild the soul?

GRANDPA

I've found that in life, there are no accidents. What you lived through, happened for a reason. What reason?

(MORE)

GRANDPA (CONT'D)
(deep exhale)

If you stay brave, positive, expand your mind, open your heart and do acts of kindness, the reason will reveal itself.

Gonz dries his tears. He studies Grandpa intently.

GRANDPA (cont'd)
Usually it happens after you are tested again. You will win the test. In your triumph, you will then see, that your tragedy prepared you for that moment.

Grandpa smiles. His eyes twinkle like a seasoned sage.

GRANDPA (cont'd)
And in that moment of enlightening, you will connect to the life force within you. The universe will open and wisdom will be revealed to you so strong and so beautifully, that it may bring you to tears.
(lowers voice)
It is at that moment when you realize, that your soul has been rebuilt.

Gonz digests it all, in silence.

EXT. RAINFOREST - DAY

Thick, lush foliage gives way to a small, remote lake. In the unanchored row-boat. Gonz sits across from Renelyn.

RENELYN
When I heard you had a bad night, I knew it was time to share this spot with you. Perfect, or what?

Gonz takes in all the natural beauty around him.

GONZ
This? So absolutely peaceful. Feels like I should whisper when I speak.

RENELYN

I know, like a church. I used to come here with my dad before he left for Dubai. Mom...already working in Singapore. Had to stay with my Auntie.

GONZ

This place is so nice. Why do they work so far from home?

RENELYN

Forced away. Even with a degree, we're paid little, here. Every country in the world has Filipinos somewhere, these days.

After inhaling more of the scenery...

GONZ

Maybe God knows how nice and loving your people are and spreads them across the planet on purpose.

Renelyn gets a chuckle from that.

RENELYN

Maybe. Makes sense. My dream is to teach our culture to the world, kinda like you do.

GONZ

When did you start training?

RENELYN

Local girls tried to get me in a gang. My auntie told your grandpa. He asked me if I wanted to stop running. Now I fight.

GONZ

Sounds like what he'd say.

RENELYN

(with urgency)

Oh no. It's my aunt's birthday. Let's stop there on the way home.

Gonz takes a deep breath.

GONZ

Just a few more moments. I want to engrave this scene into my brain.

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

When I meditate, you can find my
mind...right here.

INSERT - VIEW THROUGH HI-TECH BINOCULARS - DAY

At first blurred, the images of Gonz and Renelyn come into sharp focus, as they stroll down unpaved country roads.

UNGER (O.C.)

I'm sure it's him. Did you pull it
up yet?

INT. LAND ROVER - DAY

Partly hidden by foliage, the truck is parked as Unger scouts through the binocular lens. His athletic looking assistant, HEINRICH, (30), scrolls vid clips on his phone, then stops.

HEINRICH

(Austrian accent)

Yes. I think you're right.

He holds up the screen for Bishop Unger, who stands through the moon roof, in street clothes.

INSERT - SCREEN ON PHONE - DAY

The headlines of the article reads, TEEN HERO STOPS SCHOOL SHOOTING. A photo of Gonz is shown beside it.

Unger turns away. Concern on his face.

UNGER

If he finds those school shooters
were, uh, students of mine...he
might want revenge on me and screw
up everything.

HEINRICH

That gang we hired before, is in
the next town over. One call, a
little cash...the problem
disappears.

Bishop Unger rubs his chin.

UNGER

Make the call.

EXT. AUNTIE'S PARTY - DAY

In the backyard, a whole, roasted pig, with chunks sliced off, cooks over coals. An older woman sings Karaoke.

Gonz and Renelyn sit nearby at an outdoor table. Their plates, now empty. Gonz smiles.

GONZ

I'm stuffed. Could have done without that hog staring at me while I munched him though.

RENELYN

Ready to sing with me? You can't leave here without Karaoke.

GONZ

Haven't heard an English song yet.

She yanks him up and they go to the sound machine.

RENELYN

Look, there's one.

GONZ

Yeah, but it's corny.

RENELYN

Did you expect Biggie Smalls here?

After the current singer finishes she hands the mic to them. They begin to sing, 'YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE'. Gonz seems reluctant at first, then tries to impress her.

Both take out their phones and record it. Eyes lock on each other and it is apparent the meaning of the song affects them, as a couple, on a deep level.

INT. GANG HIDEOUT - DAY

Rough looking, tattooed thugs play dice and drink booze in an abandoned warehouse. The leader, VIPER (40'S), has greasy hair and a smile that matches.

VIPER

For that much money? Consider it done. What's he look like?

The return text is Gonz's photo from the article.

EXT. COUNTRY ROADS - DAY

Long shadows of late afternoon are cast over Gonz and Renelyn as they leisurely stroll back home. A water buffalo startles Gonz as it suddenly crosses the road ahead of them.

GONZ

Damn thing almost scared the poop outta me. Literally. Ate too much and my colon is ready to sing.

RENELYN

Probably sounds better than your voice, anyway.

GONZ

Funny. I should let one rip so you are better informed.

After the bovine has fully crossed the street...they see six men standing in the road, blocking their way. Viper snarls.

VIPER

Woman, you go. We have business with homeboy here.

GONZ

Me? Brother, you got the wrong guy.

VIPER

(sweet/threatening)

Nothing personal. We love hip-hop culture...but, I'm making paper off your ass.

GONZ

Who's paying you?

Viper smiles mockingly and crosses himself.

GONZ (cont'd)

Jesus paid you? I'm disappointed.

VIPER

Soon, you meet him. Complain then.

The gang flashes weapons.

Gonz and Renelyn share a look that confirms they are ready to fight. She stomps closer to them.

RENELYN

We don't run from thugs like you.

The knife-wielding Viper, steps forward, then stops.

VIPER

Renelyn? Is that you? You should've stayed in the gang. You'd be in my harem now. Run...don't die tonight.

Her face shows, she ain't playing. She goes to the bamboo fence and yanks off two poles.

Renelyn tosses one to Gonz, who twirls it around his back before gripping it for attack.

GONZ

Run...don't die tonight.

After Renelyn does a similar trick with her fighting stick, the horde descends on them.

Gonz goes for the non-lethal blows to the hand. One after another. Knuckles crack and knives drop.

The other three dash after Renelyn. She slides under the water buffalo and fights, using the animal as a buffer.

Her stick bops heads up top, then she stoops and cracks knee caps from underneath. Frustrated, a thug punches the bull.

Angry, the water buffalo charges all three...they dash away.

Gonz is noticeably more still legged as he fights off Viper and two allies. They encircle him, weapons gone.

VIPER

What's wrong with you? Scared?

GONZ

Gotta poop, dude. Hurry up and get knocked out. It's coming soon.

The gang has a laugh.

VIPER

Allow me to put you out of your misery.

They attack and Gonz fights back in a comedic way that would make Jackie Chan proud. Cheeks tight, he spins the Kali stick, lands body shots and pops noggins.

Renelyn jets in from the side and finishes knocking them out with sticks and kicks.

Viper and Gonz square off. Gonz snaps his pole in half with his knee, so that he now has two baton sized weapons.

A blade, near Viper, is seen by both. Viper lunges for it and quickly launches it at Gonz.

The American sees the glistening blade soaring at him, in slow motion. He uses one baton to flip it into the air.

The other baton is used to over-hand crush the shiv, back to Viper, with the velocity of a tennis serve

Screams pierce the countryside after the blade lodges itself deep in the gang leader's butt cheek.

GONZ

Sorry, dude. Did you happen to pass a restroom on the way?

Viper pays him no mind and writhes in pain.

RENELYN

Let's get out of here.

GONZ

I'm hip. Ten minute walk back and my colon is telling me, five, max.

INT. LAND ROVER - DAY

A frown appears on Unger as he stand through the moonroof, eyes glued to the binoculars. He tosses them in the backseat. His head shakes in frustration.

UNGER

Losers. Get me out of here.

Heinrich waits until Unger is seated then pulls away.

EXT. GRANDPA'S QUARTERS - DAY

A mango slice is cut off with a blade. It is given to Gonz.

GRANDPA

You deserve that. Quite a story. I wonder why they were after you.

Gonz gobbles down the fruit.

GONZ

I think they were hired by someone.

GRANDPA

Really? In that case pack a bag.

EXT. ROADS IN PHILIPPINE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The jeepney makes its way over rough terrain. Volcano tops are seen in the distance over the dense greenery.

INT. JEEPNEY - SAME

Gonz and Grandpa are bounced around inside the cab of the truck. The somewhat paved main road is still filled with potholes. Gonz stares out the window with a big smile.

GRANDPA

So, what are you smiling about, Aguinaldo? You seem awful happy today.

GONZ

Finally understanding your wisdom. Plus, just look around...the mountains, green trees, the fresh air. It must have been real cool when you were young.

GRANDPA

Yes, Aguinaldo, very cool indeed. Especially, before the Japs went nuts. Did your father tell you about your history?

GONZ

Yes, but I'm sure not quite as well you can tell it. Kick some knowledge at me, Grandpa.

GRANDPA

Well, it's a long way to Baquio City. Sure, I guess we have time. Let's start at the beginning.

GONZ

That's always a good spot.

GRANDPA

Filipino people are a mixture of many people. The origins of Filipino people, as all people, started in Africa.

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

Filipino people still have direct links to the people of Africa through the Negrito Population. Today we call them Itas.

GONZ (cont'd)

Brothers? Here? Man, that's deep.

GRANDPA

Later, immigrants from India came and brought the Martial Arts discipline of Kali. Muslims from the Middle East and Africa, known as Moros, introduced sword play.

Gonz is shocked.

GONZ

You mean Africans came here twice? I'm suing ALL of my history teachers. Why didn't I learn this?

GRANDPA

About the same time, Chinese Merchants and traders brought us the art of Kung Fu.

Gonz points to the Bruce Lee T-shirt that he is wearing.

GONZ

A little Shaolin Surprise, huh? Fighting sticks and roundhouse kicks. What Black folks came over with them? The Wu-Tang Clan?

Grandpa looks confused.

GRANDPA

What the hell is a Wu-Tang? Forget it, I don't want to know. Spain invaded the Philippines in the 16th Century. The invasion was lead by a bloodthirsty, Portuguese, pirate named Magellan.

GONZ

My school taught that he was a
explorer and hero.

GRANDPA

He was neither, just a bully and a
thief. He expected the Filipino to
accepted burning of villages
without a fight. He was very, very
wrong. Filipino weapons and
fighting skills were equal,
sometimes better than Spain's best.

Gonz looks on at his grandfather with respect and amazement.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

A Chief named Lapu-Lapu, stopped
the first invasion of Spanish
terrorism. He was from Cebu and
refused to accept Spanish rule.

Grandpa hands Gonz a postcard with a photo of a statue on it.

INSERT

Photo of Lapu-Lapu.

GRANDPA (O.C.) (cont'd)

This statue of him is in Cebu City.
We are very proud of him. Magellan
saw him as a threat and promised to
wipe him out. Lapu-Lapu's forces
and the Spanish fought on the
beach. The heavily armored
Spaniards were no match for the
fast, young, Kali trained troops of
Lapu-Lapu.

Gonz shadow-boxes an invisible Magellan as he sits in the
vehicles seat.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

That's right, Aguinaldo. Magellan got what was coming to him on the beach that day, he was slain by Lapu-Lapu himself.

GONZ

But like cockroaches, eventually the Spanish returned, right? Same old story. Killed everybody, stole their land, etc, etc.

GRANDPA

Yes, and those demons violently regained control of this island by use of terror and cruelty. Spanish priests burned all books, erased other religions and outlawed Kali.

Gonz shakes his head in disbelief of the level of oppression.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

This abuse lasted for over 400 years. Escrima and Arnis styles of Filipino Martial Arts started secretly at this time. So did the practice of Anting-Anting, Filipino voodoo.

GONZ

So, do you do...that voodoo?

GRANDPA

No, well, maybe a little. The point is, when Anting-Anting and Kali are combined, the warrior is invincible. Believe me, that stuff is real.

Grandpa smiles back to him.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

So, did your daddy ever tell you those things?

GONZ

Not like that. So I'm sitting next to the world's oldest voodoo child, huh? You really know magic?

GRANDPA

Yes, a little. It's nothing compared to the people we are going to see. This guy is an Ifugao medicine man called an Igorot. His power is...how do you say in America, off the hook.

EXT. IFUGAO VILLAGE - DAY

A single road parts the dense green backdrop of the rain forest. The jeepney drives along the dirt road and pulls up to the RING OF NATIVE HUTS. As soon as it stops, throngs of DARK SKINNED CHILDREN converge on the vehicle.

Adults behind them smile as the two travelers unload the truck. The sun is just going down but it is still light out.

The crowd separates then allows an aisle to form. An elderly brown skinned man comes from the largest hut and stands at the top of the aisle. At the other end of the aisle are Gonz and Grandpa. The CHIEF (70's) smiles at his friend widely.

CHIEF

That better not be a Japanese truck. Not with all the trouble they caused us.

GRANDPA

Ha, never have owned one, never will. Hello my friend let me take a look at you.

The grinning Ifugao approaches the Martial Artist and his grandson with arms open. The old men warmly embrace and then look each other over.

CHIEF

Gonzales, it's been too long.
How have you been?

GRANDPA

My life has been very good. You
look healthy you old bat. How've
you been?

CHIEF

Not bad, as you see, the village
has grown quite a bit since the
last time you were here. We have
prospered lately.

GRANDPA

Good, good. Now where is that
grandson of yours?

The old chief beckons a muscular, dark skinned young man over
to them. He is short but looks very tough.

CHIEF

Gonzales, this is my grandson, he
got big didn't he? Meet Mr.
Gonzales and...

GRANDPA

Oh yes, almost forgot. This is my
grandson from America. Cedric
Aguinaldo Gonzales.

CHIEF

Welcome to the Philippines young
Mr. Gonzales, I guarantee that you
will learn great things from this
man. Listen wisely.

GONZ

I will sir.

CHIEF

Good idea. Make sure my grandson
listens too. You two are about the

(MORE)

CHIEF (CONT'D)

same age, try to help each other
and learn together, it will be fun.

The two teenagers look at each other. They ease out a smile but it is obvious that they are from different worlds and they know it.

INT. LARGE GATHERING ROOM - NIGHT

Gonz sits next to the young Ifugao, and Grandpa sits next to the Chief at the top of a long, hand carved table. Other dark skinned Ifugao men are seated around the table.

The native women, wait on the men. The women put out bowl after bowl of food onto the table. The men must eat with their fingers, Gonz is used to it now.

The event is a big deal to the tribe and the men wear their most elaborate outfits. The chief speaks to the crowd.

CHIEF

This feast is being held in honor
of my good friend, the Escrimador.
One of the Greatest Martial Artists
in the world. Mr. Aquinaldo
Gonzales and his grandson.

The men and women in the hall all applaud in the direction of the visitors.

CHIEF (cont'd)

As you know Mr. Gonzales saved our
village from being destroyed by the
Japanese during WW II. His fighting
skills and warrior spirit was
unstoppable.

Gonz looks at his Grandpa with a smile and pride.

CHIEF (cont'd)

Not only did he save the village,
but also he saved me personally. It
was near the end of the war....

FLASHBACK - WORLD WAR II

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

Five Japanese soldiers are pushing along a young Ifugao man with BAYONETS pointed at his back. The teen wears Native clothing. The Ifugao looks like he was beaten recently.

He is tied by the wrist and then fastened to a large tree. The soldiers fall back into firing squad position. The soldiers get set and prepare to fire.

The Ifugao glares at them and spits. Out of nowhere, a SPEAR flies through the still air.

The spear goes completely THROUGH ONE SOLDIERS ARM AND STICKS INTO THE CHEST OF THE SOLDIER next to him.

He is killed instantly, while the one with the arm injury tries to free himself from the spear that links them together.

The other soldiers panic and FIRE THEIR WEAPONS into the darkness of the forest, emptying the chambers. As the three healthy ones reload, one is hit by a FLYING DAGGER in the arm and drops his rifle.

Suddenly a teenager jumps from the bushes with TWO RATTAN FIGHTING STICKS in his hand. He swings the sticks with blinding speed as the soldiers try to reload.

One soldier takes the dagger from his comrade's arm and flings it at the teenager.

The dagger is then deflected into the chest of a soldier and sticks there.

The teenager charges the troopers. The rattan sticks rain blow after blow and are too much for the soldiers to handle. He frees the Ifugao with the dagger and together they tie up the remaining troops.

The young fighter stands over the bound enemy. The Ifugao is awestruck. The shirtless teenager extends his hand in friendship.

The Ifugao shakes his hand and smiles. Tears of gratitude and joy stream down his face.

BACK TO SCENE

Gonz is dumbfounded. He looks at Grandpa with new respect.

CHIEF

He stuck around a while and helped drive them all out of our valley. I joined him in Manila and we finally drove them away from our country. To that, we are forever grateful.

Those around the table applaud him. Grandpa stands and bows to the crowd, humbly.

GRANDPA

Thank you for your hospitality and gratitude. Enough of that now, lets eat.

Later, BOWLS AND PLATES ARE EMPTY and the diners are stuffed. The chief stands and claps his hands. Young boys and girls parade into the room carrying WEAVED BASKETS, BLANKETS, VASES, CARVINGS, AND COLORFUL SHIRTS.

CHIEF

We give these gifts to the Honorable Mr. Gonzales, in appreciation of his sacrifice and courage. We also have another item for him.

A boy runs to the back of the room and comes back with an ELABORATELY CARVED SPEAR. It is a long, thick spear that appears slightly heavy to carry. The boy walks in front of Grandpa, goes to one knee and presents it to him.

GRANDPA

It's beautiful, really, I can't take it.

CHIEF

You can and you will. I spent the last 10 years carving it and blessing it with Anting-Anting. The magic in it is strong enough to kill any demon.

GRANDPA

Kill demons huh? Must be one powerful spear. Thank you, Chief. Thank you all. I will cherish it, especially if I run into a demon with a bad attitude.

The men have a laugh together. Gonz rubs his fingers over the intricately chiseled shaft and is amazed by it.

CHIEF

I have but one request of you, old friend. It would be my greatest pleasure, to have you teach my grandson the noble Martial Arts of the Filipino people.

GRANDPA

It is done.

The Chief's grandson bows to the elderly master.

EXT. ON PORCH OF HUT - NIGHT

Gonz sits outside of his sleeping quarters staring at the star filled sky. He sits alone in the dark, quietness of rural twilight.

He hears a noise and turns to see the Chief's son approach. They smile at each other. The young tribesman sits down next to him.

GONZ

Hey man, What's up? Yo, I can't remember your name, mind if I call you Iffy, short for Ifugao? You can call me Gonz, short for Gonzales.

The Ifugao young man, IFFY, answers with a thick accent.

IFFY

Yeah, sure. You fight too, Gonz?

GONZ

Yeah, I know a few things. I thought I knew a lot, but this year, I found out that I didn't know jack.

IFFY

Hmmm... I don't know Jack either.

The Ifugao is totally serious that he knows no one with that name. Gonz chuckles lightly.

GONZ

That's just an expression. Why are you awake now anyway?

IFFY

Nervous. Never left village before. Excited, cant rest. Why you up?

Gonz sighs, looks to the sky.

GONZ

Do you have a girlfriend?

IFFY

Girlfriend?

GONZ

You know a woman, a special lady.

IFFY

Oh, yes, yes. You mean...

Iffy takes his hands and makes an hourglass shape in the air. Gonz laughs out loud, smiles at him and nods.

IFFY (cont'd)

No, no...I have three.

GONZ
(slightly shocked)
Three girlfriends?

IFFY
No, no. Three wives.

Gonz springs to his feet in disbelief.

GONZ
What? Three wives? No wonder you don't leave. Hey brother ain't nothing we got back at the school is worth missing three wives over. Damn, ain't you a little young to be married in the first place. What are you, about 16?

IFFY
I am 17. While at the school, I will be how you say...celibacy.

GONZ
With three wives, you aren't practicing celibacy 'G', you just need some rest. My man...I think we'll get along real good.

Iffy goes into a doorway and comes back with a small gourd. He hands it to Gonz.

IFFY
Have some, it's tuba. Make you sleepy.

GONZ
Yeah, that'll work. I'll just have a little.

EXT. IFUGAO VILLAGE - DAY

The Chief comes out of his hut and stretches in the morning sun. He looks ahead of him and starts to chuckle. Others come out of their huts laughing also. The humorous scene features Gonz and Iffy, passed out on the porch.

Gonz and Iffy awake to harsh sunlight and harsh laughter. They try to block their eyes from the bright morning light but it does no good. Gonz tries to stand, but swoons from the hangover. Three girls rush to Iffy and help him up.

Gonz watches Iffy and his harem in amazement. Both teenagers stagger over to where Grandpa and Chief are.

GRANDPA

Well, I guess you two are friends
now, great, help him pack so we can
get to the school before nightfall.

They rub their eyes and massage the back of their necks as they go to the pile of LUGGAGE AND GIFTS. They load the things on their backs and head to the truck. Grandpa and the Chief smile at each other.

INT. JEEPNEY - DAY

The truck is packed to the roof. Iffy sits up front, Gonz is crammed in the back between furniture and art carvings. Each time the truck is jostled on the rough road, he bumps his head on the stuff.

GONZ

Yo Grandpa, can't we do something
about this stuff sticking in my
ribs and banging me upside the
head?

GRANDPA

You packed it, you live with it.

Gonz rubs his eyes and looks out of the window. A breathtaking view of the RICE TERRACES is seen. It's a short distance away. People are seen in it's field working.

GONZ

Is that the rice fields you were
talking about Grandpa?

GRANDPA

Those are rice terraces, Aguinaldo.
And yes, this is the engineering

(MORE)

GRANDPA (CONT'D)

masterpiece I told you about earlier.

The rice terraces sprawl across the landscape of the mountains. The terrace is huge and the sight is breathtaking.

IFFY

You like? My people built this 3,000 years ago and we still use it today. Many young people leaving mountain now, want city life. Don't understand responsibility to ancestors. I do. No matter what, I will return to help the people.

GONZ

You better come back. You'll have three wives ready to skin you alive. Then putting Antig-Anting on whatever is left, if you don't.

EXT. PHILIPPINE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The sun begins to go down over the mountains. In the distance, palm trees sway as farmers walk their water buffalo's back to the corrals.

INT. JEEPNEY - DAY

Grandpa is telling one of his tall tales from the war. The teenagers are captivated by the story.

GRANDPA

So then finally, the Japanese troops came running out, but guess what? They were all as naked as a plucked chicken. I was laughing too hard to shoot any of them. We just fired our guns in the air and watched those naked butts running into the forest.

All three of the passengers share a good laugh. Gonz grabs a SODA from the cooler for himself as he finishes laughing.

GONZ

Oh Grandpa, you're too much.
Anybody need a drink?

IFFY

I'll take one.

Gonz passes him a cold can of cola. Iffy studies it carefully. He watches Gonz open his can and follows his every step. When he sips the carbonated drink, he makes a face that is unintentionally comical. Gonz cracks up laughing. Iffy swallows hard.

GONZ

Is this your first time drinking
soda?

IFFY

Yes, how can you tell?

GONZ

Guess I'm gifted.

GRANDPA

We are getting close to the school
now. Good timing. We even have a
little time to spare before dark.

GONZ

Yo, Iffy. When we get there, I
promise to pollute your body with
all the American garbage available.

IFFY

Very good. America very good.

GONZ

Humph! I guess I need to show you
some history books too. America is
great, but it's had some problems,
big ones.

The truck lumbers on for a bit then Iffy jerks forward.

IFFY

Awe, that's awful. Oh, very bad.
Can't you smell that?

GONZ

Smell what?

IFFY

Mr. Gonzales, you smell that?

GRANDPA

No son, I don't notice anything.

IFFY

Please sir, stop the vehicle

GRANDPA

Sure, over here?

Iffy nods his head and leaps from the vehicle as it draws to a stop.

In a second he is swallowed up by the RAINFOREST and out of sight. Grandpa and Gonz look at each other confused.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

They park and get out of the truck.

GONZ

What was that all about?

GRANDPA

I have no idea. Ifugaos are great hunters and they are close to nature. I wonder what he smelled.

GONZ

The way he bolted outta here, it's either a bucket of gold nuggets or a new wife to add to the collection.

GRANDPA

Well, I guess we better....

Iffy's voice is heard coming from the deep forest.

IFFY (O.S.)

Hey, hey, over here, hurry.

The men look at each other then take off into the woods.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY

Gonz gets there first, then his Grandpa. When they arrive, they cover their noses. Iffy holds his nose as he stands over something. He kicks it to roll it over.

IFFY

I think it's a little boy.

GRANDPA

My God.

IFFY

Look, there's another one over there.

Iffy points to a mound of clothing half hidden in bushes.

GONZ

Grandpa, What's going on?

GRANDPA

I really don't know.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Police vehicles and coroner's vans are lined along the rural road. Gonz, Grandpa and Iffy sit in the truck as police and medical examiners gather evidence and remove the dead bodies. The top cop speaks to them.

POLICE CHIEF

Well, we'll notify you if we need additional information. Will you guys be okay? After seeing these kids, well, I guess you're--

GONZ

Ready to get out of here. Yes.

GRANDPA

Aguinaldo!

GONZ

The last thing I want to see is more dead kids. I've seen enough for two lifetimes.

POLICE CHIEF

No problem. You guys head back to the school. The police will take it from here. By the way, I'd like my grandson learn from you. Would it be possible to have me drop him off tonight? With this kind of stuff happening to boys, I want Tad to know how to protect himself.

GRANDPA

No problem. We will be up late tonight preparing for the Philippine Independence Day party tomorrow. Stop by.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

Several empty plates sit in front of Iffy as he is finishing up a plate of French fries.

Around them, people are decorating for Independence Day. Rap music plays.

GONZ

Hey, hey. Nothing is more American than fried food and hip-hop.

GRANDPA

If you little piglets are done stuffing yourselves, we could use a hand with the decorations.

INT. MAIN BUILDING - DAY

Grandpa, the Police Chief and his DEPUTY (20's), who wears way too many gold chains on his neck...are with a middle age Philippine woman.

She weeps bitterly as the men try to comfort her. Grandpa sees Gonz nearby and goes to him. They step to the side to speak freely.

GONZ

What's up Grandpa?

GRANDPA

She is one of the mothers of those kids we found last night. Poor thing, she just came back from identifying the body.

GONZ

Man, that's rough.

POLICE CHIEF

Mr. Gonzales do you know a woman named Madame Paragoya who lives around here?

GRANDPA

Yeah, she just moved into the area a few months ago. She's from Manila, runs a boarding house for tourists.

POLICE CHIEF

This lady claims that her son went to work for her for the Summer. The last time she saw him alive was with her. Since you know this woman perhaps you can take us there. We need to ask her a few questions.

GRANDPA

Sure, I'd be glad to help.

DEPUTY

Wait, I don't think we should bring a civilian on a call with us. He might get in the way.

The police chief rolls his eyes at the deputy. Something seems to be simmering under the surface of their relationship.

POLICE CHIEF

Good idea. I'll take him myself. You go back to headquarters and catch up some of that paperwork.

The deputy gives him a disgruntled look and storms away without saying goodbye. He slams the door behind him.

GRANDPA

Body of bull, brain of a fruit fly.

POLICE CHIEF

Exactly, I don't understand what's come over him lately. He used to be one of my best men.

GRANDPA

It's sad. Well, let's go speak to Ms. Imelda Paragoya now so that you can find that killer. We don't want to lose anymore kids.

EXT. MADAME PARAGOYA'S BOARDING HOUSE - DAY

Well-groomed tropical plants surround a large, freshly painted house. Gardeners work feverishly outside, beautifying it further.

Grandpa's jeepney pulls up. Gonz, Grandpa and the Police Chief step out of the vehicle and head towards the house. Grandpa approaches a YOUNG MAN working on the large estate.

GRANDPA

Is Madame Imelda Paragoya in?

YOUNG MAN

Yes sir. She is in the study but
watch out. In bad mood. Big party
tonight. Everything not ready yet.

The police chief pulls out the photo of one of the dead boys.

INSERT

The bright smiling face of the innocent child beams with
warmth and cuteness. The bangs of his jet black hair almost
reach to his big wide eyes.

BACK TO SCENE

The young man smiles as he looks at the picture and nods his
head affirmatively.

YOUNG MAN

Yeah, I know him. We call him Lebo.
I don't know his real name. He used
to work here. One day, about a week
ago, he vanished.

POLICE CHIEF

Really? Is this the first boy
you've noticed it happen to?

INT. MADAME PARAGOYA'S BEDROOM - SAME

A phone rings, IMELDA PARAGOYA, a middle aged Philippine
woman with blonde hair and wrinkles, picks up the telephone.
She sits down her overly, pudgy frame upon one of the many
elegant chairs.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Yes...Oh really, thanks,
I owe you one.

The woman gets up from her chair, goes to the window and sees
one of her workers speaking with a cop. She flings open the
window...Listens.

EXT. OUTSIDE MADAME PARAGOYA'S HOUSE - SAME

The Police Chief and field hand are still chatting. Gonz and Grandpa look on as workers buzz around them.

YOUNG MAN

Yes, other boys have come and gone also. I just mind my own business.

IMELDA PARAGOYA
(from window)

Florencio! You mind you own business right now and get back to work. You're not paid to chat.

YOUNG MAN

Yes ma'am.

The young man grabs a RAKE and begins to gather up fallen leaves, fear is on his face. The woman directs her attention to the three outsiders.

IMELDA PARAGOYA
(from window)

Police Chief, Mr. Gonzales,
welcome...I'll be down in a second.
Please come in.

The men look towards the door of the large house and a formally dressed BUTLER is stands with the door open.

INT. MADAME PARAGOYA'S PARLOR - DAY

The large room is elaborately decorated with FINE OBJECTS AND ANTIQUES. There is no Filipino art. The place is more European than Pacific Rim. The men sit in expensive chairs and await the host.

GONZ

Fancy place, huh Grandpa.

GRANDPA

Yeah, fancy, if you like other cultures better than you own.

Non Asian people walk to and fro. Some are dressed for boating. No females are in the crowd.

Madame Paragoya descends down the carpeted stairs. Her hair is in a bun and she wears a female version of a man's suit. Even through a fake smile, her eyes look cold and calculating.

Before speaking, she snaps her fingers twice. A butler in formal wear comes into the room with TRAY OF ICED TEA.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Welcome to my humble adobe
gentleman. How can I help you?

She sits on the antique couch like an aristocrat in training. The Police Chief clears his throat and speaks, unimpressed.

POLICE CHIEF

Thank you ma'am. We are just doing a routine investigation about one of your old employees. Here, take a look at this photo.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Ah yes, little Lebo. He was a cute kid. What happened? Was he stealing or something?

POLICE CHIEF

No Madam. He's dead

IMELDA PARAGOYA

What? How? I can't believe it. Oh my God!

POLICE CHIEF

There, there Madam. I'm sorry. We found the body last night.

The innkeeper pulls herself together and tries to respond while fighting back sobs.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Well, he worked for me a couple of weeks. Good worker, fine for a boy his age.

POLICE CHIEF

When was the last time you saw him here?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Umm, about a week ago, maybe less. I figured he went back home or something. How did he die?

POLICE CHIEF

We think that it's foul play. Other bodies of young boys were found not far from his.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

No!

POLICE CHIEF

I'm afraid so, if it turns out that those kids worked here too, then. I'm afraid you are a suspect. Is there anything you need to tell me ma'am?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

No, no believe me. I have nothing to do with the deaths of those boys.

POLICE CHIEF

I understand. Just for the sake of our policy, please do not leave the area without alerting us first. I'm still investigating and may need to speak with you again.

He stands, signifying the end of the conversation.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I will comply with your wish
because I have nothing to hide, and
I want you to know that I don't
appreciate your suggestion. Good
day, Sirs.

INT. MADAME PARAGOYA'S BEDROOM - LATER

The middle-aged woman looks scared. Her hand shakes as she drinks some iced tea. She sits in a chair, then picks up the telephone and dials. A CIGARETTE is puffed nervously.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

The cops were just here. They found
the bodies, now what?...Don't give
me that, you said they'd never find
out...Let's meet, but not here. If
I have to take this heat, I need
more money, immediately...Good,
I'll meet you at the bar by the
falls, Bye.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD- NIGHT

BANNERS that proclaim FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE DAY are hung all around the campus. SPOTLIGHTS, TORCHES AND CANDLES light the area. A small stage is set up with a PODIUM on it. Behind the podium is a huge PHOTO OF JOSE RIZAL.

Gonz's Grandpa strides up to the front of the stage as people in the crowd cheer. He wears a traditional FILIPINO FIGHTING OUTFIT with a SWORD ON ONE SIDE AND A FIGHTING STICK ON THE OTHER. He quiets the crowd.

GRANDPA

Happy Independence Day, my Filipino
people!

TWO HUGE PHILIPPINE FLAGS unfurl down both sides of the Jose Rizal photo. The crowds of people roar their approval.

CROWD

Happy Independence Day...Hooray!

GRANDPA

And what a glorious day it is. We have gathered here to celebrate the mighty legacy of our beautiful people. It is a day to show pride in our culture and history.

Hand held PHILIPPINE FLAGS wave in the crowd.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

We gather in the spirit of the great Filipino warrior Lapu-Lapu. We didn't accept second class treatment then, and we refuse to bow down now.

Posters of the legendary warrior are in the audience.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

After 400 years of Spanish abuse, our independence finally came on June 12, 1898, after a long resistance movement.

SUPER - PHOTOS AND FOOTAGE OF EXPLOITED VILLAGERS.

GRANDPA (V.O.)

The hero of this struggle was one Jose Rizal. Long before Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr., Jose Rizal led a non-violent struggle to free his people of tyranny.

SUPER - IMAGES OF JOSE RIZAL, HIS BOOKS, WANTED POSTERS.

GRANDPA (V.O.)

A man of knowledge, he fought the Spanish and their corrupt institutions with the power of his pen. He wrote several novels blasting the evils of Spanish rule. Sadly, as with those men of peace who followed him, he was killed by the state, at an early age. His heroism and sacrifice, in the end, brought forth a new nation.

SUPER - FIRING SQUAD EXECUTES JOSE RIZAL.

GRANDPA (V.O.)

These proud men and dignified women formed a new Republic that had it's own national anthem and self designed flag. Unfortunately, our independence was deferred. After defeating the Spanish Empire by ourselves, we were double-crossed by the Americans.

Renelyn elbows Gonz in the ribs. He winces.

GRANDPA

They came in and took our country by force, to exploit as they willed. United States Army records show that over 200,000 Filipinos died in the war between them and us. Of that number, only 16,000 were soldiers.

SUPER - MAP OF PHILIPPIINES, THE DEATH TOLL RISES EACH YEAR FROM 1898. THE MAP DRIPS WITH BLOOD.

GRANDPA (V.O.)

From that number, we see that the Americans murdered civilians, lots of civilians.

Paranoid, Gonz slides his 'Dodgers' hat off, hides it.

GRANDPA

Villages were leveled, looted, and women and children became target practice.

SUPER - VILLAGES ON FIRE, DEAD BODIES, BLOOD THIRSTY AMERICAN SOLDIERS, MASS GRAVES.

GRANDPA (V.O.)

In some written accounts from U.S. soldiers, we were referred to as the N word. Something to be killed for sport.

(MORE)

GRANDPA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Many of you weren't taught this in school, but as long as I am alive, I will speak the truth of our ancestors' bloody past. That's a promise.

The crowd breaks the monologue with applause and shouts of approval.

GRANDPA

We owe it to them to tell the truth. We can't let America or American wannabe's in our government, cover up the facts. We owe it to our ancestors to speak out. Lets try to be just half as brave as they were. That's what it's all about. That's what this school is about.

He points to his pride and joy, under construction.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Building a sound future on the wisdom of the past. Take a look around you, look! We have students here from all over the island system. We have Cebu, Mindanao, Ifugao, and Manila...

A myriad of DIVERSE FACES are seen in the crowd.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

We don't care what religion you are here. That's between you and your Creator. Our mission is to build a generation of Filipinos that Jose Rizal would be proud of.

He points to the poster again, more emphatically this time.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

At this school, the vehicle we use is Filipino Martial Arts.

SUPER - SKILLED FIGHTERS TAKE ON SPANIARDS, AMERICANS AND JAPANESE TROOPS WITH FLURRY OF WEAPONS.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Skills that have been passed down through the generations and have outlived Spaniards, Americans and Japanese too. The names of these arts are Kali, Arnis, and Escrima.

SUPER - EACH STYLE IS QUICKLY DEMONSTRATED

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Open hand or with weapons, it is our heritage. A heritage of warriors we embrace and cherish.

Another wave of cheers and emotion bursts from the crowd.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Last night, I saw a horror. The dead bodies of several young Filipino boys. The case is being investigated, but we all need to look after each other better, especially children. As you know, my grandson, Aguinaldo is studying here this summer. Both he and I share the name of one of the rebels who fought for our Independence.

Gonz smiles proudly as his peers look upon him.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

He is a mixture of two of the races that have had the hardest time on this earth. The Filipino and the African American. To survive, he must be twice as tough. Help me to develop him and the rest of our students so that they can become the nation that our ancestors gave their lives for.

CROWD

Yes sir!!!

GRANDPA

Alright! What we'll do right now is put on a Martial Arts demonstration featuring our most advanced students.

Grandpa points to the side and a spotlight shines on an outside arena. Several students, including Gonz, Renelyn and Iffy put on the schools tournament uniforms.

They are bright silk and have the schools insignia emblazed on the back. Rosalino is with them.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

Introducing the advanced class. Renelyn Diano from Cebu. Also, from Zamboanga, the brother/sister Moro team Kadeem and Zira Aladeen.

Each student is introduced, then bows.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

From Manila, the son of famous movie star and politician Ramiro Acosta, Bong Acosta. Representing Chinese Filipinos we have Xio Wong. The final warrior to introduce is my Afropino grandson from LA, Cedric Aguinaldo Gonzales. Students...Prepare to spar.

Grandpa WHISTLES loudly. Suddenly from the shadows, 20 OTHER STUDENTS IN T-SHIRTS AND SWEAT PANTS run out and attack the advanced students.

Although outnumbered, the advanced students show why they are considered to be the leaders.

Iffy struggles with a larger fighter but Renelyn's acrobatic moves leaves the challenger open to Iffy's body shots.

LIGHTNING KICKS AND THUNDEROUS PUNCHES take their toll on the less gifted students. Gonz takes on two at a time. With humorous moves, they all fall.

After the last sparring partner is knocked on his butt, the crowd applauds them. Of the bunch, Gonz and Bong seem to be the best. Renelyn goes over to Gonz. He braces for a kiss.

RENELYN

My, God, I never knew Bong was so good. And so cute. Does he have a girlfriend?

GONZ

What? What? Girlfriend? You ask him. Rich boy punk!

RENELYN

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

GONZ

Hey, don't sweat it. I had a girlfriend once. Maybe once is all you get.

Gonz storms away and pushes through the crowd visibly upset. Renelyn watches him walk away. Her look reflects the fact that she wishes she could have those words back.

RENELYN

Gonz, Gonz!

The angry American pretends not to hear her and marches off towards the dormitories.

INT. GONZ BEDROOM - NIGHT

The American teen's body twists in the SHEETS of his bed. Another NIGHTMARE playing in his head.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Flashes of the HIGH SCHOOL DANCE. The GUNFIRE, the friends dying. Near death, Ida motions him to come close to her. He starts sobbing.

IDA

Gonz...sweetheart, I love you.

GONZ

I love you too. God, don't leave me. I hate this.

IDA

I have to go. You must let me go. You must go on with your life. Promise you will try. Promise.

GONZ

No, no, I can't.

Ida's body starts to convulse. She screams.

IDA

Promise! Promise!

GONZ

No!

IDA

PROMISE!

GONZ

Yes! Yes! Yes!

BACK TO SCENE

Soaked in sweat, stuck to his bed sheets, he continues SHOUTING. His body is tense, veins on his neck protrude.

GONZ

YES, YES, YES.

He finally opens his eyes. He gasps for breath and falls back into the bed.

As he lies there he hears other SCREAMS. Screams in the distance. He jumps from his bed and dashes to the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE GONZ'S BEDROOM - SAME

As Gonz stands outside his door, others come out of their rooms one by one. The screams continue. Rosalino rushes by the rooms, reassuring the students.

ROSALINO

It's okay folks, go back to bed.
The police have been called. Don't
be afraid, we'll take care of it.
Please, return to your rooms.

As Rosalino reaches Gonz, the SCREAMING STOPS, ABRUPTLY. In Gonz's eyes, sadness shows.

GONZ

Do you think it's another dead
little boy?

ROSALINO

I don't know. Your grandpa and I
will go take a look in a little
bit.

GONZ

I'm coming too. I'll bring Iffy,
he found the other kid.

ROSALINO

Well, okay hurry up.

Gonz nods to his uncle and rushes inside to change.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

The HIGH BEAMS AND SEARCHLIGHTS from the police, comb the isolated SWAMPY LANDS that lie not far from the campus.

A truck pulls up with Gonz, Grandpa, Rosalino and Iffy. The police chief comes over to them.

POLICE CHIEF

We got your call and came right
away Mr. Gonzales. We haven't found
(MORE)

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)

anything yet. Hey son, feel like giving us a hand again?

IFFY

Yes, I will try.

Iffy jumps out of the truck and bounds off into the woods.

POLICE CHIEF

Good thing that you brought him. Hopefully, its not too late. So you say it sounded bad, huh?

GRANDPA

The way that kid screamed, it really was horrible.

IFFY (O.S.)

Mr. Gonzales, over here!

The men battle through THICK BRUSH and swampy land to get to where Iffy is.

He stands over the BODY OF ANOTHER BOY laying face down on the earthen carpet. Fresh BLOOD, on nearby leaves and grass.

Flashlights converge on him. Police chief goes to the body and gently turns it over. It is FLORENCIO, the young man from Madame Paragoya's house.

POLICE CHIEF

I think we need to see Madame Paragoya again.

INT. TROPICAL BAR - NIGHT

Madame Paragoya walks into the TINY NIGHTCLUB like a flustered flamingo. She looks around and then goes to a table where Unger sits in his BISHOP OUTFIT.

UNGER

Well, what an honor.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Shut up you stupid priest.

UNGER

Relax, relax. What's the problem?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Well, the police chief was out at my house today. No more boys for a while. I can't....

UNGER

Oops! We went over and borrowed a boy earlier. We wont be bringing him back either.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Oh no, which boy?

UNGER

Umm, I, uh, I'm not sure.
Florencio?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Oh no, no. He spoke with the Police Chief just today. Did you and your perverts kill him? Did you?

UNGER

Well Madam. We had a client that,
well....

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I want more money and I want it
now!

Unger goes into his jacket pocket and pulls out a FAT ENVELOPE. He slides it across the table to her.

UNGER

Good job, madam. Don't worry, I have people in high places keeping us safe.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

The students do their workouts in the sunshine. They stretch, spar, lift weights, work with weapons and converse. All under the watchful eyes of Grandpa and Rosalino.

Gonz is working the NUNCHUKS, quite well. The STICKS SING AND WHISTLE as they whip around his body.

Iffy sits near him. Renelyn stops punching the SPEED BAG to watch him. When he's done, she claps.

RENELYN

Well done, California. I hope you are ready for the tournament.

GONZ

Whichever big city punk that pulls my name, must not have a Guardian Angel.

RENELYN

Is that right?

GONZ

True that. I'm at the top of my game. Never been better, never been faster. I pity the poor fool.

ROSALINO

It's good to see that you have such confidence. Of course we will all have a good laugh if you get knocked on your butt.

GONZ

Ain't gonna happen, Uncle. Hey Xio, I heard your brother is a member of the school we're gonna fight.

XIO

Yeah, I tried to get him to come here but he's stupid. He wants to still hang around the neighborhood thugs and losers.

(MORE)

XIO (CONT'D)

Don't have any mercy. Maybe a good butt kicking will wake him up.

GONZ

I'll wake him up so good he'll call me, Mr. Alarm Clock. Check it out, here they come now.

An old RICKETY SCHOOL BUS rolls up to the campus. More than a DOZEN STUDENTS IN WHITE UNIFORMS step off of the bus. Xio goes over and hugs a Chinese guy, it's his BROTHER, VUN.

Grandpa wears a black uniform, as do all of his students. They bow to him as he passes them on the way towards a gong near the edge of the boxing ring.

The opposing school's teacher is already there awaiting him. They bow, then HIT THE GONG TOGETHER.

One student from each school meets in the center of the boxing ring, then they go at it.

SERIES OF SHOTS

The Manila school does well against the less trained.

Iffy takes care of his opponent with acrobatics and punches.

The brother and sister wear headbands with their uniforms. They take on a pair from Manila and the Moros beat them soundly. They display graceful teamwork and coordination.

Bong tries to be a ham and gets punched in the mouth. Gonz tries to choke back a laugh. Bong gets over the embarrassment and takes his man out with several kicks.

Xio ends up fighting the same guy he hugged earlier, his brother. Xio must yell at him to get him to fight hard. The brother gets put on his butt several times. Xio puts his brother in a sleeper hold, he passes out.

The final fighter is Gonz. After this gong is hit, he turns on a nearby boom box that blasts American rap music.

He dances and clowns for the crowd, and then his OPPONENT takes to the ring. This guy is huge and tall. He tosses Gonz into the crowd, THE AUDIENCE LAUGHS especially Bong.

Gonz gets up, serious this time. He gets caught by a few kicks, but gets the guy to punch himself out. The exhausted Goliath is finally knocked on his backside. Gonz impersonates Muhammad Ali and does the shuffle.

GONZ

I am the greatest. I'm a BAAAD man
Rope a dope baby. Rope a dope!

END SERIES OF SHOTS

The team from Manila loads onto the rickety old bus for the long ride home. Xio and his brother are near the bus. Xio argues with his brother LOUDLY IN CHINESE.

He slams a WAD OF MONEY into his hand, shakes his finger in his brother's face and walks away. Xio walks by Gonz, mad and dejected. Gonz calls him over. The bus pulls off.

GONZ

Yo, Xio, What's up 'G'? You look a little shook.

XIO

My stupid brother, man. Getting screwed up by his so-called friends. I think he's started with Shabu too.

GONZ

Shabu? What's that? Is he eating whale blubber now or what?

XIO

No man, not Shamu...Shabu. It's what we call Crystal Methamphetamine here.

GONZ

Oh, sorry dude. That's some bad stuff. It's been hitting California

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

real hard. What are you guys going to do?

XIO

I really don't know. I've been trying to help him. Just gave him some money to pay off a thug, so he doesn't get whacked. I really wish he could join us.

GONZ

Don't give up on him dude. Sometimes you gotta hit rock bottom in order to bounce back. I got your back if you need me.

XIO

Thanks man. I might need it.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Bishop Unger tees off and watches it sail and land. As he goes to chase the ball, a voice comes from the nearby thickly wooded area.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Unger, hey!

UNGER

Madame, pleasure to see you here. Care to take a swing?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I'll swing at you all right. You idiot! You killed the WRONG boy last night, you dummy. Why didn't you just ask me to supply you with one? That kid had spoke to the cops and you kill him the next day? My house is crawling with Police. How could you be so stupid? Are you trying to get us caught?

UNGER

Madame...

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Madame nothing. You get me a plane ticket and a couple thousand dollars or else...I tell the cops everything!

UNGER

Keep your voice down.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I will not. I will scream if I have to, but I will get what I deserve!

In a flash, Unger spins and shoves the clubbed end of the #3 iron right into her back. She belly-flops, face first, into a nearby pond.

UNGER

Hole in one. Nice shot.

Madame Paragoya struggles to stand up in the murky water.

UNGER (cont'd)

Yeah, I'll make sure I push you in the ocean next time. Take that as a **promise**, woman!

The Bishop walks off and leaves her as she pulls herself out of the muddy, algae covered pond.

Suddenly she notices the LEECHES that have attached themselves to her body. Even her face.

SCREAMING hysterically, she pulls one off her cheek. She looks at it...then faints. Bystanders rush to her aid.

EXT. OUTSIDE MADAM PARAGOYA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Imelda Paragoya sneaks out of the thick woods behind her house. She is wearing a baseball cap pulled down low. She looks around carefully then proceeds to the back door.

Just before she reaches the KNOB, a man grabs a hold of Paragoya's wrist. It is the Police Chief.

POLICE CHIEF

Welcome home Madame. We've all missed you, except Florencio of course. Let's talk, come with me.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

No, I can't right now.

POLICE CHIEF

Ma'am, you have no choice!

He takes her by the arm and escorts her back to the woods. Grandpa, Gonz and Renelyn are there.

POLICE CHIEF (cont'd)

Children are dying. You are involved. We need answers and we need them now. No time for games.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I-I don't know what you're talking about.

POLICE CHIEF

Fine, Mr. Gonzales, lets take a walk. Renelyn, she's all yours.

As the police chief, Gonz and Grandpa turn to walk away, Renelyn does a *DROP KICK* and knocks the hag on her butt.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

What was that for?

RENELYN

Old woman, I'll beat your butt to death out here. You're killing kids. I have no mercy. You better talk now, or die.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

No, help! Help me, please!

GONZ

You better start talking. Tell us
who is behind this and tell us
quick, this girl is in a bad mood.

Renelyn snatches her by her collar and prepares to punch her
directly in the face. Paragoya puts her hands in front of her
face and starts crying.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

All right, all right, but you
didn't hear it here, don't hit me.
See what he did to me?

The old woman pulls off her baseball cap to show the bloody
BITE MARKS that the leeches left on her face and neck. The
look of disgust on Gonz's face is comical.

POLICE CHIEF

Who did this to you? Who? Tell me
who is killing children.

Madame Paragoya takes a deep breath. She looks around.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I just wanted some extra cash, you
know. What's wrong with that?

GRANDPA

Everything. Save your soul. Tell us
who is behind this.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

It was Father Unger, okay? Yes,
your holy bishop from Los Angeles.
He's the one. He did it to the
children. Now me. Help me!

Madame Paragoya sobs into the arms of the Police Chief. Gonz
and Grandpa share puzzled looks.

Across the way, behind a tree, a shadowed man looks on at the
confession. He takes out his GUN, aims it.

POLICE CHIEF

We will protect you ma'am but tell us more. How does it work?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

The internet. Rich people from all over America, Europe and Japan pay huge money to come here and--

GONZ

And exploit Filipino children like the disgusting pigs they are! Rich scumbags get me sick. You get me sick, Sea-hag.

GRANDPA

Stop, let her speak.

IMELDA PARAGOYA

If they didn't use me, they would have found someone else. We were making a great deal of money, then things changed.

POLICE CHIEF

In what way?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

I was getting ten times the money that I used to get. Only thing was, the boys would not come back. This is horrible! Go visit the travel agency, near the falls, make him pay. His little buddy too.

POLICE CHIEF

His buddy? Who else is involved with this sick stuff?

IMELDA PARAGOYA

Well, I shouldn't say anything but, it's someone that you know--

BANG! A shot rings out. Imelda Paragoya slumps in the Police Chief's arms. Gonz, Grandpa and Renelyn take cover.

The Police Chief returns FIVE SHOTS in the general direction. Seconds later, the SOUND OF A CAR SCREECHING OFF is heard. The Police Chief checks the Madame, she is dead.

POLICE CHIEF

She's gone. Is everyone else all right?

They all nod. Renelyn is clearly shaken up. She holds onto Gonz and fights back the tears.

POLICE CHIEF (cont'd)

I think I'll be seeing a travel agent tomorrow. Only, I'm not going on vacation.

INT. JEEPNEY - NIGHT

Grandpa and the Police Chief sit up front. Anger is on their faces. Gonz and Renelyn sit in back. They look empty and shocked. Gonz squeezes her hand. She smiles back.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - NIGHT

Gonz, Grandpa and Renelyn walk to the building from the parking lot. The teens, still in shock.

GRANDPA

No one deserves to die like that but, that she exploited young children. No sympathy.

GONZ

Grandpa, if this evil priest is from L.A., I think I might have met some of his past victims. I think I can find him on the internet.

INT. GRANDPA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

All three are huddled around the computer. Gonz types away.

GONZ

Sure is good to be back in cyberspace. Look, there he is.

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

Father Ronald Von Unger. The
bishop we saw in Manila.

On the computer screen is a younger photo of the bishop
within a news article.

GONZ (cont'd)

Says here that this scumbag was
accused of sex crimes against
minors in Boston, New Orleans, the
Pine Ridge Indian reservation and
Tucson. Then L.A...I knew it.

RENELYN

No jail time?

GONZ

Never even arrested. Looks like the
church transferred him around when
things got hot. I guess he got a
promotion too. Now they are getting
sued for it.

RENELYN

Exactly how many kids do you have
to molest to get a promotion?

GONZ

I knew two from Cali. He turned
them into monsters and they killed
my friends. It's payback time in
paradise. He's mine.

GRANDPA

No. You let the police chief handle
it. Understand?

Gonz's frustration shows.

GONZ

Why? So the church can move him
this time and make him an
archbishop somewhere?

(MORE)

GONZ (CONT'D)

Maybe they'll give him Mother Teresa's old job. There's lots of cute boys in Calcutta.

GRANDPA

Just print that data out for the Police Chief. Also see if you can find out who owns that tourist agency. I'll bring it to him in the morning.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - NIGHT

Gonz and Renelyn head toward the dorm. The couple has a seat in the courtyard. Renelyn looks upset. Gonz holds her hand.

RENELYN

I can't get over it. I never saw anyone get shot before. That was...horrible.

GONZ

Unfortunately, it wasn't my first time. That witch had it coming to her. Should have throw her back into the pit of leeches. Makes you think how short life is.

Gonz puts his arm around her and looks her in the eyes, longingly. He goes to kiss her and she jumps up.

RENELYN

What are you doing? Do you think I'm a tramp or something?

GONZ

No, no, of course not.

RENELYN

I'm a virgin and plan to stay that way, until I'm married. I don't grind, pet or kiss, nobody!

GONZ

You mean you're 17 years old and never even been kissed?

RENELYN

That's right and I'm proud of it.

GONZ

Wow, back in California you'd be in a museum or something. Shoot, I lost my virginity when I was, well, uh, forget it.

RENELYN

Did you like it?

GONZ

I loved it!...I'm good at it too.

RENELYN

Oh boy. Well Casanova, I'll let you kiss my cheek. Take it or leave it.

GONZ

Come here, girl.

Gonz slightly runs his hands through her hair and gently lands a long caressing kiss on the side of her face. She squirms with delight.

From the corner of his eye he sees Bong looking out the window at them. He plays it up more. Kisses her hand.

RENELYN

Yeah, I guess you are good at it.

GONZ

Good night, sweet princess. Come on, I'll walk you to your door.

INT. GRANDPA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Grandpa answers a knock at the door. Gonz stands there. He looks sullen. Grandpa is handed a bag. He digs in it and pulls out the FRAMED PICTURE OF IDA he had in his room.

GONZ

Could you hold this for me till
when I leave? Please?

Compassion fills the old man's eye.

GRANDPA

I'll keep it safe. This is an
important step in rebuilding your
soul, Aguinaldo. I'm very proud.

Gonz hugs him tight, then turns back towards the dorm
quickly, so that his watery eyes are not seen. Grandpa
watches him walk off into the darkness.

EXT. TRAVEL AGENCY - DAY

The police chief KNOCKS on the door of the modern looking
building. Above the door is a fancy sign that reads "Small
Paradise Travel Agency".

No answer, he knocks again. Heinrich opens the door.

HEINRICH

Can I help you, Sir?

POLICE CHIEF

I need to speak to Bishop Unger.

HEINRICH

He's not here now. He only comes by
to do prayer services for our
guests now and then. Come in and
have a seat officer. I'll take a
message and have him call you back.

POLICE CHIEF

Thanks.

INT. TRAVEL OFFICE - NIGHT

Expensive PAINTINGS AND VASES decorate the room. The chairs
and sofa, imported leather.

POLICE CHIEF

Looks like you guys do good business! Why do so many people come to the poor old Philippines? What's the attraction?

HEINRICH

Well, we specialize in adult vacations. People come to your island for various reasons. The weather is a big one.

POLICE CHIEF

Adult Vacations? What's that?

HEINRICH

You know...sexy stuff.

POLICE CHIEF

Sexy stuff huh? And I'm sure no minors or prostitution is involved.

HEINRICH

Uh, of course not, sir. Well I'll make sure that he gets your message.

POLICE CHIEF

Yes, and have him call today. It's very important. You might say, it's an adult situation. Good Day.

The officer leaves and the Austrian man goes to a MIRROR on the wall. He speaks to the mirror.

HEINRICH

Did you get all of that Boss?

INT. ROOM BEHIND MIRROR - SAME

Unger stands on the other side of the looking glass, staring at Heinrich. The room he is in sparsely furnished. The bishop smokes a cigarette angrily.

UNGER

Yes, I heard. You talk too much.
He will be dealt with soon. Make
yourself busy and keep your mouth
shut. I'll take care of it.

Unger backs away from the mirror and out the room.

INT. HALLWAY

The angry bishop storms down a LUXURIOUS CORRIDOR. Grown men, who seem to be European, escort scared boys in and out. He marches to the end of the hall.

A SODA MACHINE is there, Unger rolls the soda machine to the side, a DOOR is revealed. He opens the door, goes through it.

INT. DUNGEON

Unger walks into a different world. He descends STONE STAIRS to what looks like a PRISON.

SMALL JAIL CELLS have been carved out of the rock and it looks like it's been around a long time. INSIDE THE CELLS ARE BOYS, YOUNG BOYS.

Out of one of the cells comes a MAN, FACE HIDDEN BY SHADOWS. He is putting on his shirt and buttoning it up.

UNGER

The Police Chief. He's getting too
close, something must be done.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS -NIGHT

A MOTORCYCLE speeds into the parking lot. The HELMETED DRIVER parks it quickly and sprints to the dorm area.

He bangs on one of the doors. Answering the door is a very sleepy Xio. The helmet is removed. It is VUN, his brother.

INT. XIO'S QUARTERS

Vun rushes past his brother without waiting to be asked in. He goes to a WINDOW that overlooks the parking lot.

He sees TWO CARS PULL UP NEXT TO HIS MOTORCYCLE. FIVE DANGEROUS MEN get out of each vehicle, the ten men march toward the dorms.

Some of the men have CLUBS, others have CHAINS. Xio looks out the window over his brother's shoulder. Xio's eyes get big. He looks at his brother. Vun's face is COVERED WITH SWEAT.

XIO

What the hell is going on?
Are these men after you?

VUN

Yeah man, you've got to hide me.

XIO

Hide you? Is this about Shabu
again?

VUN

Hey, I paid the guy like we agreed.
Then they say I owe interest too.
I didn't have it, they beat me.
I ran. Help me.

Gonz and Iffy stick their head into Xio's room. They are surprised to see Vun there.

GONZ

Hey, Xio, what's up? Why is your
brother here waking people up?

XIO

Go get the others, we might have
a problem here.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - LATER

The ten gangsters walk across campus looking around corners and in bushes for their intended victim. Vun pops up behind some machinery in the construction area. He throws rocks at the thugs and taunts them.

VUN

Get out of here, leave me alone.

The gangsters run over to him. Gonz, Xio, Iffy, and others jump out at them as they get close and go on the attack themselves.

Since the thugs have weapons, the students pick up everything from SHOVELS TO WHEEL BARRELS to battle them.

Vun joins in the fight and actually does quite well. The extensive sparing pays off as the students engage in a true high stakes battle.

Although older, the thugs are no match for the speed and precision of the trained fighters.

Weapons are taken from the thugs and are used by the students to inflict damage. Body blows and head shots highlight the Filipino style in overwhelming fashion.

After Xio and Gonz finish off their best fighter, they all hobble off to their CARS AND LEAVE.

The students cheer themselves. They embrace Vun. Xio walks up to him. Rosalino watches from the side.

XIO

What's it gonna be? You going to stay here or are you going to give them another chance to kill you?

VUN

I'll stay here if you'll have me.

ROSALINO

We'll have you if you can behave.

VUN

Yes sir. Count on me.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

OFFICERS BUSTLE BACK AND FORTH in the precinct. The Chief is buried behind PILES OF PAPER. His NAMEPLATE READS: 'CHIEF MANNY PLANTILLIA'. The PHONE RINGS. He answers.

POLICE CHIEF

Yeah, what is it?

GRANDPA (O.S.)

Chief, this is Gonzales. We had some excitement last night. A gang of thugs was after a student. We chased them away.

POLICE CHIEF

Great, good job. I'll try to get out there in another hour or so. See if you can get some names.

GRANDPA (O.S.)

Thanks, we also dug up some information on Bishop Unger. We printed it out and we'll have some of that spicy adobo waiting too.

POLICE CHIEF

Great, see you then.

The deputy enters the room. An urgent look is on his face.

DEPUTY

Sir, I just got a call from Bishop Unger. He got your message, wants to speak with you at the agency.

POLICE CHIEF

Great, let's get rolling I have some questions for that wolf in sheep's clothing.

INT. TRAVEL AGENCY - DAY

Heinrich walks the officers to Unger's office.

INT. UNGER'S OFFICE

The typical clergyman's office, looks wildly out of place with the building's tropical décor. Unger spins in his DELUXE OFFICE CHAIR to face the two men.

UNGER

Good evening gentlemen, have a seat. May I get you a drink?

POLICE CHIEF

Yes, I'll take some coffee.

DEPUTY

Vodka on the rocks.

UNGER

Vodka? Sounds good, I'll join you.

The police Chief takes a look at the deputy funny. Heinrich goes off with the drink order. The cops have a seat.

POLICE CHIEF

Mr. Unger, do you know an Imelda Paragoya?

UNGER

Yes, I saw her at church a few times. Is she all right?

POLICE CHIEF

No, no she's not all right.

Just then Hienrich comes in with the drinks. The men suspend conversation until waited on. Hienrich leaves when done. The men drink.

UNGER

I'm sorry, did she have an accident?

POLICE CHIEF

No sir, she was shot to death.

UNGER

Oh my God. Good lord, that's, that's horrible. Did you find the killer?

POLICE CHIEF

That's possible. That's very possible. She implicated you as running a child exploitation ring and being behind the deaths of several children.

UNGER

Wow, that's incredible. Why would she say something like that?

POLICE CHIEF

You, (cough, cough) you tell me.

The Police Chief starts sweating and doesn't look well. Coughs more.

UNGER

Tell you? What can I say? I'm just a wonderful guy and you know what? The kids just love me?

The Police Chief gets a strong stomach cramp. He doubles over.

POLICE CHIEF

Th-the coffee. It's p-poison. Deputy. I.-

DEPUTY

Sorry, I work for the bishop now. Don't worry, in a few hours you'll be dead. No trace of toxin.

POLICE CHIEF

You traitor. You two-faced....

UNGER

All right, All right. Enough name calling. Bring him to the dungeon. Let the rats nibble on him.

DEPUTY

It is done, sir. Of course...I'll be the new Police Chief, so, if you need anything, buzz me.

Unger smiles as the deputy gags the Police Chief and binds his hands. Hienrich comes in to help carry him to the dungeon.

UNGER

Well, it looks like we got that problem solved. Now we just sit back and collect money. No stopping us now.

INT. GRANDPA'S QUARTERS - DAY

A TUPPERWARE DISH with the words "Chief Plantillia" are written on tape. Grandpa is on the phone.

GRANDPA

Hi deputy, let me speak to the Chief...He went to Manila? When? Oh, Okay. I'll just drop something off for him later.

INT. POLICE CHIEFS HOUSE- DAY

A knock is on the door of the modest home. MRS. PLANTILLIA (40's) swings open the door and grins at the visitor.

MRS. PLANTILLIA

Mr. Gonzales, what a pleasant surprise, what brings you over here?

GRANDPA

Manny said he wanted some of our adobo. Plus, I brought some paperwork he needed. When I heard he went to Manila, I figured I'd just drop it off.

MRS. PLANTILLIA

Manila? He didn't mention that.

GRANDPA

He didn't? Something's not right.
Mind if I look around his study?

MRS. PLANTILLIA

No, no go right ahead.

Grandpa gives her the adobo and goes into the study.

THE POLICE CHIEF STUDY

The room is as cluttered as his office at work. Books line the walls, newspapers are piled high, the computer screen is still on.

Grandpa goes to it. He sees a BLUEPRINT FOR THE TRAVEL AGENCY. The more he studies it, his face shows surprise.

GRANDPA

Oh my goodness!

INT. GRANDPA'S QUARTERS- DAY

The old Filipino holds his PHONE to his ear and nods.

GRANDPA

So you're saying Chief Manny
Plantillia never made it to your
office in Manila? I believe foul
play may be involved. Perhaps you
should send agents.

INT. MESS HALL - DAY

The auditorium is packed with all of the schools' students. They all wear the schools black fighting uniforms. The room gets quiet as Grandpa enters and goes to the podium.

GRANDPA

Thank you all for coming. We may
have a real emergency situation
here. As you may know, Police Chief
Plantillia is working the case of
the dead boys.

(MORE)

GRANDPA (CONT'D)

It has come to my attention that he is missing and...perhaps in real danger. His own department cannot be trusted and the Feds will take a while to arrive from Manila.

Renelyn looks worried, squeezes Gonz's hand.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

We are taking a big risk, but we are warriors. This is what we train for. We must stop this bloodshed before it gets worse.

The crowd of black covered warriors, SCREAM their approval.

GRANDPA (cont'd)

We will storm their building and rescue whoever is there. It's a dangerous mission. People might get hurt badly. Are you with me?

CROWD

YEAH!

EXT. RURAL ROAD -DAY - ESTABLISHING

The Jeepney, leads a convoy of several buses on the way to the travel agency. The sun is close to setting.

INT. INSIDE JEEPNEY - DAY

Grandpa holds up the BLUEPRINT of the travel agency so that Gonz and Rosalino can see it. Rosalino is driving.

GRANDPA

I just can't find it. I know that there must be a hidden door that leads to the old Spanish dungeon, but where is it?

ROSALINO

I can't tell looking at that thing. Once we get there, then we can make better sense of it.

GONZ

If they are the monsters they seem
to be, I've got a little something
to tighten them up with, real nice.

EXT. OUTSIDE TRAVEL AGENCY - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Darkness covers the grounds of the office building. Several
SECURITY GUARDS patrol the outside of the structure.

Figures in black, slowly approach the agency. They duck
behind BUSHES AND ROCKS as they move closer.

EXT. BUSHES NEAR AGENCY - SAME

Grandpa, Gonz, and Rosalino are hidden in the SHRUBS that are
next to the office. Rosalino turns the blueprint towards the
light to see it better. They hear kids crying.

GONZ

Did you hear that?

ROSALINO

Yeah, it's faint but it sounds like
children to me. According to the
map, if this dungeon still exists,
it is right below us.

GRANDPA

Just as I thought. They keep the
kids down there, then sell them to
the foreigners later. The quicker
we move, the more we save.

Grandpa makes a hand gesture to Iffy who is a distance away.
Iffy nods to him.

Iffy then sneaks up behind the security guard closest to him.
He puts him into a choke-hold that knocks him out. He binds
him with tape.

Grandpa makes the same sigh to Xio. The student flashes back
the 'okay' sign and takes out his guard the same way.

The only GUARD left outside, is directly in front of the door. Renelyn and Zenalyn walk up to him, playing with their hair and giggling.

RENELYN

Hi, big man. Is the bishop in?
We've been very, very bad and we
need to confess.

GUARD

Well. Yes ma'am. Who may I say is
visiting?

ZENALYN

You don't know me? Take a closer
look, honey.

Just as the guard leans forward to study her face better, Renelyn does a ROUNDHOUSE KICK and drops him like a sack of wet rice.

ZENALYN (cont'd)

I guess he knows us now.

RENELYN

In case he forgets, he can check
the shoeprints I left on his jaw.

Black clad warriors pile into the building from the woods in a swift orderly fashion. Gonz, Grandpa, and the rest of the students follow the others in through the door.

INT. TRAVEL AGENCY - NIGHT

As soon as a few students' pour into the building, other security people come down the hall and engage them in combat.

Guards with GUNS have them kicked away. Gonz, Grandpa, Iffy, Renelyn, Zenalyn and Xio are all seen in battle.

Rosalino drop kicks a guy into the soda machine and it is moved to the side. The door behind it is seen.

ROSALINO

This must be the entrance.

Rosalino fights off another guard and opens the door slow.

Unger slams open the door from the other side and knocks Rosalino against the wall forcefully.

Unger dashes through the crowd towards the front door. Gonz tries to get him but another guard gets between them.

Bishop Unger escapes out the door. Gonzo slips some punches of the guard then connects on his own and knocks him out.

Gonz, Grandpa, Renelyn and Iffy follow Unger outside as the students gain the upper hand inside.

EXT. TRAVEL AGENCY BUILDING - NIGHT

As Unger dashes out to his vehicle, the deputy's squad car pulls up with lights flashing. The deputy jumps out and cuts the crew off from there pursuit of Unger.

DEPUTY

Stop! Stop! I order you to halt!

GONZ

NO! That man there is a kidnapper and a...

DEPUTY

I said stop, boy!

GRANDPA

Watch how you speak to my grandson. Where is the Police Chief? And don't you give me that lie about Manila.

DEPUTY

You! Look old man, I don't have to tell you anything. I ought to arrest you for trespassing and....

POLICE CHIEF (O.C.)

And what? Try to kill them too?

The police chief is very sick and leans on the broad shoulders of Rosalino. They stand at the doorway of the building. The deputy's eyes show panic.

He reaches for his gun and pulls it out of the holster. Before he can aim Grandpa kicks it away.

The deputy makes a dash towards the squad car. The nimble legs of Gonz and Iffy, cut him off before he gets there.

GONZ

No, no little piggy!

DEPUTY

I'll rip you punks apart.

The three men start to fight. The deputy pulls out his BILLY CLUB and the blows hurt both of the young men.

Grandpa and Rosalino tends to the deathly ill Police Chief.

Gonz and Iffy fight, trading blows, but the Deputy is tough.

RENELYN

Here Gonz, catch!

Renelyn pulls something out of her purse and flings it to Gonz. It is a pair of NUNCHUKS.

Gonz snags it and swings them around his body so fast they are a blur. The deputy looks nervous but attacks anyway.

Gonz dodges the blow and comes back with a combination of his own. He hits the deputy in the legs and arms and the SOUND OF CRACKING BONES is heard with each impact.

Gonz does a spin move and pops the deputy in the head. He is knocked out cold.

GRANDPA

Good job, now stop the bishop
before he gets away.

Gonz, Iffy and Renelyn dash off to the grass parking lot.

Unger's Mercedes is stuck in the mud. The bishop is BURNING UP HIS GEARS trying to rock it back and forth to dislodge it.

As the students approach the car, Unger SHOOTS at them from the drivers' side window with a HANDGUN.

Gonz and crew take cover behind a mound of earth. The driver goes back to trying to free the vehicle.

IFFY

Now what?

GONZ

First thing is, don't get shot.
Next, start a diversion so I can
sneak around the back and surprise
him. Grab some of this.

Gonz sticks his hand in the mud and makes a ball of it. He hurls it at the windshield and it splatters across the glass. His partners follow suit. Soon Unger cannot see through the mud caked windshield.

He FIRES at the kids. Bullets zing by them but they are well isolated behind the mound.

As Unger reloads, Gonz grabs a big ROCK and chucks it at the windshield. The GLASS SHATTERS and startles Unger.

Gonz sneaks behind Grandpa's truck and reaches in...Grabs something...

At the same time, the car finally frees itself. It spins around.

Unger sees Gonz, sneers, then speeds towards him.

Gonz dives out of the way. In his hand is the IFUGAO SPEAR, AKA, THE DEMON KILLER.

The car speeds towards him again. Gonz waits for the last possible moment, then flings the spear with all of his might at the driver.

INT. UNGER'S CAR - NIGHT

The spear breaks through the glass and penetrates Unger's chest. Unger tries to pull it out.

Blood drips from his mouth, his body goes limp.

EXT. TRAVEL AGENCY BUILDING - NIGHT

Iffy knocks Gonz out of the way as the car careens past them, then goes out of control. The Benz slams into a big tree.

Gonz and crew sneak up to the vehicle and peer inside. The crash impact, shoved the spear through his backbone and has impaled him to the seat.

Blood drips. Unger's eyes, frozen open.

GONZ

You're right, Iffy. That spear really does kill demons...Even if they pretend to be saints.

Gonz points to the sky as his eyes get watery.

GONZ (cont'd)

I got him, guys. Rest in peace.

The once CAPTIVE CHILDREN, are led out of the dungeon.

Rosalino rushes over with the deputy already handcuffed, roughly slams him down on the muddy earth.

ROSALINO

You guys watch this filthy pig until the feds come. We're gonna take the Police Chief to the hospital.

GONZ

No problem, Uncle.

Grandpa and his son help the chief into the cop car, then take off with SIREN WAILING AND LIGHTS FLASHING.

SUPER - TWO MONTHS LATER

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Gonz has his bags packed and sitting next to him. Grandpa, Rosalino, Iffy, Xio, Vun, Bong and the Police Chief are hugging him and wishing him well.

GONZ

Thanks again, Grandpa. All of you. I learned and grew SO MUCH this summer. You'll be glad to know that I changed my mind about college. I decided, that I'll go to Stanford this fall.

ROSALINO

Hey, all right. Good decision.

GONZ

Yeah, I figure that Grandpa's hard work and all that he stands for, should be taught in even more schools. I'm going for an MBA.

GRANDPA

Aguinaldo. I'm so proud of you. You rebuilt yourself, boy. And you stopped evil. Never forget this journey. Go show the world what we are made of.

Grandfather and Grandson look deep into each other's eyes. They then shake hands and hug again, emotionally. Tears come to the grandson's eyes.

Gonz picks up his bags, smiles and heads to the plane.

GONZ

Don't forget to tell Renelyn goodbye. I don't know why she's not here. Anyway, I'll call her when I get home.

INT. AIRPLANE - LATER

Gonz is buckled in and takes a deep breath. He puts in his headphones and plays the video of Renelyn and him singing Karaoke. His eyes mist up.

Someone bumps his leg several times. He looks up to find a face smiling down at him. It is Renelyn. He is shocked.

RENELYN

What? You thought I'd forget you?

GONZ

No, but...This plane is almost ready....

RENELYN

Ready to take off, good...it will be my first flight. My first job as a martial arts teacher too.

GONZ

Huh?

RENELYN

Since you will be at school, your grandpa thought somebody should take your place and help at your dad's studio.

She sits next to him, gets comfy. Gonz...baffled.

GONZ

Wait, you mean you are going to live in L.A.? Teach at my gym? Don't make me pee on myself, these seats ain't waterproof.

She laughs, punches him. Then smiles.

RENELYN

I guess you'll have to, uh, Americanize me now?

The steamy virgin kisses him passionately on the lips. When finished, Gonz comically fans himself like he is hot.

GONZ

I can see you need lots of
Americanization...and baby, I'll be
the best teacher you ever dreamed
of. Come here.

They cuddle as the jet takes off...

THE END.