“NANAY’S LULLABY”

Short film – Seeking production support
Previously performed on stage in San Francisco

“Nanay’s Lullaby” is the story of a Filipino-American man who must reunite with his homophobic family when his mother is diagnosed with a mysterious illness. But his family’s morals are turned upside down when Arnel realizes that his mother has HIV. This story spotlights the growing number of HIV cases in older women and illustrates the stigma they can face. Would that stigma change if it were your own mother? If so, why?

OUTLINE: 23-year old Filipino-American Arnel has received a phone call from his ultra-judgmental and moralistic older sister, informing him that their mother is in the hospital in “serious” trouble. Despite being alienated from his family for years, Arnel reluctantly agrees to join them at the hospital.

In the hospital, the exact nature of the mother’s illness is made less-clear by the obfuscation of the mostly -Tagalog speaking mother, and the “interpretations” of the drama queen Maricel. Reading the prescription label, Arnel learns the true nature of the mother’s illness, but does not confront his Mom.

Returning to the family home, we learn that it was homophobia that drove Arnel from the family. The driving force of that hate was the father, who apparently now has a new wife and family in the Philippines. As the sister once again begins her typical moralism, the mother is reluctant to join in. As the sister pushes the issue, Arnel selfishly blurts that only he knows his mother’s true diagnosis: that she is HIV positive. The sister’s world is turned upside down, as her traditional, religious and cultural norms are challenged. The mother is feeling lost and confused, as well as wounded by her son’s disclosure.

The final scene is the transitional period for mother and son and turns on the simple act of the mother singing a childhood lullaby that brings Arnel to tears. The ending gives us a glimpse of the future for these two...
WRITERS:

“Nanay’s Lullaby” is the latest story from Writer/Director Drew Stephens and his husband Mano Stephens. Drew is best known for short film and stage projects such as “Prinsesa,” “VDA: Tape 96” and “Bound 4 Heaven”, which have won dozens of awards around the world. Drew was a TV & Radio presenter in Thailand and was the original TV host for Electric City LGBT TV in San Francisco. Both have been active in Scary Cow Film Productions, a unique filmmaking co-op providing networking and technical resources to aspiring indie filmmakers. Drew’s filmography is available at (IMDB Profile) and at www.RDMstudios.com

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SCENES FROM THE STAGE RUN