Online kid's puppet show tackles self-expression

Ang Red Dress ni Makisig, which aims to break gender norms, is about nine-year-old student Makisig who decides to wear a bright red dress on his first day in class

Daily Tribune (Philippines) · 19 Jul 2021 · C17

The free public interactive show Ang Red Dress ni Makisig, a 30-minute theatrical children-style, hand-puppetry production, aids the youth about breaking gender norms while promoting innovative reading and storytelling.



Set in the fictional Catacutan Elementary School, the play follows nine-year-old transfer student Makisig who decides to wear a bright red dress on his first day in class. The optimistic and unique boy earns a brave and protective new friend, Luningning, but he is met with strange looks and comments from others. This experience leaves the protagonist with one question in mind: Should he still continue to freely express his real identity or would it be better to change himself to fit in?

Ang Red Dress ni Makisig is directed by John Gamboa, and is written by Jack Denzel Gaza, Arjay Rosales and Gabby Serafico. All are members of Sining LABinsiyam (SiLAB), a group of Filipino student-artists and thespians. It is produced in collaboration with the Quezon City Public Library and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde Service Learning Team.

Shows are scheduled for 23 July at 10 a.m.; and 24 July at 2 p.m. On 25 July, there will be two screenings — at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. It will be livestreamed via Zoom and Facebook. For more information, visit the official Facebook pages of SiLAB (www. facebook.com/SiLAB119) or Benilde Theater Arts (www.facebook.com/benildetheaterarts).