**TITLE: "Direktor ng Laban: The Joel Lamangan Story"  
DURATION: ~10-12 minutes  
GENRE: Biographical Drama, Taglish**

### ****SCENE 1: THE INTERVIEW (PRESENT DAY)****

**INT. RUSTIC FILM STUDIO – DAY**

(A warm, intimate studio. Film posters hang in the background. JOEL (Matanda), late 60s, sits on a worn director’s chair. Across him is a YOUNG INTERVIEWER, early 20s, film student. A CREW MEMBER claps a clapperboard: “TAKE 1.”)

**INTERVIEWER**  
Direk Joel, sa lahat ng mga pelikula mo—Flor Contemplacion, Dukot, pati yung rom-com na Bakit Lahat ng Gwapo May Boyfriend?—lahat parang may pinaghuhugutan. Lahat parang protesta.  
**(beat)**  
Bakit po?

**JOEL (Matanda)**  
Cinema... is a battlefield.  
**(leans forward)**  
Gusto mo talaga ng sagot?

**INTERVIEWER**  
Oo naman po.

(Joel leans back. His eyes shift, distant.)

**JOEL (Matanda)**  
Then let me take you back...

(SFX: RISING MUSIC SWELL. CAMERA PUSHES INTO HIS EYES—FLASHBACK BEGINS.)

**SCENE 2 – ANG UNANG PAGLABAN (1970s)**  
EXT. BARONG-BARONG NA TAHANAN – UMAGA

(NANAY ROSA is doing laundry. JOEL, 18, writes intensely)

NANAY ROSA  
Joel, anak… baka mahirapan ka. Paano ang buhay natin kung patuloy ka sa mga ganyan?

JOEL (Kabataan)  
Nanay, hindi ba’t ito ang laban ko? Kung maghihintay lang tayo, hindi na tayo magkakaroon ng pagkakataon. Hindi lang ‘to para sa akin, kundi para sa lahat ng walang boses. Para sa mga tao sa kalsada, para sa mga mahihirap, para sa mga hindi maririnig.

NANAY ROSA  
Joel, anak, hindi madaling makipaglaban sa mga makapangyarihan. Isipin mo naman ang kaligtasan mo.

JOEL (Kabataan)  
Hindi ko pwedeng hayaan na patuloy na maghari ang mga taong nag-aabuso. Kung hindi tayo magsasalita, sino pa ang magsasalita?

NANAY ROSA  
Ang mga kalye hindi puro protesta, Joel. Minsan, nakakapagod din. Baka masaktan ka, anak.

JOEL (Kabataan)  
Kailangan nating magsalita, Nanay. Kung hindi ko ito gagawin, sino pa? Ang sakit na nararamdaman natin, ang gutom, ang takot—lahat ‘yan kailangan itigil.

NANAY ROSA  
Ingat ka lang sa labas. Kung sa tingin mo tama, ipagpatuloy mo.

**EXT. KALSADA – LATER THAT DAY**  
Props: Protest flags, banners, bullhorn, placards, red armband

(Ang mga aktibista ay nasa rally. JOEL, ngayon ay may pulang bandana sa braso.)

KA LANDO  
Joel, hindi ka ba natatakot? Hindi biro ang laban.

JOEL (Kabataan)  
Kung natatakot ako, paano ko matutulungan ang mga tao sa kalsadang ‘to? Hindi ko kayang magsalita... pero hindi gumawa ng aksyon.

(Mga pulis, riot gear. Sigawan. Joel raises a placard.)

JOEL (Kabataan)  
Kung hindi tayo magsasalita ngayon, kailan pa?!

(Singil ng pulis. Kaguluhan. Joel gets arrested.)

**INT. JAIL CELL – NIGHT**

(Joel writes on toilet paper.)

JOEL (V.O.)  
Hindi nila kayang ikulong ang katotohanan.

### ****SCENE 3: "ANG PAGKAKATAON" (1980s CASTING STUDIO)****

**INT. CASTING STUDIO – DAY**

(The studio has a sterile, flashy 80s look. JOEL (late 20s), wearing a black turtleneck, stands nervously before a flamboyant CASTING DIRECTOR with dramatic shoulder pads and red lipstick. Two assistants whisper behind her. A camera is pointed at Joel. He is holding a monologue script.)

**CASTING DIRECTOR** (bored)  
Okay, let’s start. Scene 12—bitay moment. Pulis ka. Takot, galit, konting iyak. Ready, go.

(Joel takes a breath and starts dramatically.)

**JOEL (acting)**  
"Sir! Huwag niyo pong barilin! May pamilya rin siya—"

**CASTING DIRECTOR** (cuts him off)  
Stop! Stop, stop, stop.  
**(eye roll)**  
Ang arte mo masyado. Hindi bagay sa leading man. Too intense.  
turo sa papel  
Extra ka na lang—Pulis #3. May linya kang “Yes sir!” tapos baril lang.

(Joel is stunned. He lowers the script.)

**JOEL**  
Gusto n’yo ba talaga ng artista... o mannequin?

**CASTING DIRECTOR** (laughing, to assistant)  
Oh! Sensitive! Gusto maging Bida, pero pang-police lang ang acting.

(Joel steps forward. Anger and frustration build.)

**JOEL**  
Hindi ako papayag na tumahimik habang ginagawang aliwan lang ang paghihirap ng tao.

**CASTING DIRECTOR** (dry)  
Oh wow. May aktibista na tayo. Next!

(Joel tosses the script down. As he storms out, he glances at the clapperboard: “PULIS NA BITAY – SCENE 12.” He pauses. Then walks away.)

### ****SCENE 4: INTERVIEW RETURN****

### ***CUT TO INTERVIEW SCENE (TRANSITION BACK)***

**JOEL (Matanda)** (smirking, shaking head)  
That was my last audition.  
I said, “Screw this. Ako na lang ang direktor ng sarili kong istorya.”

**INTERVIEWER**  
That moment... did that change you?

**JOEL (Matanda)** (smirks)  
That’s when I realized:  
Directors don’t wait for permission.  
They take the camera.

(He sips coffee. Color returns to flashback.)

### ****SCENE 5: THE FIRST BIG FIGHT (1995 FILM OFFICE)****

**INT. STUDIO EXECUTIVE OFFICE – DAY**

Props: Leather-bound script titled “Flor Contemplacion”, desk nameplate “MR. CRUZ,” press clippings

(JOEL, 40s, stands furious in front of MR. CRUZ.)

**MR. CRUZ**  
Direk, gawin na lang nating love story. Wag political. Wala ‘tong market!

**JOEL (furious)**  
Her execution was political!  
Baguhin mo ang script, para mo na ring binura ang pagkatao niya.

(A long beat. Cruz sighs, pushes script back.)

**MR. CRUZ**  
Sige. Pero pag flopped ‘to, ‘wag kang magreklamo.

(CUT TO: Theater ovation. NORA AUNOR embraces Joel backstage.)

**JOEL** (softly, teary)  
Narinig nila siya, Nora.  
Narinig nila.

### ****SCENE 6: INTERVIEW RETURN****

**INTERVIEWER**  
That film... it cost you work, didn’t it?

**JOEL (Matanda)**  
Friends, studios... oo.  
Pero worth it.  
Yung laban—doon pa lang nagsisimula.

**INTERVIEWER**  
So after everything...  
What’s left to fight for?

(Joel looks around the studio. Pauses. Then stands, grabs his cane.)

**JOEL (Matanda)**  
More battles.  
More stories.  
**(winks)**  
I’m not done yet.

### ****SCENE 7: MONTAGE – ANG HABI NG KASANAYAN****

Props: Clapperboard, director’s chair, rainbow script, projector showing Lamangan’s films

Joel in a small jail cell, scribbling on toilet paper

Joel shouting “CUT!” on a film set

RJ raising rainbow script in a classroom

ELENA and MARCO watching film clips

JOEL standing proudly before young filmmakers

**VOICEOVER (Joel Matanda)**  
Ang sining... hindi ito safe space.  
Ito’y war zone ng katotohanan.  
At kung totoo ka...  
Lagi kang may laban.

### ****FINAL SHOT****

**INT. MODERN FILM SET – DAY**

(Joel limps onto the set, raises his hand.)

**JOEL (Matanda)** (shouting)  
ACTION!

(Clapperboard snaps. FADE TO BLACK.)

**TEXT ON SCREEN:**  
"JOEL LAMANGAN – Direktor ng Katotohanan. 1952–Present."