

70/80
PRJCT

SCREENING
TWO (1982)

HIMAZA

DIRECTED BY

ISHMAEL BERNAL

SCREENPLAY BY

RICKY LEE

STARRING

NORA AUNOR AS ELSA

CINEMATOGRAPHY

SERGIO LOBO

EDITING

IKE JARLEGO, JR.

MUSIC

WINSTON RAVAL

THE DIRECTOR

!! stands for a point
of interest



**ISHMAEL
BERNAL**
1938-1966

Other famous works:
Nunal sa Tubig (1975)
City After Dark (1980)
Working Girls (1984)

!! Bernal considered himself a feminist director and admitted that it was part of his interest to tackle issues affecting women. A significant part of his work is stories about and for women.

Ishmael Bernal is 1 out of the 6 National Artists for cinema in the Philippines.

His commercial social dramas are charged with thought and introspection resulting in what the National Film Archives of the Philippines calls his trademark “deep-focus realism”.

He studied film in France and India and was an apprentice of famed director Lamberto Avellana, a legend from the first golden age of Philippine cinema.

Bernal is probably one of the most philosophical Filipino directors, expertly using simple explorations of everyday life in his character-based multi-narrative process.

In terms of filmmaking techniques, Bernal is most known for his high production value and extreme attention to detail (which is most prevalent in the film you're seeing tonight!)

Bernal retired in 1994 due to being disappointed with the local film industry's supposed deterioration, and instead taught film education in schools and theaters.

Walang himala! Ang himala ay nasa puso ng tao, nasa puso nating lahat! Tayo ang gumagawa ng mga himala! Tayo ang gumagawa ng mga sumpa at ng mga diyos...

THE PRODUCTION

FT stands for a
notable film technique

PRE-PROD

Inspiration: Ricky Lee wanted to write about 'faith healers', as he had learned about multiple incidents of Himala-like happenings in the PH in the 1960s

Lee's script was selected for production after winning a contest by the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines (ECP) - Himala became their first film, with Imee Marcos backing it

It was written with Nora Aunor in mind, which remained unchanged

There are multiple alternate versions and endings to the script

PROD

The crew chose to shoot in Ilocos because it was the driest place they could find

Shooting took 2 months

Around 3,000 extras were employed for the film; Bernal also asked people who were actually sick to appear

FT Bernal's aim was minimalism on a grand scale, and he purposely asked for acting to be kept subtle and simple so that the viewer could focus on the dialogue (this also adds to the impact of Elsa's final speech scene!)

POST-PROD

The film's grand scale and big budget were used as its major selling point, especially since the only known actress was Nora Aunor (the rest of the cast were relatively unknown, small stage theater actors)

THE REACTION



INITIAL REACTION

Was a box-office hit and became one of the highest grossing PH films in the 1980s

Won awards in MMFF and Berlin International Film Festival, among others

IN THE PRESENT

A musical version of the film was created in 2003 with music and lyrics by Vincent de Jesus and Ricky Lee and in collaboration with Tanghalang Pilipino; it was later on revived again in 2004, 2013, and 2018

IMPACT ON FILM

Became the first film to be restored by the ABS-CBN Film Restoration Project in 2012 - the remastered version appeared at the 69th Venice Film Festival

SO NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN IT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Here are some points to ponder on, or discuss with a friend or two!

If films are a reflection of the society they were made in, why do you think this story needed to be told then?

Many scenes such as the “Via Dolorosa” denouement are seen as iconic due to the combination of multiple elements (creative camera work, haunting musical score, Nora Aunor’s terrific acting) What scene moved you the most?

How does the film tackle the relationship between the Third World and religion, truth and desperation?

Nora Aunor missed the Berlin Best Actress award by one vote! What did you think of her performance? Does she live up to her ‘Superstar’ status?

How is Nimia the foil of Elsa?

Ishmael Bernal sees himself as a feminist director. Does you see any aspects of feminism in the film?

Is there really anyone in the film who is directly healed because of Elsa? Was the miracle real or a hoax? Does it matter?