

= Imelda (film) =

Imelda is a 2003 documentary film directed by Ramona S. Diaz about the life of Imelda Marcos , former First Lady of the Philippines . Beginning with her childhood , the film documents her marriage to future President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos , her rule under the dictatorship , her exile in Hawaii and her eventual return to the Philippines .

Reviews were largely favorable and it won the Excellence in Cinematography Award Documentary award at Sundance Film Festival in 2004 . Imelda outsold Spider @-@ Man 2 in the Philippines , but only took US \$ 200 @,@ 992 at the US box office with an additional US \$ 300 @,@ 000 worldwide . Reviews from critics are favorable with a 94 % fresh rating from Rotten Tomatoes and a 69 / 100 from Metacritic .

= = Synopsis = =

Diaz followed Imelda Marcos , the former First Lady of the Philippines , for a month and interviewed her daughter Imee and her son Ferdinand , Jr . The film incorporates third party interviews and archive material ; it recounts Imelda 's life , including her marriage to her husband , Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos . Discussing the Marcos presidency , Imelda says that there were no human rights abuses in her country ; she says that her husband abolished Congress and declared martial law in 1972 to protect democracy . She says that she took 3 @,@ 000 pairs of shoes with her when she went into exile , and justifies her extravagant clothing by saying that it " inspired the poor to dress better " . She also says that she had enormous museums and theaters constructed to enrich the lives of Filipinos .

Imelda says in one vignette that she had met United States Army General Douglas MacArthur during his landing in Tacloban at the end of World War II , and that McArthur insisted that she should perform for the composer Irving Berlin , She sang " God Bless the Philippines " and when Berlin asked her why she sang the lyrics incorrectly she said , " what 's the difference between America and the Philippines ? " The assassination attempt on Imelda and the assassination of Benigno Aquino , Jr. are featured in the film . Footage from parties held by the Marcos couple , including one during which actor George Hamilton sang " I can 't give you anything but love , Imelda " , are also used in the film .

= = Release and reception = =

Imelda had its world premiere at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and its North American premiere in the documentary competition of the 2004 Sundance Film Festival , where it won the Excellence in Cinematography Award Documentary . The film was also screened at the Maryland Film Festival in Baltimore .

Critical reviews were mostly favorable . The film has a 94 % fresh rating from Rotten Tomatoes and a 69 / 100 from Metacritic . The website Film Threat commended the film 's treatment of the subject 's flaws because it " allows her to describe them herself " ; TV Guide called Imelda " an entertaining storyteller " . The New York Times said the film is " a devastating portrait " and equates the theme of Imelda with that of delusion and power . The San Francisco Chronicle said it was " spellbinding " .

Both the Chronicle and Variety consider the film balanced and even @-@ handed . Variety said that Imelda ? who has been accustomed to public attention since her teenage years , was convinced that her charm and charisma would create a more favorable impression in the film than might otherwise be expected . It said that " her defenses of her husband and his regime are obviously filled with rationalizations and obfuscations " . Other reviewers were more scathing , or note her distorted reality and the many contradictions with which she lives .

The film took US \$ 200 @,@ 992 at the box office in the United States . In the Philippines , Imelda obtained a temporary injunction that prevented it being shown for a brief time . When the injunction was canceled and the film was released , it earned more than Spider @-@ Man 2 and was considered a smash hit . Outside the US , the film received box office revenue of US \$ 300 @,@

