



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Behring Center

News

Office of Public Affairs

Jan. 23, 2003

Media only: Gina Inocencio (202) 357-3713
Adrienne Durand (202) 357-3129

Public only: (202) 357-2700

Calendar Listing

The “Reel Americans” film series at the Smithsonian’s National American History features the Washington, D.C., premiere of the award-winning-documentary “Untold Triumph: The Story of the 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments, U.S. Arm” on January 30 in the Carmichael Auditorium. The program is free and reservations are not required.

World War II provided the opportunity for members of the Filipino community in the United States to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States. Between 1906 and 1935, more than 150,000 Filipinos had immigrated to the United States to work in the agricultural fields, service industry, and other low-paying jobs despite the discrimination and hard times they faced along the west coast. Approximately 7,000 soldiers of Philippine heritage joined the U.S. Army during World War II, forming regiments that came to be known as “California's Own.” Specializing in radio and communications, espionage, and infiltration, these units were instrumental in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's secret plan to recapture the Philippines.

The film won the Best Documentary/Blockbuster Audience Award at Hawaii International Film Festival. It was directed and produced by Noel Izon, who researched archival footage and interviewed many veterans. Lou Diamond Phillips, acclaimed Filipino American actor, is the narrator.

The screening includes a question-and-answer opportunity with Noel Izon; writer and associate producer Stephanie Castillo; associate writer and historian Linda Revilla, and Filipino World War II veteran Domingo Los Banos. A reception follows.

Reel Americans is the museum's series on film, history, and American identity, and is made possible by the generous support of the Reed Foundation, Inc. The screening is co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, National Museum of American History, and the American Association of University Women.

The program is presented in conjunction with the Smithsonian's new exhibition, “Through My Father’s Eyes: The Photographs of Ricardo Alvarado,” on view at the National Museum of American History through March 31, 2003. The photographs reveal a historically significant view of San Francisco’s Filipino-American (Pinoy) community during the 1940s and 1950s.

###