

# **Women's Stories and Films for Peace: A Filipino Film Director's Experience**

by Marilou Diaz-Abaya

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QUEZON CITY, Philippines -- Film is a director's medium, a creative expression of a personal vision of human life. For me, that vision is shaped by the plurality, the richness of human diversity. No two persons are exactly the same; every human being is special and specific; every nation prides itself in a particular culture, race and creed. These differences hone our ability to co-exist in dignity, solidarity and peace.

My films probe human experiences drawn from social conflicts among characters of contradictory beliefs and value systems. I believe that conflict can be as divisive as it can be unifying. The mystery and paradoxes of human life beg to be sensed and revered, if not completely understood.

Some critics classify my body of works into two phases. In the eighties, I produced the feminist trilogy of *Brutal*, *Moral* and *Karnal*, while in the nineties, I shifted to masculine themes in *Sa Pusod Ng Dagat* (In the Navel of the Sea), *Jose Rizal*, *Muro-Am* (Reef Hunters), and *Bagong Buwan* (New Moon). Without deliberate intent, I journeyed **[SNIP – End of preview.]**