

Advisory No. 002, s. 2020

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WINNERS OF THE 2019 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

The 2019 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) *Gabi ng Parangal* was held on December 27, 2019 at the New Frontier Theater in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Mindanao a 2019 drama film produced under Center Stage Productions, and directed by Brillante Mendoza, won the top awards garnering the Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor for Allen Dizon, Best Actress for Judy Ann Santos, and Best Child Performer for Yuna Tangog .

Judy Ann Santos played as Saima Datupalo, who cares for her cancer-stricken daughter Aisa (Yuna Tangog) while she awaits home for her husband Malang (Allen Dizon), a combat medic deployed to fight rebel forces in the southern Philippines. Their struggle is juxtaposed with the folklore of Rajah Indara Patra and Rajah Sulayman, the sons of Sultan Nabi, who fights to stop a dragon devastating Lanao.

Mindanao also won six special MMFF award including FPJ Memorial Award for Excellence, Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas Cultural Award, Best Visual Effects, Best Sound, Gender Sensitivity and Best Float Awards.

The historical drama film *Culion* won the Special Jury Prize Award.

Culion is directed by Alvin Yapan, starring Iza Calzado (Ana), Jasmine Curtis-Smith (Doris), and Meryll Soriano (Ditas). Set in the 1940s, the movie tells the story of three women seeking a cure for leprosy. The film's title was derived from an island in Palawan once known as a major leper colony.