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**SPECIAL SCREENING OF “SAKALING HINDI MAKARATING” LAUNCHES 2026
VERY IMPORTANT PINOY (VIP) TOUR IN HOUSTON**



The marquee sign outside the historic River Oaks Theatre promoting the independent Filipino film, “Sakaling Hindi Makarating.”

05 February 2026, Houston, Texas. The Philippine Consulate General in Houston hosted a special screening of the independent Filipino film, “*Sakaling Hindi Makarating*” (The Amazing Journey of the Letters) at the historic River Oaks Theatre to launch the 2026 Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour.

A film by Director Ice Idanan, which won Best Picture and other awards, including Best Cinematography and Best Director at the 2nd CineFilipino Film Festival, served as a “visual introduction” to the Philippines’ beautiful and pristine landscapes, and evoked nostalgia for the familiar sights of home.

In his remarks, Consul General Gunther Sales thanked the audience for attending the special screening, underscoring that films, such as *Sakaling Hindi Makarating*, also showcase Filipino identity and culture as well as the Philippines’ geographic diversity, thus helping to connect the country with the Filipino diaspora and international community. The audience was also encouraged to further explore the wide genre of Filipino films to engage more deeply with Filipino arts and culture through the lens of a Filipino filmmaker.

In a recorded message, Philippine Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Jose Manuel Romualdez, emphasized the significance of the 2026 VIP Tour, which coincides with the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the US this year.

The 2026 VIP Tour, which includes Manila, Dumaguete, and Cebu will run from 12 to 21 July 2026. Options for tours in Bohol and Siquijor can also be arranged upon request. For more information, visit: www.viptourphilippines.com.

The VIP Tour is a US-wide flagship program of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Tourism, in cooperation with Rajah Tours. This curated tour encourages Filipinos, Filipino Americans, their families and friends, to experience the beauty of the Philippines and (re-)discover its culture and heritage, and connect with other participating *kababayans* from the United States. (END)



Consul General Gunther Sales welcomes guests to the 2026 VIP Tour Launch.