



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### PRESIDENT MANUEL QUEZON'S "OPEN DOOR" POLICY TOWARDS JEWS FLEEING THE NAZI REGIME TACKLED IN CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED FILM, "QUEZON'S GAME"

President Manuel L. Quezon's heroic gesture in trying to rescue 10,000 Jews fleeing the atrocities of the Nazi regime in late 1930s, by his "open door" policy towards the Jewish refugees was immortalized in the movie, "Quezon's Game" which began its US and Canada theatrical rollout last January 24. Winner of 25 international film awards and first released in the Philippines in May 2019, the movie narrated the story, once forgotten, on how President Quezon was able to save 1,200 Jews by opening the country's doors to the refugees, challenging the initial resistance of the United States government which at that time still maintained the Philippines as a commonwealth state in preparation for the US granting full independence.

Philippine Consul General Gina Jamoralin watched the screening of the movie at Century 16 Deer Park in Illinois on February 15 and met actor, David Bianco who also came to watch the movie and greet movie audience.

Quezon was played by Filipino actor, Raymond Bagatsing while then young US Army Colonel and military aide to Quezon and future president, Dwight Eisenhower, was played by Illinois-based American actor, David Bianco. David's wife, Jenny Bianco, a Filipino-American, played Mamie Eisenhower.

A Star Cinema/ABS-CBN Film production, "Quezon's Game" won "Awards of Excellence" for Lead Actor, Direction, Asian Film, Cinematography and Original Score at the 2019 *IndieFest Film Awards* as well as in other international film festivals such as the 2019 *World Fest-Houston International Film & Video Festival*, 2019 *Cinema World Fest Annual Gala*, 2018 *Cinema World Fest Awards*, 2019 *Accolade Global Film Competition*, 2019 *Near Nazareth Festival*, 2019 *Maryland International Film Festival* and UK's 2019 *Ramsgate International Film and TV Festival*. The movie was directed by Matthew Rosen and written by Janice Perez and Dean Rosen.

The movie is a must-see by all freedom-loving Filipinos and Americans who will be deeply moved by President' Quezon's humanity and generosity towards the Jewish refugees facing discrimination and persecution by the Nazis. More Jewish refugees could have reached the Philippines if the Japanese forces had not invaded and occupied the Philippines in 1941 which forced President Quezon and his cabinet to move to the United States to lead a government-in-exile. President Quezon died of tuberculosis in 1944 in New York, two years before the Philippines was finally granted its full independence by the United States.

"Quezon's Game" will run at Century 16 Deer Park, Illinois until February 20, 2020. **END**

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Actor David Bianco (playing Dwight Eisenhower in the movie)(extreme left) with Consul General Gina Jamoralin (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and the Filipino-American community in Illinois who watched "Quezon's Game".(Photo by Chicago PCG)



Photo by Mr. Jason Dela Rosa