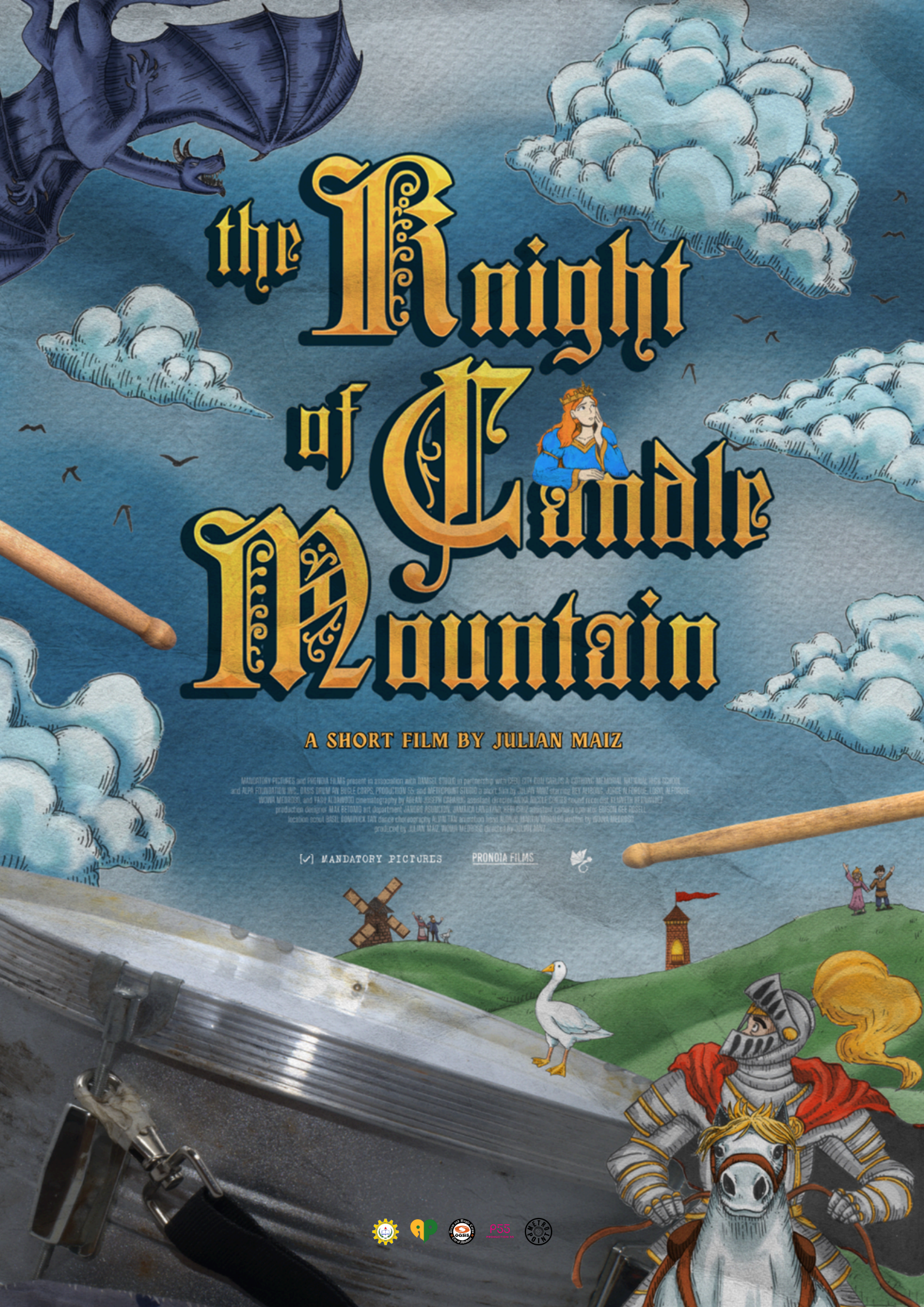




the Knight of Candle Mountain

A SHORT FILM BY JULIAN MAIZ

MANDATORY PICTURES and PRONCIA FILMS present in association with DAMSEL STUDIO in partnership with CERN 1074 KIM SARLOP A CATHOLIC MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL and ALMA FOUNDATION INC., BASIS DREAM AN BUCLAY CORPS. PRODUCTION 55 and MEVPOINT STUDIO is short film by JULIAN MAIZ starring REX APORONG, JORGE ALFARQUE, LINDY MENDOZA, WILSON MENDOZA, and YADY ALDAMORO cinematography by NIKAN JOSEPH CARRANZA assistant director ANNA BUCLAY COSTUME DESIGNER KARENTH BY PUNALLET production designer MAX BETONG art department JAMORE PRODUCTION, JAMALCA LONGBAND, HERRING assistant camera and GREGORY SEE TOSSELL location scout BASIL BOMAYEK TAY design photography ALVIN TAN assistant props ALPHIE MARINO MONTANA assistant by JULIANA MENDOZA
produced by JULIAN MAIZ, NIKAN JOSEPH CARRANZA directed by JULIAN MAIZ

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Logline

Theo, a perpetually tardy student, has two lates left before he's dropped from his class and removed from the band. He must find a way to balance his life as a student, a musician, and as a *kuya* to a brother with special needs.



Director's Statement

"If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism."

-Dr. Stephen Shore

It is impossible to make a film that fully encapsulates the experience of having special needs or loving someone who does. Every single person with autism is unique and experiences characteristics of their disabilities in their own individual ways. The Knight of Candle Mountain is a drama short film with animation and musical elements about Theo and his younger brother, Teddy. It is based on real experiences I've had with my younger brother with autism, Seth. Seth processes language through something called gestalting (gestalt language processing). It's different for everyone but in his case, this means he learns language by echoing lines of dialogue from his favorite films and shows, and asks us to repeat them for him. Luckily for him, I can go beyond the simple one liner and recite entire scenes and songs from these shows, which he loves to listen to me perform on repeat. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, Seth had an extra difficult time coping with the isolation since he was suddenly pulled out of his routine with no explanation at all. Several months in, his depression got to the point where he was unable to leave his bed. As a last-ditch attempt at making him smile again, I prepared a step ladder and my A-game to perform The Up and Down Dance from Elmo's World. For the first time in a long time, he laughed and smiled as he made me perform the song over and over, to the point where I could no longer breathe. This activity pulled me away from my academics but I didn't dare stop because I refused to deprive him of the only thing left that kept him happy.

I learned about Seth's diagnosis when I was about ten years old. Like my parents, I was extremely uneducated about learning disabilities of any kind. To help me understand the situation Seth is in, my mother asked me to watch I Am Sam (2001), Temple Grandin (2010), and The Gift (Season 2, Episode 11 of Punky Brewster). For a child, these are great starting points to help build an understanding of people with learning disabilities. But these works have a big flaw: autism is framed in a way that shows what people with autism have in common with each other rather than how autism makes them unique. To an outsider, the way I perform for my brother tends to be something they've yet to see in other siblings; but to my family and friends, it is just our day-to-day norm. What I aim to do with this film is to show the parts of Theo and Teddy's relationship that are unique to them and only exist because of Teddy's disability.

At the very start of the film, Theo is asked a question: "What is love?" When he looks at his brother, Teddy, he finds the answer. Love is why the father is never home, trying to make enough money to pay for Teddy's treatments and therapies. Love is why the mother is sleepless, spending every waking hour caring for her son. Love is why Theo risks his academic and extracurricular life just to keep his brother smiling. Love is hard work, love is sacrifice.



Director's Biography

Julian Maiz is a FOSS-forward filmmaker from Cebu City with a BS CTM degree from Ateneo de Manila University. One of his short films, *The Misfit*, was featured in Binisaya and other film festivals. He has just finished working on a short film titled *The Knight of Candle Mountain*, which is based on his relationship with his younger brother with special needs.

Contact Info

JULIAN MAIZ
Director, Producer
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Stills



Stills



Stills





Behind the Scenes

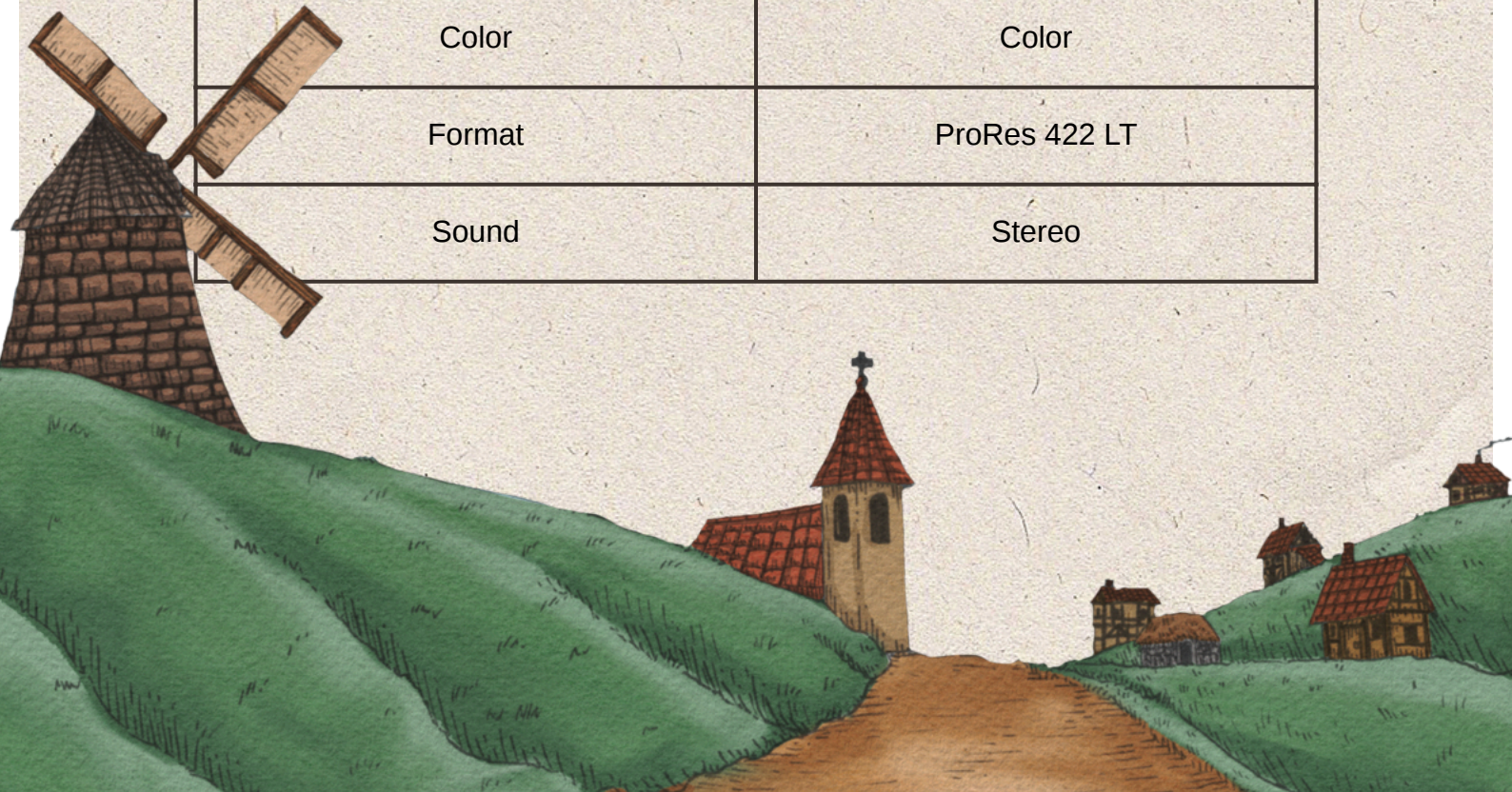


Film Information

Runtime [MM:SS]	22:22 (20 minute cut available)
Language	Bisaya, English
Country of Origin	Philippines
Year of Completion	2026
Genre	Coming of Age, Mixed Media (Animation/Musical)

Technical Details

Aspect Ratio	2.39:1
Resolution	4K
Frame Rate	23.976024 FPS
Color	Color
Format	ProRes 422 LT
Sound	Stereo



Key Production Credits

CAST

Rey Alibong	Theo Antipuesto
Jorge Ysrael V. Alforque	Teddy Antipuesto
Losyl V. Alforque	Mommy Emmy
Wowa Medroso	Mr. Salcedo
Yasu Aldawood	Leslie

CREW

Julian Maiz	Director
Wowa Medroso	Writer
Wowa Medroso & Julian Maiz	Executive Producers
Anika Nicole Cortes	Assistant Director
Adean Joseph Cabahug	Cinematographer
Max Betonio	Production Designer
Wowa Medroso & Julian Maiz	Editors

ANIMATION

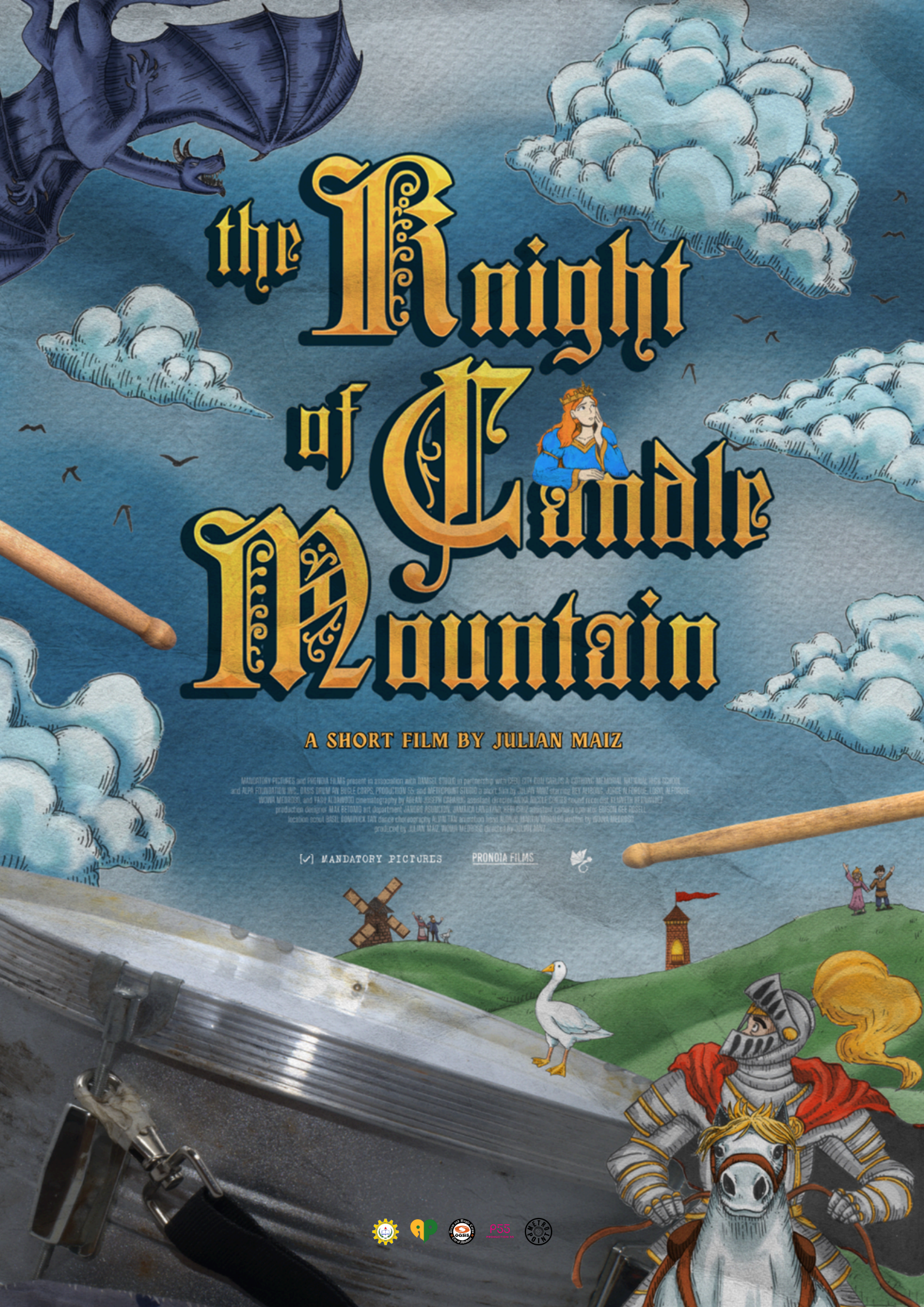
Alonzo Morales (SirDoodlrKnight)
Illustrator, Designer, & Storyboard Artist

Damsel Studio
Animation Studio

Andre Lechner
Animation Team Lead

Timothy James Lechner
Lead Animator





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