

# FilAm Trio Debuts LGBTQ Rom-Com

*Dark comedy explores identity politics, race stereotypes*

By Lydia V. Solis

**LOS ANGELES, California** – A FilAm trio debuts an LGBTQIA+ (an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more) rom com, exploring the darker humor of relationships awash in identity politics, racial stereotypes, and power struggles. “The Bottoming Process,” opens May 18, 2023, at the Renberg Theatre in the Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, L.A.

“What does it take to have a successful modern-day relationship?” asked FilAm director Rodney To, professor at the University of Southern California’s School of Dramatic Arts, in a news release.

“We have two seemingly compatible people who love each other, so what keeps getting in the way?” To said, adding “It’s both multilayered and very funny.”



Director Rodney To  
(Photo by Kevin McIntyre)

The play by FilAm Nicholas Pilapil follows FilAm George Salazar, who plays the 20-something mostly-Twitter writer Milo who falls in love with a nearly middle-aged writer, a famed novelist named John (played by Rick Cosnett) as they date and cohabitate, navigating the issues of race, power, identity.

Salazar is a Broadway Audience Choice and Lucille



Playwright Nicolas Pilapil  
(Photo by Michael Palma)

Lortel awards winner for playing Michael in “Be More Chill.” His Act Two number, “Michael in the Bathroom,” has been streamed more than 50 million times. Both Pilapil, a member of the Los Angeles Asian American theater collective “Artists at Play,” and To, who was inducted into Chicago’s Filipino American Hall of Fame, are multiple-award winners in their fields.



George Salazar  
“Milo”

(Photo by Nathan Johnson)

“The play deals with serious issues like racial stereotypes and power structures, but in the end it’s really a rom com,” playwright Pilapil said in an April 5 news release.

“The Bottoming Process” is part of IAMA Theatre Company’s 2022-23 Jubilee Season, dedicated to telling stories that give voice to women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ and artists of varied physical and cognitive abilities.