

Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio

University Professor Emeritus ng Ingles at Komparatibong Panitikan
Pambansang Alagad ng Sining para sa Teatro

Kilala bilang “Grande Dame of Southeast Asian Children’s Theater,” si Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio ay isang mandudula, papetir at guro.

Siya ay naluklok sa Orden ng mga Pambansang Alagad ng Sining noong Oktubre 2018 para sa larangan ng Teatro.

Kasalukuyan siyang University Professor Emeritus ng Ingles at Komparatibong Panitikan ng Kolehiyo ng Arte at Literatura (KAL). Ang panghabangbuhay na titulo ay iginawad ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas nang nagretiro siya noong 1995 para sa kaniyang natatanging tagumpay at kapuri-puring serbisyo.

Bilang mandudula, kabilang sa kaniyang malawak na mga likha ang sampung aklat, 16 na dula, 30 dulang pambata at mahigit na 120 maikling kuwentong pambata na nailathala sa “Philippine Journal of Education.” Marami rin siyang naisulat na mga tula, maikling kuwento at sanaysay.

Ilan sa kaniyang mga kilalang dula ay ang “Sita & Rama: Papet Ramayana” na itinanghal sa 2006 Kaohsiung Country International Puppet Festival sa Taiwan at sa 2017 UP Diliman Month, at ang “Papet Pasyon (The Passion Play in Puppetry)” na unang itinanghal sa Cultural Center of the Philippines noong 1985 at naging taunang pagtatanghal sa UP, Intramuros at iba pang lalawigan simula 2006.

Dalawa sa kaniyang maikling kuwento ay naisalin sa ibang wika: “Tia Purificacion,” na naisalin sa Aleman at nailathala sa aklat na Frauen Auf Den Philippinen sa Germany, at ang “The Stairs” na naisalin sa Dutch at nailathala bilang bahagi ng aklat na Het Verwelken Van De Regenbloesem sa Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Itinatag niya ang UP Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, isang teatrong pambata at pangkat ng mga papetir, noong 1977, kung saan siya naglingkod bilang mandudula, tagalikha ng papet at pang-artistikong direktor. Siya rin ang namamahala ng Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio Papet Teatro Museo sa Lungsod Quezon.

Kasalukuyan siyang kasapi ng Board of Advisors ng Linangan ng Malikhaing Pagsulat ng KAL.

Siya ay tumanggap ng maraming gantimpala at parangal. Ilan dito ay ang unang gantimpala ng Carlos Palanca Memorial Award in Literature for One Act Play para sa “Dalawang Bayani” noong 1995, at ang pangalawang gantimpala para sa Full Length Play noong 2006 para sa “Chinchina and the Five Mountains.”

Noong 2017, ginawaran siya ng City of Manila Outstanding Citizen Award at noong 2013, ng Quezon City Most Outstanding Citizen Award.

Nakapagtapos siya ng MA (Speech-Theatre Arts) sa University of Wisconsin-Madison noong 1958 sa pamamagitan ng Fulbright-Smith Mundt Scholarship (1956-1958) at Beloit College Graduate Summer Theatre Scholarship (1957-1958). Nagtapos siya ng AB (English) sa UP Diliman noong 1953.

Ipinanganak siya noong Abril 4, 1930 sa Binondo, Manila at maybahay ni Manuel Flores Bonifacio, PhD, Professor Emeritus ng Sosyolohiya sa Kolehiyo ng Agham Panlipunan at Pilosopiya ng UP Diliman. May isa silang anak, si Prop. Amihan Bonifacio-Ramolete, kasalukuyang dekanong KAL.

Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio

University Professor Emeritus in English and Comparative Literature
National Artist for Theater

Known as the "Grand Dame of Southeast Asian Children's Theater," Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio is a playwright, puppeteer and an educator.

She was conferred the title National Artist for Theater, the country's highest recognition for artists on October 24, 2018.

Presently, she is a University Professor Emerita at the Department of English and Comparative Literature of the College of Arts and Letters (CAL). The lifetime title was bestowed by the University of the Philippines for her exceptional achievements and outstanding service upon her retirement in 1995.

As a playwright, among her works are 10 books, 16 plays, 30 plays for children and more than 130 short stories for children published by the Philippine Journal of Education. She has also produced a number of poems, short stories and essays.

Among her more recent plays are "Sita & Rama: Papet Ramayana" which was staged at the 2006 Kaohsiung Country International Puppet Festival sa Taiwan and at the 2017 UP Diliman Month and "Papet Pasyon (The Passion Play in Puppetry)" which was first presented at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1985 and henceforth became a yearly presentation at UP, Intramuros and other province since 2006.

Two of her short stories were translated into other languages, namely "Tia Purificacion," which was translated to German and published in *Frauen Auf Den Philippinen* in Germany and "The Stairs," translated in Dutch and published as part of the book *Het Ver-Welken Van De Regenbloesem* in Amsterdam.

She established the UP Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, a children's theater and puppet theater company in 1977 where she served as playwright, puppet-maker and artistic director. She also manages the Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio Papet Teatro Museo.

She is presently a member of the Board of Advisors of CAL's Institute of Creative Writing.

She has received numerous awards, among them the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award in Literature for One Act Play for "Dalawang Bayani" in 1995, and the second prize, Full Length Play for "Chinchina and the Five Mountains" in 2006.

In 2017, she received the City of Manila Outstanding Citizen Award and the Quezon City Most Outstanding Citizen Award in 2013. She was named University Professor at UP in 1995.

She earned an MA (Speech-Theatre Arts) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1958, where, through a Fulbright-Smith Mundt Scholarship, she enrolled in the Beloit College ng Graduate Summer Theatre Scholarship (1957-1958). She earned an AB (English) from UP Diliman in 1953.

She was born on April 4, 1930 in Binondo, Manila and is married to Manuel Flores Bonifacio, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. They have one child, Prof. Amihan Bonifacio-Ramolete, PhD, the current CAL dean.



