

Ang Gagamba Ko - Opening Script - SCWR 449

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MAIN MENU SCREEN - RETRO TV FILTER

INT. SMALL SPORTS ARENA

GAGAMBA sit on opposite sides of the screen. A spotlight shines down on them. They are on BRANCHES, brimming with magical energy, looking as if they are about to charge towards each other.

One gagamba is in the foreground with raised front legs, the other is in the back, facing the camera and bears its fangs.

In the far back is a small outline of an audience covered in shadow, with outlines of posters and banners. Their energy is palpable as they look at what is about to unfold.

GAMEPLAY - FIRST LABAN NG GAGAMBA

COMMENTATOR

And we're cutting it down to the branch here folks! It can be anyone's game between Jackie, Em, and their gagamba.

PLAYER wins the fight and the crowd cheers. The gagamba also gains EXPERIENCE POINTS.

COMMENTATOR

And the crowd goes wild! Jackie has done it again, taking first place for the third time in a row at our local monthly tournament.

CINEMATIC - ATTENTION

The cheering fades and a big pause button pops up in the middle of the screen. The retro filter slowly starts to fade in again as the camera pans out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LUNCHROOM - DAY

MANNY (17) and PLAYER (16) in school uniforms. The players are eating lunch. Manny is holding up a retro TV phone with the paused video.

The Player is looking away from the PHONE, writing, writing, and intently focused on the paper in front of them.

MANNY

(excited)

Did you see that! And can you believe they graduated from our high school? I think they have a shot at qualifying for the finals for this year's championship.

MANNY (CONT'D)

...

MANNY (CONT'D)

Hey, were you even paying attention?

Player quickly glances up to the phone and back down again.

PLAYER

(slightly disinterested)

Huh? Oh. Yeah. That's cool.

Manny rolls his eyes. He peeks over the Player's shoulder, glancing at a practice exam. His cheery expression drops.

MANNY

Seriously?

PLAYER

(seemingly taken aback,
trying to feign
innocence)

What?

MANNY

C'mon! Just stop with the practice tests. It's the end of the school year. Why can't you just relax a little. You've been tense all school year.

PLAYER

(reluctant)

Okay, fine. I was just trying to get a head start for next year, that's all. Wanna get a good score to keep my university options open.

MANNY

Do you know what you want to do for college?

PLAYER

Do you?

MANNY
Yeah. Business.

PLAYER
Oh.

MANNY
...

MANNY (CONT'D)
I mean you could just go in
undecided and do gen ed classes.

PLAYER
But what if I still haven't figured
it out by then?

MANNY shrugs.

MANNY
That's years into the future.
Besides, I heard it's good to get
them out of the way as soon as
possible anyways. But seriously,
you haven't settled on a future
career path?

PLAYER
I don't know...

PLAYER (CONT'D)
...

PLAYER (CONT'D)
I guess I just-

The bell rings. Students start to get up to go to class.
Saved by the bell, the Player and Manny get up and leave the
scene.

FADE TO BLACK.

CINEMATIC - WHISPERS

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - END OF SCHOOL DAY

Educational posters are plastered about the walls of the
room. In frame sits a cork board on the wall, thumbtacks
littered about.

Desks are littered with MATCHBOXES and BAGS, as students are eager to leave. They whisper amongst themselves about the upcoming tournament.

Outside the window, far off in the distance is a LARGE tree with a foil-like sheen.

Off to the side, much smaller than the tree is a LARGE CONCRETE BUILDING and a FACTORY under constructing on the outskirts of a sleek looking city center.

STUDENT #1

With just a few more days of training, my gagamba and I are ready to take on the tournament circuit!

STUDENT #2

Pfft. Yeah, right. I'll squash your team in the round robin!

STUDENT #3

I don't think you'd last a day in regionals. I've been studying, and the competition feels especially scary this year.

STUDENT #4

Oh shit, look at those buildings...It's like they built that overnight.

STUDENT #5

Some new company moving in. I read about it somewhere. I think one of my cousins got hired to work for them.

STUDENT #6

Right, and my uncle works in the government. But I thought Vale was done with outsider companies?

The final bell of the day rings. The gaggle of students with a bag of mixed emotions in regards to the tournament hurry to leave.

TEACHER

Okay students, one more thing before you all leave.

The students pause with bated breath.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

I just wanted to say to have a safe break. You all are rapidly approaching the end of our time here. And I know you all are thinking about what your time after high school might be like. I get that. Big changes can be scary, but know that we're stronger and more resilient together. Thank you.

The students say their thanks to the teacher and start to leave.

MANNY

(energized)

I'm gonna go sign up for the tournament run!

Manny practically zooms out of the classroom.

GAMEPLAY - END OF HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORATION

CINEMATIC - SIGN-UPS

Through the conversations with other students, the player starts an inner monologue about their fear of the future as they walk towards the school exit.

They pass a group of students crowded around the enticing poster where people can scan and sign up for a tournament, Manny included.

PLAYER

Even Manny knows what to do after high school...

PLAYER (CONT'D)

People care about the laban ng gamgamba tournament now more than ever.

The PLAYER stops at the exit and sighs.

PLAYER (CONT'D)

And the top of the top make a living off of this thing.

The PLAYER tenses up, turning around.

PLAYER (CONT'D)

Maybe, just maybe...

The PLAYER runs back to the crowd up students, scanning the code and signing up.

They grab Manny's attention while doing so. Manny quirks an eyebrow.

MANNY

So, you're finally deciding to get into laban ng gagamba after all, huh?

PLAYER

Uh, yeah. Sure, I guess I am now.

MANNY

Well, guess I gotta show you the ropes.

END SCENE.