MARIA B. ACOPIADO

CEO/FOUNDER | DIRECTOR | WRITER

(WBE/MBE/BEP Certified)

Maria Brenda Acopiado is an award-winning filmmaker whose work fuses fearless vision with deeply human storytelling. Born and raised in a small town in the Philippines, she transformed her boundless imagination into a career that defies expectations. Her journey from the Philippines to the United States—overcoming cultural barriers, challenges, and adversity—has shaped her into a resilient and uncompromising creative force.

Drawing from her early experiences as an actor, Maria brings a rare depth of empathy to her craft, capturing the human spirit with authenticity and cinematic flair.

As the founder and CEO of Zatori Films, she has become a champion for underrepresented voices, crafting films that illuminate untold stories and celebrate diverse perspectives. Her evolution from small-town dreamer to industry trailblazer reflects her belief that great cinema can inspire change, bridge cultures, and leave a lasting mark on the world.

Beyond her creative pursuits, Maria is deeply committed to community service and advocacy. She is the driving force behind the No Small Potatoes Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated
to mental health awareness, with a special focus on caregiver support and underserved communities.

Maria lives by the belief that "Success is earned, not given"—a motto that embodies her relentless pursuit of excellence and her unwavering dedication to turning vision into reality. Above all, she aims to break barriers as the first Asian-American female director and writer to make a global impact in the entertainment world.