



## ATI-ATIHAN: MOTHER OF PHILIPPINE FESTIVALS

Patrick Alcedo

A Film Review by Basilio Esteban S. Villaruz

### A Ritual Of Recuperation

Presented from a first-person point of view, the video-film *Ati-Atihan: The Mother of Philippine Festivals* (Toronto: 2010) encapsulates the experience of dancer-researcher Patrick Alcedo of an enduring feast in Kalibo, Aklan.

Aklan is a province in the island of Panay. As in other places in the Visayas, it celebrates the feast of *Santo Niño* (Christ Child) every January. Its diocese was established in 1581. Earlier in 1521, the Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Cebu with his Spanish flotilla; he did not only bring the Christian cross but also the image of the saint. To