



Sawo Matang

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SAWO MATANG

Written and directed by Andrea Nirmala Widjanto
2022 / Indonesia, Canada, USA / 20'
Digital, 1.66, Color, Indonesian, Stereo

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Pidgin Productions
Toronto, Canada

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anw@pidginproduction.com

Inteamates
Jakarta, Indonesia

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Sinema 5
Jakarta, Indonesia

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pidgin
productions



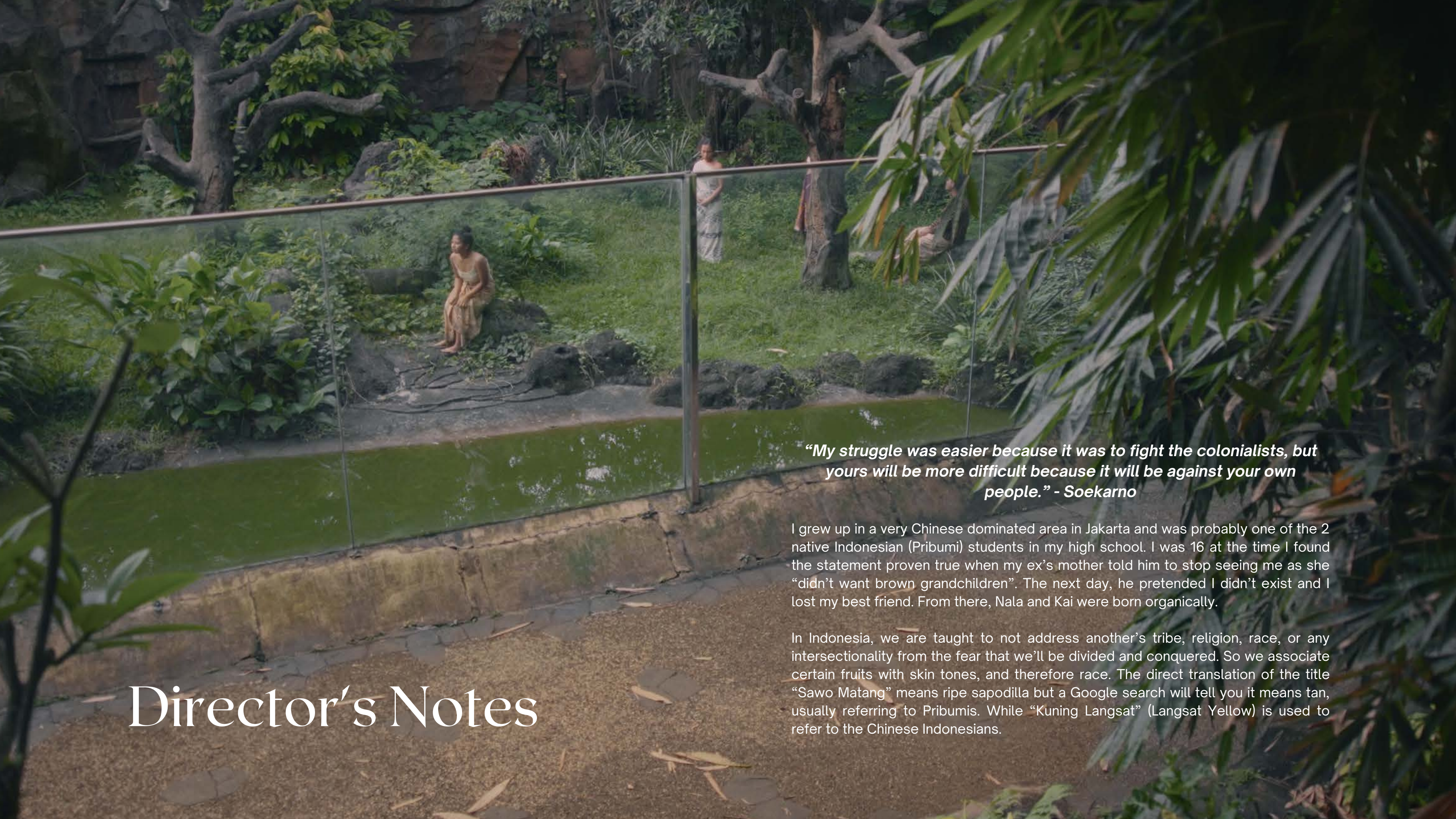
SINEMA 5

nffty
NATIONAL
FILM
FESTIVAL for
TALENTED
YOUTH

Synopsis

Teenagers Nala and Kai live in a post-New Order Jakarta where Native Indonesians (Pribumi) are legalized to perform the black magic ritual “Babi Ngepet” - the act of turning to a black pig to gain instant riches - to balance their economy against Chinese Indonesians. When Kai, a Chinese Indonesian boy, needs money for university, he then asks Nala, a Pribumi girl, to perform the ritual for him. Nala, who has long been harbouring a crush on her best friend, takes this as an opportunity for them to take their relationship to the next level. By disobeying the provincial policies set to resolve racial and social tensions, the capital reminds the two high school friends of their rightful places.





“My struggle was easier because it was to fight the colonialists, but yours will be more difficult because it will be against your own people.” - Soekarno

I grew up in a very Chinese dominated area in Jakarta and was probably one of the 2 native Indonesian (Pribumi) students in my high school. I was 16 at the time I found the statement proven true when my ex’s mother told him to stop seeing me as she “didn’t want brown grandchildren”. The next day, he pretended I didn’t exist and I lost my best friend. From there, Nala and Kai were born organically.

In Indonesia, we are taught to not address another’s tribe, religion, race, or any intersectionality from the fear that we’ll be divided and conquered. So we associate certain fruits with skin tones, and therefore race. The direct translation of the title “Sawo Matang” means ripe sapodilla but a Google search will tell you it means tan, usually referring to Pribumis. While “Kuning Langsat” (Langsat Yellow) is used to refer to the Chinese Indonesians.

Director’s Notes



Today, I still find Soekarno's statement true but wanted to portray the story through a uchronia that imagines would our fates be the same if the government provided stronger reparations after the fall of the New Order. The ending for the star crossed lovers suggests that their fates would stay not change as the Chinese-Pribumi dichotomy dates further back than the damages from the '98 riots - back to the era of Dutch colonization. But Indonesians don't hate the Dutch. Indonesians hate each other.

The challenge was answering how to conjure all of these elements into one story and what does that look like visually. Indonesian science fiction is a foreign genre to many but one I'm drawn to as it usually incorporates local and occult elements. With a culture so embedded with mysticism, it seems impossible to imagine a futurism without it. The attachment to the "Babi Ngepet" myth in our country originated from the agricultural society specifically living during the Cultuurstelsel (Forced Cultivation) Era in 1830. When a farmer is suddenly rich, suspicion leads people to believe they're involved in black magic and turns to a pig to steal the people's money. The "babi ngepet" ritual then evolved simultaneously as the entry of liberalism and capitalism brought by the VOC.

PUSAT PRIMATA SCHMIDTZER





Cast

Anne Yasmine

NALA

Anne Yasmine is an actress, singer, and film producer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. She began her acting career through theatre performances in 2015 and followed by acting for screen since 2019 in her first short film, 'Ruwatan' (dir. Ernest Lesmana; Woodshole Film Festival Best Short 2021, Palm Springs Short Fest 2020). Reviewers acclaimed her performance as 'stunningly powerful'. In 2021, Yasmine debuted in 'YUNI' (dir. Kamila Andini — Before, Now & Then) her first feature film which premiered worldwide and won Platform Prize in TIFF 2021. In addition to performing arts, Yasmine is also an active Thalassemia advocate to teens and young adults, being a Thalassemia-Minor (Carrier) herself. Both fields have led her to pursue her MA in NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study as of 2023.

Yesaya Mishael Putraadji

KAI

Yesaya Mishael Putraadji (born October 16th 2000), is a new Indonesian actor that recently dived into the world of acting. He is the second eldest of four children and the only boy. After graduating in Monash University, receiving the Bachelors of Banking & Finance, he completely turned his career path around to pursue his lifelong dream and passion to become an actor. Since restarting and going to various acting schools since the start of 2022, he has been involved in multiple projects such as Yang Masih Jomlo Can't Relate (SCTV), True Loph in Pet Shop (SCTV), Believe Short Movie (Not Available Publicly) and most recently, Surat Cinta untuk Starla: The Series (Vidio.com)



Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto

Writer/Director

Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto (b.1999) is an Indonesian writer/director currently residing in Vancouver, Canada. Her works explore genre films as a medium to depict the current condition surrounding political, social, and cultural issues. Her latest short SRIKANDI, a fantasy drama inspired by an Indonesian myth of the same name, which she wrote and directed as a part of the annual Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon, clinched the Best Film Award in 2020. It went on to premiere at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival, and Sundance Film Festival: Asia, before screening at Vancouver International Film Festival. Her previous short she directed, THE ART OF FLAWSOME, screened at the 2019 Whistler Film Festival. Most recently, Andrea wrapped post-production for a short documentary called BROWN ENOUGH available in TELUS Optik and is in development for her first feature film, among several other shorts. She is an alumna of Experimental Forest's Writing is Rewriting workshop with her narrative short, "(+1) Dreamin" and has been selected as a fellow at the 2021 VIFF Catalyst Mentorship Program. She is a grant recipient of the 2021 NFTTY Pitch Competition for her short film in development, "Sawo Matang".



Matthew Herst

Producer

Matthew Herst is a Producer, Writer, and Director from Sudbury, Ontario, currently working and living in Toronto, ON. With a background in entertainment journalism, he made the move into film in 2018, wanting to move away from commentary and towards telling his own stories, and helping others tell theirs. Since 2019, he has worked as a 1st Assistant Director on features, short films, and commercials. In 2020, he produced SRIKANDI, which won the Best Film Award at the Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon and premiered at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival. In 2021 he produced the short films Shallots & Garlic, Sawo Matang (a co-production with Indonesian production company Inteamates), and the CCA-funded Metamorphypus. He is a frequent producing partner and collaborator of Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto, with whom he co-founded Pidgin Productions. He is currently finishing up post-production on several projects and developing short and feature-length scripts for production.



Annisa Adjam

Producer

Annisa Adjam (b.1993) is an Indonesian independent film producer who earned a master's degree in Filmmaking from Kingston University London. Annisa is the CEO of a start-up film company that aims for genres exploration and international collaboration, SINEMA 5 (Sinema Lima). Also, she is the chairperson of Inteamates, a social creative community that advocates gender equality in film. Annisa is the alumna of Kyoto Filmmakers Lab Masters 2019, IF/Then Southeast Asia Doc Lab by In-Docs and Tribeca Film Institute 2020, Objectifs Short Film Incubator Singapore 2020, BIFAN NAFF Fantastic Film School South Korea 2021, and Jakarta Film Week Producers Lab 2022.

Annisa has produced several short films from VR, documentary, fiction to animation that received funds and grant awards from local government and international NGOs. Her works mainly highlight human psychology out of minority perspectives and social causes. "SAWO MATANG" is Annisa's first international co-production short film which she collaborated with Canadian company, Pidgin Production with whom she developed a creative vision together for a year prior to the production. Annisa is currently developing a limited series "GLORIA" (Torino Film Lab NEXT TV Series 2022) and "A BALLAD OF LONG HAIR" (SGIFF Southeast Asia Film Lab 2022).



Janice Angelica & Bing Bang

Cinematographers

Bing Bang and Janice have collaborated on making films since film school, alternating between producing and directing roles. They graduated from the Beijing Film Academy in 2017 and have since directed and produced award-winning fiction short films and commercials. Film festivals and online viewers throughout the world have praised their work for its unique storytelling style. They have produced fiction in countries as diverse as Colombia, Kenya, China, and Indonesia, giving them the ideal experience and cultural background to direct and produce a film and make it a piece of filmmaking with a distinctive voice. Together, they founded STONJAUS FILMS a production house in Indonesia.



Amy Fitria S

Production Designer

Amy Fitria S is an art director who has worked in the industry since 2019, after graduating SAE Institute with a Diploma in Film Making. A lot of her experience has been in feature films such as Seperti Dendam Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas (Vengeance Is Mine, All Others Pay Cash directed by Edwin) that has won the Golden Leopard at the 2021 Locarno Film Festival), Ali & Ratu Ratu Queens (2020), Cinta Pertama, Kedua, Ketiga (2021), Jagat Arwah (2022) and several other films that are yet to be released. Currently still working with Indonesia's top Production Designers that have worked in the industry for more than a decade while also seeking experience in commercials, music videos and short films. She's always eager to learn and open to expand her knowledge she has set a goal to be a Production Designer as big as her bosses one day. While film making is one of Amy's passions she is also an active ally in fighting Sexual Violence in Indonesia, after publishing her case to the public in 2020 to seek justice and since then has done campaigns against sexual assault with The Body Shop and Amnesty Indonesia, and has even been invited to talk in TV shows such as MataNajwa.



Maziyar Khatam

Editor

A graduate of the Humber Film and Television Production program, Maziyar Khatam is an Iranian-Canadian Director/Actor with a passion for telling offbeat and revealing stories. His short film Flower Boy was shown at the 2021 Vancouver International Film Festival, and his short BUMBP showed at the 2022 Sundance film festival. His most recent short, Baba, won best Canadian short at the 2022 Vancouver International Film Festival. In addition to that, Maziyar has contributed to a wide range of projects ranging from music videos to documentaries, always focusing on challenging and independent content. Maziyar is also a co-owner of Funny Bone Pictures.



CAST

Nala
Kai
Linda
Vivi
Tour Guide
Teacher
Jery

ANNE YASMINE
YESAYA MISHAEL
DWYNNA WIN
ANASTASIA AUDREY
JENS ANKER
BONITA
JEREMY RANDOLPH

written and directed by

ANDREA NIRMALA WIDJAJANTO

produced by

MATTHEW DANIEL HERST
ANNISA ADJAM

line producer
unit production manager

DEWANGKORO RINUGROHO
JEREMY RANDOLPH

production assistant

BAYU ARIEF

1st AD
2nd AD
3rd AD

MICHELLE HARTAWAN
LOUIS ALFONSO LINAS
BELA NABILA

casting manager
talent coordinator

JIEHAN PUTRI AZZAHRA
HAAFIZHAH NADIYA

cinematographer

JANICE ANGELICA

1st AC
2nd AC
bts photographer

BING BANG
RADEN MAS RIFQI
FAUZAN AL HABIBIE
CRISNA EVAN

gaffer
lighting assist
best boy

RIFANDY AKBAR
GREGORIUS ARIEL PARIANG
SAHIZINDA ALFARABI
MAMAT TAGUK

production designer
art assists

AMY FITRIA SIDDHARTA
FERDY RAMADHAN
DIPO ALAM
IHSAN RAMADHAN
DIEAS THABRANI

costume designer
costumes assist

MICHELLE CAROLINA
KHAIRUNNISA AZZAHRA

makeup artist
makeup assist

LISE SINDIA
NABIILA SALSABIIL DERISTO
LEONORA DINAFRISTA RIWU
SABILA EL AZKIA

sound designer/mixer
sound assist
composer

LIONEL JUDY
ADJIE SADEWO
GAHÀRAÍDEN SOETANSYAH

editor
colourist

MAZIYAR KHATAM
SO YOUNG PARK

