

HAF 22 Tale of the Land



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Indonesia

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Dayak | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

Loeloe HENDRA

PRODUCER:

Siska RAHARJA

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales Agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 613,054

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 97,892

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A girl is suffering a peculiar syndrome, where she faints every time she steps on land.

SYNOPSIS

Kalimantan, Indonesia. A conflict over indigenous lands a decade ago traumatized a Dayak girl named May. At that time, an old man named Tuha saved her from slaughter. He has brought her to live in exile on the waters. Until now, May has lived in a floating house and has never returned to the land, not even to her homeland – which now becomes a mining and palm oil plantation. Every time she sets her foot on the ground, May falls unconscious. She believes she has been cursed.

One day, May meets Lawa, a teenage boy who reignites her desire to return to the land. With Lawa's help, May makes several attempts to return to land, despite Tuha's warnings of the dark side of the land. The situation becomes more complicated when Tuha dies, and May has to choose her own destiny.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I spent my childhood in Kalimantan that filled with beautiful folktales and myths. When I returned there, those childhood memories seemed to have disappeared: the land was exploited for palm oil plantations and mining, which has had a great impact in Kalimantan.

A story of a Dayak girl who cannot set her foot on the ground is a folktale which I made up to respond to current events. This tale is an allegory of the Dayak tribe, Kalimantan's indigenous people who cannot live freely in their own land. An allegory that triggers the essential question: what if humans are unable to live on land?

This film is my representation of those who have been marginalised. The entire film will be shot in a lake. The land becomes something that is foreign and forbidden. The visual materials and the sounds in this film will present alienated and depressed psychological conditions, yet at the same time, they will be fused with a strong curiosity about the land.

DIRECTOR

Loeloe HENDRA

Loeloe was born in 1987. He graduated from the Television Department of the Indonesia Institute of the Art in Yogyakarta. He has directed several short films including *Onomastika* (2014) which won Best Short Film at Indonesian Film Festival and was screened at Berlin Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival and Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. He participated in Southeast Asia Film Lab, Singapore, in 2014 and directed his latest short film, *Tigu* (2017).

PRODUCER

Siska RAHARJA

Siska Raharja, born 1986, graduated from the Television Department of the Indonesia Institute of the Art, Yogyakarta, and pursued her Master of Art and Media Studies in Gadjah Mada University. Founding Elora Production, she produced nearly 100 profile documentaries on Indonesian visual artists for IndoArtNow. She produced three short films: *Lost Wonders* (dir. Loeloe Hendra, 2015) which competed for the Silver Screen Awards at Singapore International Film Festival; *Flowers in the Wall* (dir. Eden Junjung, 2016) which competed at the Busan International Short Film Festival 2017; and *Tigu* (dir. Loeloe Hendra, 2017). *Tale of the Land* is her first feature project, which was selected in the Torino Film Lab 2017.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Elora Production

Elora Production produces films and documentaries, including more than 100 documentaries about Indonesian contemporary artists. Elora Productions has also produced three short films: *Lost Wonders* (dir. Loeloe Hendra, 2015) which competed for the Silver Screen Awards at the Singapore International Film Festival 2016; *Flowers in the Wall* (dir. Eden Junjung, 2016), an official selection at the Busan International Short Film Festival 2017; and *Tigu* (dir. Loeloe Hendra, 2017). We put our faith in and fully support alternative films as an important part of creating cultural and political openness not only in Indonesia but also everywhere around the globe.