

## Ifa ISFANSYAH



Genre: **Drama**  
Format: **35mm**  
Estimated Running Time: **120 min.**

Budget:  
**US\$1,280,000**  
**(HK\$9,900,000)**

Funds Secured:  
**US\$450,000**  
**(HK\$3,485,000)**

Producers:  
**Shanty HARMAYN**

Writing Credits:  
**Ahmad TOHARI**  
**(The Book: Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk)**  
**Salman ARISTO**

Production Company:  
**Salto Films**

Partner Attached:  
**Indika Entertainment**  
**Les Petites Lumieres**

HAF Goals:  
**Funds, Co-producers**

Contact:  
**Salto Films**  
**(Shanty HARMAYN)**

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesian filmmaker Ifa Isfanyah tells his stories in strong and bold visuals. Combined with one of Indonesia's most powerful novels, the result is set to be a dramatic tale of love amidst political turmoil and destitution. The love between the main protagonists is under threat from a clash of tradition and modernism that plays itself out in the small rural village of Paruk, where prostitution by a *Ronggeng* dancer is culturally accepted and even treasured, but despised by her young lover. ISFANSYAH will push the limits of these powerful themes, and explore with his unique sensitivity the complexity of the characters, place, and Indonesia's tumultuous times.

## SYNOPSIS

This is a dramatic love story set against the darkest period of Indonesian history, in the mid 1960's. RASUS, a young military officer is traveling from village to village, looking for his lost love, SRINTIL. The story cuts back to the two as they grow up and gradually falling for each other in their tiny, impoverished childhood village of Paruk.

But something stands in the way of their love. Because of SRINTIL's magical dancing ability, the village elders believed her to be the next *Ronggeng*, the village dancer with powers bestowed on her by the supernatural *indang*.

When SRINTIL prepares for her duties, she discovers that there is more to being a *ronggeng* than representing her village in dance competitions. She is expected to share the bed with wealthy men, and hand over the money she makes to the village elders. The prospect of SRINTIL becoming a *ronggeng* angers RASUS, who sees his love being taken from him and in desperation he leaves the village to join the army. On his last night in the village, though, she gives herself to him.

A communist politician takes advantage of politically naïve SRINTIL and uses her as entertainment in his campaigns. When the military moves to crush the communist movement, Srintil gets sucked into the political turmoil of her days. It is now up to RASUS, who has become an army officer, to find his love and save her life.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was drawn to this story because of the intricate interaction of characters and place. I believe that the story of Srintil, Rasus and Paruk Hamlet are a reflection of the broader societal changes affecting Indonesia in the mid-1960s. Paruk and its inhabitants represent the traditional Javanese values and moral fabric, whereas both the communist movement as well as the military represent modernism, but of a conflicting nature, and one that ultimately victimizes the ordinary people of Paruk. The love story of Srintil and Rasus illustrate the conflict between traditional values and modernism, the former reinforced by ignorance and poverty in rural Java at that time. To me, the challenge is to direct both people and place to reveal the rich layers of the

storyline, something that has played an important role in all of the films I made thus far.

## DIRECTOR

Ifa ISFANSYAH (Jogjakarta, Indonesia, 1979) was selected to participate in the Asian Film Academy at Pusan International Film Festival 2006 and also won a scholarship to the Im Kwon Taek College of Film & Performing Arts, South Korea. His 2007 short film, *Half Teaspoon* won an award for The Best Asian Short Film at the Hongkong Independent Film-Video Awards 2008 and was in competition at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2008. He is currently completing his first feature, *Garuda Di Dadaku* for theatrical release in June 2009 and working on his second feature, *One Day When Rain Falls* which receives the Hubert Bals Fund.

## PRODUCER

Shanty HARMAYN created Salto Films in 1998 and has produced and co-produced 5 feature films, 3 documentary series and 6 short films, which have received awards and have been screened in numerous International film festivals. HARMAYN also co-founded the Jakarta International Film Festival in 1999 and a distribution company, Tanimbar Pictures with Natacha DEVILLERS.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Salto Films is a Jakarta based film production company that produces features, documentaries and shorts. Salto's credit includes award-winning international co-productions, *The Photograph* (2007) and *Whispering Sands* (2001) directed by Indonesia's leading female director Nan Achnas. *The Photograph* won the Special Jury Prize at the 2008 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Salto Films is currently developing a slate of films and completing the production of GARUDA DI DADAKU, first feature by Ifa Isfanyah.