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Filem nelayan kesunyian 'Duka Lara' bawa pengarah muda ke Kosovo

BILA KESUNYIAN MELANDA: Duka Lara mengisahkan tentang nelayan *(kanan)* yang tidak dapat meninggalkan kelong untuk pulang ke kampung halamannya apabila kesunyian mewujudkan bayangan seorang wanita yang berbual dengannya. – Foto-foto ihsan NURYN ADRYANA

Karya siswa Lasalle disambut baik dalam pesta antarabangsa '21st DokuFest'

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DUA minggu sebelum penggambaran filem ringkas *Duka Lara* dijalankan, penerbit projek itu, Cik Nuryn Adryana Abdul Halim, berdepan dengan cabaran pengarah dan penulis naskhah filem berkenaan mengundurkan diri.

Cik Nuryn, 24 tahun, terpaksa menggantikan mereka bahkan menjadi pengarah sebuah filem ringkas buat kali pertama.

Tanpa diduga, *Duka Lara* yang mengisahkan tentang nelayan yang menetap di kelong ikan dan berdepan dengan kesunyian sehingga timbul satu kejadian misteri, terpilih untuk pesta dokumentari ringkas di Kosovo, *21st DokuFest* di bawah program Peraduan Filem Ringkas Antarabangsa, baru-baru ini.

Beliau bahkan dapat terbang ke Kosovo untuk membina rangkaian kenalan dengan sutradara daripada merata dunia sambil bercuti di negara itu.

Pengalaman menghasilkan *Duka Lara* adalah antara yang dikongsi Cik Nuryn bersama *Berita Minggu* di ambang majlis tamat pengajian daripada kursus Sarjana Muda Seni (Kepujian) dalam Perfileman di Maktab Seni Lasalle pada 14 Oktober ini di Singapore Expo.

"*Duka Lara* adalah kisah seorang nelayan yang sepatutnya kembali ke kampung halamannya. Sayangnya, dia tidak dapat berbuat demikian atas sebab tertentu.

"Apabila terbiar kesunyian di kelong itu, dia seakan bermimpikan seorang wanita di bawah aliran bawah sedarnya. Perbualannya dengan wanita itu menggambarkan bagaimana rasa sunyi itu boleh menimbulkan sesuatu yang payah difahami atau dibayangkan.

"Ia cukup misteri sebab lelaki itu sebenarnya berbual dengan dirinya sendiri bagi meluahkan apa yang sebenarnya dia mahukan.

"Secara peribadi, filem ini meninggalkan kesan untuk saya, lebih-lebih lagi apabila ia dipilih untuk ditayangkan di Kosovo.

"Dahlah ini merupakan filem ringkas pertama yang saya arahkan di kala saya kehilangan tenaga kerja lain yang mengundurkan diri pada saat-saat akhir...justeru, apabila ia mengembara jauh dan saya sendiri dapat menghadiri *21st DokuFest*, ia persis mimpi di siang hari buat saya," jelas Cik Nuryn yang menyertai bidang perfileman kerana tertarik pada aspek kandungan televisyen dan penulisan naskhah televisyen sejak kecil.

Beliau berterima kasih kepada seorang pensyarahnya yang mengirimkan filem *Duka Lara* bagi pesta filem berkenaan walaupun sudah tamat tempoh pengiriman penyertaan ketika itu.

"Pihak penganjur pesta ini sukakan karya tersebut dan bersetuju menayangkannya. Saya juga diundang ke Kosovo pada pertengahan Ogos lalu untuk bertemu dan membina rangkaian kenalan dengan ramai perwakilan dan karyawan filem dari pelbagai negara.

"Saya juga tertarik dengan cara pesta ini diadakan di sebuah kota kecil di mana pesta ini berupaya dipasarkan sebagai satu kegiatan wajib yang popular dan dinanti-nantikan ramai termasuk pencinta filem dari luar negara.

"Kosovo benar-benar mementingkan sejarah dan budaya sebagaimana yang ditekankan dalam pesta dokumentari ringkas yang dianjurkan ini," jelasnya.

Penggambaran *Duka Lara* dibuat di kelong ikan komersial sekitar Changi memandangkan sewaktu pandemik, penutupan sempadan membuatkan penggambaran tidak dapat dikendalikan di Malaysia.

Menurut Cik Nuryn, pasukannya bertuah bertemu dengan pemilik kelong yang berdikari menyiapkan segalanya termasuk pembinaan kelong itu dan tanaman di tengah lautan.

"Kami berkhemah di kelong berkenaan selama seminggu. Keringat yang dicurahkan sepanjang penggambaran *Duka Lara* memang berbaloi. Lebih menyentuh jiwa saya adalah keupayaan filem ini dibawa ke Kosovo di samping petanda saya punyai sesuatu atau bakat mengarah untuk disumbangkan pada khazanah filem Singapura," ujarnya.

Cik Nuryn yang bertugas di sebuah syarikat penerbitan dan bakal mengarah filem ringkas tentang gangguan seksual di pejabat serta hubungan ibu dan anak untuk wadah perkongsian video Viddsee juga menulis naskhah filem ringkas *Noda* sewaktu di Lasalle.

Filem itu, jelasnya, mengisahkan tentang wanita yang pada hari pernikahannya, berusaha mencari ayah kandungnya untuk dijadikan wali.

"Dalam menulis naskhah filem ini, saya memikirkan tentang pengalaman yang diharungi wanita Melayu di ambang pernikahannya... mengapa wali itu penting dan betapa bermaknanya peranan seorang ayah dalam menyerahkan amanah menjaga anaknya itu kepada seorang lelaki yang dijadikan suami si anak.

"Maklumlah, saya berada dalam keluarga lima beradik perempuan," katanya.

Ditanya apakah nasihatnya buat anak muda yang ingin menjadi karyawan filem, Cik Nuryn berkata:

"Tontonlah lebih banyak filem, baik komersial, filem asing atau filem berbaur kesenian. Ada yang menyatakan filem seni tidak menggambarkan kebenaran.

"Bagi saya, filem yang berkesan adalah yang ikhlas datang dari hati seorang karyawan atau pelajar filem. Jika anda penulis naskhah filem itu, tulis apa yang anda tahu tentang sesuatu watak agar penonton dapat menyelaminya. Dengan pengalaman, apa yang anda hasilkan pasti dapat dikaitkan dengan kehidupan sesiapa yang menonton," tambahnya.

PENGARAH 'BIDAN TERJUN': Cik Nuryn Adryana Abdul Halim menjadi pengarah filem ringkas Duka Lara yang berjaya ditayangkan di pesta filem 21st DokuFest di Kosovo di saat-saat akhir setelah pengarah asalnya dan penulis naskhah filem ini mengundurkan diri dua minggu sebelum penggambaran dibuat.

Pengalaman emas bikin filem untuk pesta dunia

"Apa yang saya senangi tentang penyertaan ke pesta filem antarabangsa adalah peluang menghadiri bengkel yang dapat membantu sutradara muda belajar daripada karyawan filem berpengalaman.

Menyertai pesta filem ini merupakan dorongan untuk sutradara filem muda menghasilkan filem yang dinikmati ramai. Antara kenangan manis saya menjadi pengarah filem muda yang dapat bawa karyanya ke Hollywood adalah pertemuan dengan individu yang meminjamkan suaranya untuk watak kartun Goofy dan Pluto.

Pesanan saya buat pelajar filem yang ingin kirimkan penyertaan kerja seni mereka bagi sesebuah festival adalah bikin filem tentang topik yang rapat di hati anda. Setiap orang miliki pengalaman berbeza dan unik. Kalau buat filem tentang topik yang anda kurang pasti, penting untuk buat kajian dan dapatkan nasihat pakar yang mahir tentang topik itu agar filem anda tepat dari segi logik dan maklumatnya serta tidak menyinggung mana-mana pihak.

Gunakan filem untuk berkongsi kisah dari masyarakat sendiri – apa yang boleh dipelajari oleh penonton dan karyawan di pesta filem antarabangsa ini tentang budaya kita.

Jangan takut mencuba sesuatu yang baru serta fokus dalam berkongsi cerita yang dapat dinikmati ramai."

– Pensyarah adjung kursus perfileman di Politeknik Temasek, Encik Zulkifli Salleh, 34 tahun, yang pernah meraih Anugerah Emas Remi (Kategori Filem Ringkas Bebas Keluarga dan Kanak-Kanak) dalam Pesta Filem Antarabangsa Worldfest-Houston, Amerika Syarikat, bagi arahan filem ringkas Anchovies.

Duka Lara, a film about a lonely fisherman, brings a young director to Kosovo

Two weeks before filming of the short film *Duka Lara* began, the producer of the project, Nuryn Adryana Abdul Halim, faced the withdrawal of both the director and scriptwriter of the film.

So Nuryn, 24 years old, had to fill both these roles and even assume the director's mantle for the short film for the first time.

Unexpectedly, *Duka Lara*, which tells the story of a fisherman who faces loneliness while living on a fish farm until a mystery occurs, was recently selected for a short documentary festival in Kosovo, the 21st DokuFest under the International Short Film Contest programme.
Ms Nuryn also enjoyed the opportunity to fly to Kosovo to build a network of contacts with directors from all over the world while vacationing in the country.

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The experience of producing *Duka Lara* was among the experiences shared by Ms Nuryn with Berita Minggu on the eve of her graduation ceremony from the BA(Hons) Film programme at LASALLE College of the Arts on 14 October at the Singapore Expo.

"*Duka Lara* is the story of a fisherman who should have returned to his home village. Unfortunately, he was unable to do so for some reason."

"When he was abandoned in the loneliness of the farm, he seemed to dream of a woman while in a state of semi-consciousness. His conversations with the woman depict how loneliness can create something that is difficult to understand or imagine."

"It's quite a mystery because the man is actually having a conversation with himself to express what he really wants."

"Personally, this film left an impression on me, especially when it was chosen to be screened in Kosovo."

"When the film travelled far and I myself was able to attend the 21st DokuFest, it was such a dream comes true for me," explained Nuryn, who joined the film industry because she has been interested in aspects of television content and writing television scripts since she was young.

She is very grateful to one of her lecturers, who sent the film *Duka Lara* for the film festival, even though the deadline for submitting entries had expired by that time.

"The organisers of this festival liked the work and agreed to show it. I also got invited to Kosovo in mid-August to meet and build a network of contacts with many film representatives and professionals from various countries."

"I was also attracted to the way this festival was held in a small town, where it was marketed as a compulsory event, popular and awaited by many, including film lovers from abroad."

"Kosovo really does care about history and culture, as emphasised in this short documentary festival," she explains.

The filming of *Duka Lara* was done on commercial fish farms around Changi since during the pandemic, border closures made filming impossible in Malaysia.

According to Nuryn, her team was lucky enough to meet the owner of the farm, who completed everything, including the construction of the farm and the plants in the middle of the ocean, all with his own effort.

"We camped at the farm for a week. The sweat poured into the filming of *Duka Lara* was worth every drop. Even more touching for me is the fact that the film was brought to Kosovo. Additionally, it is a sign that I do have something or perhaps even a directing talent to contribute to Singapore's film industry," she says.

Nuryn, who currently works at a publishing company and is about to direct a short film about sexual harassment in the office environment and another on mother-child relationships for the video sharing platform Viddsee, also wrote the script for the short film *Noda* while at LASALLE.

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That film, she explains, tells the story of a woman who, on her wedding day, tries to find her biological father so that he would be able to marry her off.

"In writing the script for this film, I contemplated the experiences that Malay women go through on the eve of their wedding — why guardians are important and how meaningful the role of a father is at that moment when he is entrusting the care of his child to a man who will become his daughter's husband."

"You know, I come from a family of five sisters," she quips.

When asked what her advice is for young people who want to become film professionals, Nuryn says: "Watch more films, be it commercial films, foreign films or art films. Some say art films don't portray the truth."

"For me, an effective film is one that sincerely comes from the heart of an artist or film student. If you are the screenwriter of the movie, write what you know about a character so that the audience can immerse themselves in it. With experience, what you produce can definitely relate to the life of whoever is watching," she adds.

"What I like about participating in international film festivals is the opportunity to attend workshops that can help young directors learn from experienced film professionals.

Participating in this film festival can motivate young film directors to produce films that are enjoyed by large audiences. Among my fondest memories of being a young film director who had the opportunity to bring her work to Hollywood was meeting the individual who lends his voice to the cartoon characters Goofy and Pluto."

"My advice to film students who want to submit their work for a festival is to make a film about a topic close to your heart. Everyone has a different and unique experience. If you make a film about a topic that you are not sure about, it is important to do research and get expert advice on that topic so that your film is accurate in terms of logic and information and does not offend anyone."

"Use films to share stories from the community itself – something that audiences and professionals at this international film festival can learn about our culture. Don't be afraid to try something new and focus on sharing stories that can be enjoyed by many people."