

Publication Material

Title

Dr. Samsi

Director

Ratna Asmara

Year

1952

Running Time

87 Minutes

Synopsis

Sukaesih decided to leave her son in a hospital where her ex lover - Dr. Samsi works. She hopes her son could get a decent education. With Leo's trickery, Samsi finally agreed to take Sukaesih's son as Sugiati, his son with Sundari who had just died. Sugiati grows up, becomes a lawyer, without knowing the truth about his true mother and the child exchange tragedy in the past. Returning to Indonesia, Sugiati handled the case of Sukaesih who was accused of killing Leo, her own husband. Will Sugiati be able to exonerate Sukaesih from charges? Did Samsi finally realize that Sugiati was his own biological son?

About Ratna Asmara

Ratna Asmara also known as Suratna (1913 - 1968) is an actor, director, and producer who was active in Dutch East Indies/ Indonesia film industry from 1940 to 1954. She is believed to be the first female credited as a film director in Indonesian cinema. She began her career as an actor in Dardanella performance art. Then, she got a chance to start her debut as a director in Sedap Malam (1951) - the first film produced by PERSARI. Consecutively after that, she has directed several films, such as Musim Bunga di Selabintana (1952), Dr. Samsi (1952), Nelajan (1953-1954), and Dewi dan Pemilihan Umum (1954). She also established Asmara Film and Ratna Film company.

About Kelas Liarsip

KELAS LIARSIP - a collective concentrate on film archive, restoration and history of women in Indonesian cinema. This class was established in March 2021 in the form of a wild virtual study group. This collective is run by six women and non-binary with different backgrounds but bonded with the same anxiety and concern. We are consist of:

- Efi Sri Handayani - a film archivist and illustrator
- Julita Pratiwi - a film scholar/researcher
- Lisabona Rahman - a film archivist
- Umi Lestari - a film scholar/historian/curator
- Imelda - a programmer/ photographer
- Siti Annisa - film archive manager

In 2022, Kelas Liarsip conducted the first phase of research of the first Indonesian female director - Ratna Asmara. We decided to repair and digitize her third film - Dr. Samsi (1952). We have borrowed the long tradition of autonomous classrooms as a strategy of organizing progressive movements in different Indonesian islands since the early 20th century.

Still Photos



Sukaesih in the Hospital's Scene (Source: Sinematek Indonesia)



Sukaesih with her son (Source: Sinematek Indonesia)



Ratna Asmara (Source: ANRI)



Kelas Liarsip (Source: Kelas Liarsip/Ersya Ruswandono)