

FAIRTRADE FILMS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011



LEADING AUSSIE PRODUCERS VISIT EAST TIMOR WORKSHOPS

FairTrade Films has been working closely with Dili Film Works, East Timor, to run two historic film & television workshops: a feature film workshop and a documentary workshop.

These workshops are the seed from which an East Timorese film culture and industry will be born. For the first time Timorese will be able to tell their own stories through film and present them to communities throughout the country and internationally.

The workshops started in November 2010 and will finish in June 2011. Ten students are enrolled and will produce five short dramas and documentaries during the course.

The workshops were supported by two prestigious funds: the Hubert Bals Fund (The International Film Festival Rotterdam) and the Jan Vrijman Fund (The International Documentary Festival Amsterdam). The funds were highly competitive with only fifty or so projects being selected from over six hundred applications from around the world. So it is a great achievement for East Timor to secure two workshops.

Dili Film Works was excited by the visit of two of Australia's leading producers. John Maynard (Balibo, Romulus My Father) and David Elfick (Rabbit Proof Fence, Newsfront) travelled to Dili to lecture the students.

David was present at the rebirth of the Australian film industry in the 1970's and John at the birth of the New Zealand film industry. The Dili Film Works students were honoured that David and John came to witness the birth of Timor Leste's film industry.

President Jose Ramos Horta also visited Dili Film Works and spoke to the students about his experiences as the subject of a documentary (The Diplomat) and a feature film (Balibo).

Other Australian guest lecturers have included Rocco Fasano, cinematographer, and, Nick Calpakdjian, editor. Course directors are Luigi Acquisto and Stella Zammataro of FairTrade Films.

DILI FILM WORKS

Dili Film Works (DFW) is Timor Leste's first producer of film & television programs for a local and international market. Its director, Jose Da Costa, has worked on the production of several major international films, including Answered By Fire, an Australian/Canadian mini-series set in Timor Leste, and Balibo, the first foreign feature film to be shot in Timor Leste. He is also Timor's leading actor, having played major roles in both Balibo and Answered By Fire.

Luigi Acquisto & Stella Zammataro from FairTrade Films Australia are advisors for Dili Film Works. They have lived in Timor Leste for several years and first came to Timor in 1999. FairTrade Films has produced over thirty films for the international market, including the award winning East Timor - Birth of a Nation, and, Rosa's Journey.

John Maynard, the producer of Balibo, is also a mentor and advisor for Dili Film Works.

Dili Film Works is currently working together with young East Timorese producers, writers and actors to co-produce East Timor's first feature film, A Guerra da Beatriz, a powerful love story spanning the years 1975 – 2002.

SBS Television has acquired the film for broadcast in Australia. The World Movie Channel has also bought the film.

The official launch of
Dili Film Works will
take place at the
Presidential Palace in
March 2011



President Jose Ramos Horta
with Dili Film Works

A Guerra Da Beatriz

Timor Leste's First Feature Film

FairTrade Films is working together with Dili Film Works and a group of young East Timorese producers, writers and actors on East Timor's first locally produced feature film, *A Guerra da Beatriz*, a powerful love story spanning the years 1975 – 2002.

John Maynard, the producer of *Balibo*, has joined Dili Film Works to co-produce this historic film. SBS Television has acquired the film for broadcast in Australia.

The story starts in September 1975 with the wedding of Beatriz and Tomas in a small mountain village in the heart of Timor. Several months later, following the Indonesian invasion of Timor, Beatriz and Tomas, along with hundreds of others from the village, flee to the mountains. They are captured in 1979 and resettled in the village of Kraras.

In 1983 Beatriz gives birth to a son. The child's life is threatened when

Indonesian soldiers massacre every male in the village, over two hundred children and men, in retribution for an attack by the Timorese resistance. Tomas, Beatriz's husband, is arrested and disappears. Beatriz is unable to find Tomas's body and desperately holds onto the hope that he has somehow escaped and will return.

Tomas returns sixteen years later, in 1999, following East Timor's independence. He had fled to the mountains and fought with the resistance. It is a passionate and moving reunion. Beatriz discovers a different man to the boy who left her years earlier. Tomas is now wiser, gregarious and loving. He has learnt much from life and war. But as time passes, Beatriz makes a chilling discovery. She becomes convinced that Tomas is an impostor, that she has mistaken a stranger for her husband. Who is this man? Why has he taken on a new identity? Tomas's sisters and family accuse Beatriz of treachery, of



John Maynard

being mad. But she is determined to discover the truth.

A Guerra da Beatriz is the haunting, passionate story of one woman's conviction to remain true to the man she loves and the country for which she fought.

A True Story

A Guerra Da Beatriz has a number of story lines that are based on real people and real events. The late Commander Ular, Virgilio Dos Anjos, spoke to the writers before his death. He is one of the central characters in the story, as is his father, Celestino Dos Anjos.

Celestino was decorated by the Australian Government for his work with the Australian armed forces in World War 2. He was murdered by the Indonesians in the aftermath of the Kraras

massacre, when many of the males; babies, boys, and men, from the village of Kraras, were killed. Kraras became known as the Village of Widows.

The story of the Dos Anjos family and Kraras is central to A Guerra Da Beatriz and is interwoven with the fictional love story between Tomas and Beatriz.

Finances

SBS Television and The World Movie Channel have acquired the broadcast rights for the film in Australia.

The producers need to raise more funds before starting production in July. If you'd like to support the film please check out the FairTrade Films website or visit the Indie Go Go website and search for Beatriz.

www.fairtradefilms.com.au



The Young Beatriz

Support East Timor's first feature film. After 300 years of colonisation and occupation we are free to tell our story.

Help us make history!

TRAFFICKED - THE RECKONING

Trafficked - The Reckoning is a one-hour documentary financed through SBS Television Australia, Screen Australia, and Film Victoria. The documentary is the inspiring story of a former police officer, Chris Payne, and his quest to find the man who enslaved a thirteen-year-old Thai girl in a Sydney brothel.

Ning was thirteen when she was trafficked to Australia from Thailand and sold to a brothel. In 2007 she became the first slave in history to win victim of crime compensation. Jetsadaphorn Chaladon, AKA Ning, was awarded \$50,000 by the Attorney General's Department of NSW for the multiple child rapes committed against her in 1995. But the Australian man who imprisoned Ning for ten days and who forced her to have sex with over one hundred men was never arrested.

Shooting is nearing completion. The investigation has taken longer than planned due to the difficulty in finding the brothel owner. He has now been identified and filmed. The final step is for Ning (pictured) to identify him. Legal proceedings will then be initiated. The full account will appear in the next newsletter. Senior Counsel, Fiona McLeod, has agreed to represent Ning pro-bono.

Trafficked – The Reckoning is a film for our times, but it is also a tough and suspenseful investigative documentary that takes us into the brutal underworld of the slave trade in Australia and Thailand.

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