

FAIRTRADE FILMS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012



A *Guerra da Beatriz (Beatriz's War)* has completed filming. The film, a co-production between FairTrade Films and Dili Film Works, is a bold and historic project. It's aim is to tell the story of East Timor but also to kick start a vibrant film industry by drawing attention to the small country's mighty story, people, and landscapes. Co-director Bety Reis is currently completing the fine cut of the film and working on a music score with several talented musicians. Music from the village of Kraras will be featured. Kraras, known as the 'village of widows' is central to the story of Beatriz's War. It is where the a lead character, Tomas, disappears following the 1983 massacre of boys and men by Indonesian troops. Actual people from the period, who still live in the village, appear in the film.

A crew of over forty Timorese worked in Kraras for two weeks recently to complete the second stage of filming. They were joined by some very talented crew from Australia. Valeriu Campan returned as cinematographer, Rocco Fasano as camera operator, and Glen Forster as sound recordist. Nick Calpkdjian, the editor of the film, is also a co-producer. They have worked in Timor on many productions and are committed to nurturing a fledgling film industry and mentoring young Timorese in a range of technical and creative areas. Co-producer Lurdes Pires returned from Darwin for the shoot and was instrumental in securing participation from the Timorese army, F-FDTL, and many other government and private agencies. David Elfick, the producer of Rabbit Proof Fence joined the shoot for the last week and was an invaluable mentor to co-director, Bety Reis, and the rest of the crew.

Visit the facebook page for *A Guerra Da Beatriz*

www.facebook.com/A.Guerra.Da.Beatriz

Timor Leste's first feature film *A Guerra da Beatriz* completes filming

A Guerra da Beatriz

The film was shot over two blocks. The first late in 2011 and the second in May, 2012. This was necessary to allow time to raise the finance to complete production. It also provided an excellent opportunity for the Timorese crew to plan for two distinct shoots, in a sense for two films, an invaluable opportunity to learn about filmmaking.

The film is now in a rough cut stage. A special audience test screening will be held in Dili in October. The film will then be locked off and work will start on the soundtrack. Final post production will take place in Australia as East Timor does not have the facilities to complete a sound mix or a grade of the film.

Dili Film Works is currently raising finance to complete the film. Please have a look at our website to see how you can help. **www.aguerradabeatriz.com.au**

There have been a number of stories in the Australian press about the film. To read about the making of the film check out the AGE newspaper link:

www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/of-love-and-war-20111231-1pgia.html

The Sydney Morning Herald visited Dili Film Works recently:

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/just-one-story-from-the-bloodsoaked-birth-of-free-timor-20120924-26go9.html>



Kraras Location! Location!

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Support East Timor's first feature film. After 500 years of colonisation and occupation we are free to tell our story.

Help us make history!

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A GUERRA DA BEATRIZ - ORIGINS

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The film is an adaptation of real events that happened in 16th Century France. A young French woman, Bertrande de Rols, is abandoned by her husband, Martin Guerre. He returns many years later to claim his inheritance and his wife. But is it the real Martin Guerre? Two previous film adaptations have been made of this story: *The Return of Martin Guerre* and *Sommersby*.

A Guerra Da Beatriz transposes the story to Portuguese East Timor. Beatriz's husband Tomas disappears during the 1983 Kraras massacre in the district of Viqueque. He 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. 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 madness. But she is determined to discover the truth.

Writers Irim Tolentino and Luigi Acquisto worked for two years on the script. Luigi and Irim met during the filming of the feature film *Balibo*, which Acquisto and Stella Zammataro production co-ordinated in Timor. Irim worked casting the extras and local featured roles. Her small part in the film was cut but Acquisto saw in Irim a world class talent: 'She is Timor's Piaf, a small woman with incredible strength, determination, courage, and charisma. She has great natural talent. Irim was the inspiration for *A Guerra da Beatriz*.'

Once the script was completed Acquisto and co-producer Stella Zammataro started casting the film and finding local crew. In late 2009 Jose da Costa, of *Answered by Fire* and *Balibo* fame, came on board as a lead actor and producer. He formed Dili Film Works with Bety Reis and the NGO became a production partner in the film along with FairTrade Films. Irim Tolentino was originally going to direct the film with Luigi Acquisto. However, in 2011 she moved to work in Maliana and Bety Reis stepped in as co-director. Bety made two short films: *The Cockfight* and the hugely successful comedy, *Vagabond*, seen by over 45,000 Timorese through the Cinema Lorosae tour of the country. Bety and Luigi have worked closely together on the casting and vision of the film. *A Guerra da Beatriz* is the first Timorese film to have key creative roles: writer, director, producer, filled by Timorese. Furthermore the film is entirely in Tetun and features an all Timorese cast.

SBS Television in Australia and the World Movie Channel have acquired the film. A tour of Timor Leste is planned once the film is complete. Dili Film Works is currently approaching distributors in Australia and internationally. The producers would like to thank the individuals, organizations, and government bodies in Timor Leste who have so generously supported this film. You are all listed on the film's website and final credits.



NEWS UPDATES

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Indonesian Troops fleeing Falintil after an attack in 1983

Breaking News

New Films FairTrade Films is developing two projects that focus on the company's concern with social justice, the issue of trafficking, and East Timor.

The First Commandos is a two part drama series that tells the remarkable story of one of the greatest episodes of the Second World War, Australia's campaign in Portuguese Timor. It is the story of three remarkable men from the 2/2 Independent Company, Australia's first commando guerrilla unit. Their time in Portuguese Timor changes each of their lives in a profound way and creates a unique bond with the people of Timor that endures for the rest of the men's lives. The series is

based on an original treatment by Luigi Acquisto of FairTrade Films and is being produced by David Elfick/Palm Beach Pictures in association with FairTrade Films. Phillip Noyce is the executive producer.

David Elfick has produced many notable films during his long career including Newsfront and Rabbit Proof Fence, both with Phillip Noyce as director. Noyce is now based in the US and has directed many major films. David and writer Wain Fimeri visited Timor in early June to further research the series.

Trafficking Film - a one-hour documentary that continues FairTrade Films' focus on the issue of sex slavery. Detailed information about this film is

embargoed as there are significant risks for the participants involved from organised crime syndicates. The film will be directed by Luigi Acquisto and produced by Stella Zammataro.

