

## Roll Camera Timor-Leste



# Luigi Acquisto

Film Producer - FairTrade Films

## A Guerra da Beatriz

Dili Film Works will start production on *A Guerra Da Beatriz*, Timor Leste's first feature film in August this year. President Jose Ramos Horta visited Dili Film Works and offered his encouragement and support to the new company and to the film. The film is an adaptation of real events that happened in 16<sup>th</sup> 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. *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. Dili Film Works is working together with FairTrade Films and a group of young East Timorese producers, writers and actors on this historic production. FairTrade Films is an Australian company committed to nurturing a film culture in Timor Leste. Producer Stella Zammataro said 'the birth of a new film industry is as rare as the birth of a nation. We're immensely privi-

leged to be involved with *A Guerra Da Beatriz*.' FairTrade Films has secured two foreign sales for the film. SBS Television in Australia has acquired the Free To Air Rights and The World Movie Channel the Pay TV Rights. These sales will ensure that Timor Leste's first film will be seen by over a million people during its license period. The acclaimed Australian producer of *Balibo*, John Maynard, has joined Dili Film Works to co-produce the film. He will work closely with Jose Da Costa, the director of Dili Film Works, to raise further finance and to find a theatrical distributor for the film. John, and another veteran producer, David Elfick (*Rabbit Proof Fence*) recently ran a film master class for the Dili Film Works' staff. The film has been written by local writer and actor Irim Tolentino. Bety Reis, another talented writer, theatre director, and actor, will co-direct the film.

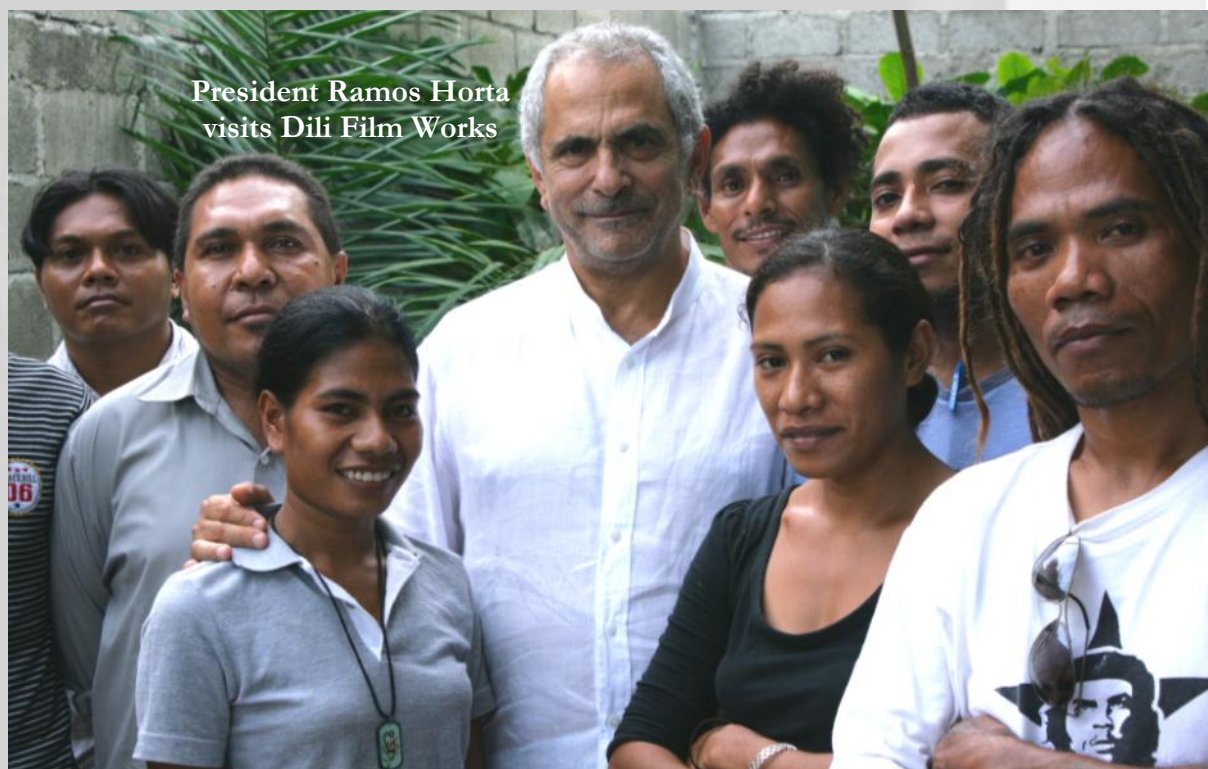
Bety said 'In the years that followed independence Timor Leste has rebuilt itself from ground zero. We have achieved much and

there has been much frustration as well. But we have fought for many rights: the rights of women, the rights of children, and the right to rule ourselves. But there is also another right that we had been denied, the right to tell our story. This film, *A Guerra Da Beatriz*, will be the first time in our long history that we have been able to make a film that is written, directed, and produced by Timorese.

We have Australian partners but this is our film. It will be our faces on the screen for the first time, our language on the screen, our story'. The producers need to raise more funds before starting production in August. If you'd like to support the film please check out the FairTrade Films website [www.fairtradefilms.com.au](http://www.fairtradefilms.com.au)

A funding campaign has also been set up on the Indie Gogo website. Visit the site and search for *Beatriz*. The public can join the *Beatriz* Fan Club for \$60 and receive a copy of the film when it is completed.

[www.indiegogo.com/A-Guerra-Da-Beatriz](http://www.indiegogo.com/A-Guerra-Da-Beatriz)



President Ramos Horta visits Dili Film Works