

## **SYNOPSIS**

# **HEAVEN FOR INSANITY**

– A documentary about a mental institution

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Watmo lives by his own rules. He randomly screams at others without an explanation; his neighbours think he's insane. One day, Bakti, one of the administrative chairpersons of the neighbourhood suggests bringing Watmo to a mental institution in the suburb. Soon after, officials from the institution come to fetch him. Watmo is brought to a place beyond his imagination. His head is shaven and he is chained to a pole. Here, Watmo must live by other people's rules; the rules of the institution. In this unpleasant place, Watmo is trained to live in a correct and orderly manner. After one week, they consider him 'cured' enough to leave the institution.

## **LIST OF FESTIVALS**

1. Official selection of Jakarta International Film Festival, Indonesia – December 2008.
2. Official selection of International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands – January 2009.
3. Official selection of Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia – July 2009.

## CREDITS

# HEAVEN FOR INSANITY

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This film is developed in a film workshop supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Putra Jethmal Foundation

Produced by Orlow Seunke

### WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Director : Dria Soetomo  
Cameraman : Ismail Fahmi Lubis  
Soundman : Decky Nelwan  
Editor : Kelvin Nugroho  
Unit Production Manager : Iwan Setiawan

### WORKSHOP TUTORS

Directing : Leonard Retel Helmrich  
Editing : Antonius Goossen

### WORKSHOP TEAM

Coordinator : Suryani Liauw  
Supporting Staff : Mohammad Ideng Rusni, Monica Cravenetya  
Accountancy : Ika Harini

### The filmmakers would like to thank:

Suwatmo, Bachtar Becker; Yayasan Gagasan Luhur; Paul J.A.M. Peters & Gonneke de Ridder

An ECCO Films Indonesia Production © 2008

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

# **HEAVEN FOR INSANITY**

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Heaven for Insanity depicts society's point of view on mental illness that is intertwined with poverty. The main character, Watmo, is deemed as crazy by his neighbors. He is then taken by force to a place that provides traditional treatment for mental sickness. Despite his mental health, he must cope with the place.

This documentary was exercising an observational method of filming. During the shooting, we observed and strived to capture as many situations as possible. The compound where the movie took place has been operating the beginning of 1980s. Although many of us may question the humane value of such place, the owner strongly believes, he has served humanity by providing shelter to those who are ill-fated.

Dria Soetomo  
December 2008

## BIOGRAPHY & FILMOGRAPHY

# DRIA SOETOMO

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Dria Soetomo studied Industrial Design at the Institute of Technology Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya, which proved useful for her comprehension of video editing softwares. After graduation, she followed the journalistic route by joining a few TV stations, before signing up with METRO TV (Indonesia's first 24 hour news channel). Broadcast journalism subsequently led her interest to documentary filmmaking. She has produced and directed some documentaries for television. The script of her latest documentary, **'Heaven for Insanity'** was a finalist in the Documentary Film Script Development Workshop in the 2007 Jakarta International Film Festival. The completed documentary was screened in the same festival in 2008. Along with writing articles and short stories for printed media, Dria contributes a film reference column in **'Edukasia'**—a monthly education magazine.

### **FILMOGRAPHY (directing in feature-length film)**

Director, ECCO Films Productions, Jakarta, Indonesia (2008).

Directed a documentary entitled **'Heaven for Insanity'**. This film was supervised by Leonard Retel Helmrich, a documentary filmmaker and Grand Prize Jury winner of the Sundance Film Festival 2007. **'Heaven for Insanity'** is an Official Selection of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2009.

Producer & Director, METRO TV, Papua, Indonesia (2008).

Produced & directed the documentary **'Pelita di Timur'**.

Producer & Director, METRO TV, Riau Islands, Indonesia (2007).

Produced & directed the documentary **'Menyelamatkan Sisa Warisan Busan Al Katibin'**.