

Press Release – New Film

For Immediate Release

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Violence Against Fruits: The Intricacy of Racism in 3 Minutes

Denpasar-Bali, Indonesia (February 23, 2000) – Maria Clementine Wulia, a film composer and independent filmmaker, have released “Violence Against Fruits”, a new short film inspired by racism. The film is 3 minutes in length, and told in an experimental way using visual images, words, symbols, and icons from everyday life.

“Violence Against Fruits” attempts to express the filmmaker’s thoughts and her personal experience about racism. The film features a Japanese fruit of Chinese origin, Diospyros Kaki, being slaughtered with a pocket knife in close-up shots, while two narrators, a man and a woman, discuss about the relationships between human and dogs off-screen. Explanation about the fruit and its history is printed as subtitles throughout the film.

“It is very difficult for me to talk about racism. I know it exists and I have experienced the harm myself, but no one is ready to admit that they are actually deep inside a racist. People tend to apply a double standard when it comes to racism. If I’m Chinese and you don’t like me, for example, you would think that you’re right, because you have every reason to hate Chinese. But

if I'm one of your race or group and you don't like me, you would think that it's just me, personally. To make it even harder, racism is a two-eyed knife; it can work either way. The moment you think you're a victim of racism, you've become a racist," said Clementine Wulia, who has worked on this film all by herself. "I can never talk openly about the pain caused, because I personally think this pain is illogical. Racism itself tends to be illogical when I try to think about it. There is actually no reason and no justification for racism, but it's there anyway, as if it's a part of human nature. It's very complex, and in this film I try to describe how complicated it is in under 3 minutes."

"Violence Against Fruits" was edited and finished in less than one week in February 2000, while Clementine Wulia was working on her other short film, "Are You Close Enough". Even though the 3 minutes film was completed in such a short time, the process took a lifetime. "Racism has always been in my mind, and it disturbs me many times. People first made me aware of how different I am – or more precisely, how different I look like – when I was only around 6 years old," said Clementine Wulia. "Over the years, I close myself up and develop myself as being 'different'." In February 2000, when she was sleeplessly working on her other film, she re-examined some of her favorite video stocks, and the initial ideas for "Violence Against Fruits" started to take form in one night.

The fruit part of the film was shot with a Hi8 camera in a hotel room in Tokyo, Japan, in 1999, and was intended for a video collection of strange fruits that she has encountered during her travels. Clementine Wulia then made a short research about Diospyros Kaki over the internet, the same time she was writing and recording the dialogue in February 2000. Post-production, including pitch-shifting her voice to a male's voice, was done in her computer, a Macintosh

PowerComputing PowerCenter Pro 210 (604e/210MHz, 32MB RAM, 2GB HD) equipped with MiroMotion DC30 card. For Clementine Wulia, this film is a very personal film, so she chose to work in complete loneliness, not letting anybody else to take part.

Maria Clementine Wulia is a Denpasar-based film composer and filmmaker. She writes music for films since 1998, and produces her own short films since 2000. She has recently been voted as the Grand Prize Winner of Hitsquad.com's Computer Music Competition, for a 30-second music spot that she wrote and produced to promote hitsquad.com, the musician's web center. More information can be obtained by emailing her at clementine@wulia.com . Her online portfolio is available for viewing at <http://maria.wulia.com> .

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