

BLACK CHERRY

16mm experimental

05:00 min conceived by lucky kuswandi

starring Juliana sutarman

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1-line Synopsis

A woman finds herself confronted by her own image: who is she, and what makes her a woman? As she finds a black cherry that seduces her, she is forced to explore and to finally take full control of her own body.

125-word Synopsis

She wakes up and finds herself completely alone, lost in a bright red room. It is threatening and empty. Already she feels manipulated, shunned, dirty. She has no control over herself; her own body, what makes her a woman. She is a virgin, and is bounded by what surrounds her.

The sudden appearance of a black cherry completely changes her as it sits on her hand. She is shocked by it but as she fondles it, it provides her with a sense of pleasure...something she has never tasted before. She decides to take the chance and explore further; after all, it is her cherry; she is entitled to it. She can never imagine where it will take her, but for the first time she understands herself. She feels complete.

250-word Synopsis

She wakes up and finds herself in a bright red room. It is blinding, it is threatening. It is empty. Is she in her mother's womb? All she knows is that she is a new born, a virgin, and she is completely alone. She feels that nobody understands her; her desires, her secrets...everything that makes her a woman. She cannot speak; a black belt is over her mouth. She can barely move. She feels manipulated, shunned. Dirty.

A black cherry sits on her hand. She is shocked and scared by its sudden appearance, but as she feels it with her fingers it gives her a thrill...a sense of excitement. And so she takes the chance; she explores further, much further than she is supposed to. Suddenly the belt is gone, and for the first time she is herself. She touches her cherry, fondles it, and puts it in her mouth. No, she doesn't want to bite it. She just wants to play with it. She wants to explore with it. She believes she is entitled to it. It is hers, and it completes her. But can she contain it? Or will it betray her? And so she waits, just as Eve who waits for the snake to pounce on her. Yet for the first time she understands herself. She is in full control of her own body. The red room does not threaten her anymore. She is freed from her image; what has stopped her from being. She found herself.

Director's Statement

"I am interested in the idea of a woman who is a stranger to her own body. I think partly it is because a woman has less control over it compared to a man. The physical workings of a woman's body, and the constant state of change it endures, gives its owner a sense of betrayal. There is also the pressure from the society to retain a particular kind of image: of what makes a woman, and how she should behave with her own body."

Lucky Kuswandi

Writer & Director

Lucky Kuswandi was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. He went to Los Angeles to study filmmaking and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. He has produced and directed four short films that has been widely received and screened in film festivals worldwide. Ever since he returned to Jakarta in 2005, he has become one of Indonesia's most promising young filmmakers. For the past two years, he has been selected to participate in the tightly-competitive Jakarta International Film Festival Script Development Program. In 2006, he won the coveted title of Best Film Project for his script of his upcoming feature film "Miss Indonesia." Earlier in the same year, he also was invited to be a part of the prestigious Berlinale Talent Campus. He was selected among more than 6000 applicants around the world. Currently, Lucky works in Jakarta and is preparing his first feature film "In the Absence of the Sun."

Filmography

Miss Indonesia (2009 – upcoming feature film)

Supported by the Hubert Bals Fund

Winner Best Film Project at the Jakarta International Film Festival 2006 (Script Development Competition)

In the Absence of the Sun (2008 – upcoming feature film)

Winner Produire au Sud (Bangkok) for Best Film Project 2006

Official Selection Produire Au Sud – Festival des 3 Continents (Nantes) 2006

Official Selection Boracay Co-Production Meeting (Cinemanila Film Festival 2006)

Official Selection Jakarta International Film Festival 2005 (Script Development)

Still (2005 – 15 minutes, miniDV)

North American Distributor: Frameline

4th Q! Jakarta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2005

7th Jakarta International Film Festival 2005

4th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival 2005

24th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival 2006

Cinemasia Film Festival 2006

21st Turin International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

22nd VC06 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2006

5th Pink Screens Film Festival – Brussels 2006

59th Cannes Film Festival – Short Film Corner 2006 (Marché du Film)

32nd Seattle International Film Festival 2006

18th Newfest: New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

Frameline30: San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival 2006

14th Artfilm International Film Festival – Slovakia 2006

XI. LGBT Film Festival – Budapest 2006

24th Outfest: Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

29th NYC Asian American International Film Festival 2006

10th Thai Short Film & Video Festival 2006

2006 Copenhagen Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

17th Hamburg International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

7th DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival 2006
19th Image+Nation: Montreal LGBT Film Festival 2006
4th Fusion: Los Angeles LGBT People of Color Film Festival 2006
Tokyo Asian Queer Film & Video Festival 2007

Black Cherry (2005 – 5 minutes, 16mm)

Synch Festival 2005, Greece
4th Q! Jakarta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2005
4th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival 2005
GirlPride Asia 2005, Malaysia
56th Berlin Film Festival, Berlinale Talent Campus # 4 (Competition –
Food, Hunger & Taste Program) 2006
59th Cannes Film Festival, Short Film Corner 2006 (Marché du Film)

Marie! (2004- 8 minutes, super 8mm)

10-Minute Film Festival 2005, Taiwan

Love Ridden (2003 – 20 minutes, miniDV)

Wilmington Film Festival 2003
Best Actress Director's Choice MiniDV Film Festival 2003, Los Angeles

COMPANY CONTACT

[fridayni8htfilms](http://www.fridayni8htfilms.com)

Perkantoran Permata Senayan Blok E / 39

Jalan Tentara Pelajar

Jakarta Selatan 12210

Indonesia

info@fridayni8htfilms.com

<http://www.fridayni8htfilms.com/>

fax: + 62 21 739 3422