

= Srigala Item =

Srigala Item (Indonesian for Black Wolf , also advertised with the Dutch title De Zwarte Wolf) is a 1941 film from the Dutch East Indies that was directed by Tan Tjoei Hock and produced by The Teng Chun for Action Film . Starring Hadidjah , Mohamad Mochtar , and Tan Tjeng Bok , the film 's plot ? inspired by Zorro ? follows a young man who became a masked vigilante to take revenge against his conniving uncle . Srigala Item was a commercial success , which Misbach Yusa Biran credits to the plot 's use for escapism . A copy of the black @-@ and @-@ white film , which featured kroncong music , is stored at Sinematek Indonesia .

= = Plot = =

Through violence , Djoekri (Tan Tjeng Bok) is able to gain control of his brother Mardjoeki 's (Bissoe) wealth and plantation , Soemberwaras . The latter disappears , leaving behind his adult son Mochtar (Mohamad Mochtar) . At the plantation , the young man is treated as a servant and often beaten by Djoekri and his right @-@ hand man , Hasan . Djoekri 's son Joesoef (Mohamad Sani) , however , leads a life of plenty .

Soon Djoekri 's activities are targeted by a masked man known as the " Black Wolf " (" Srigala Item ") , who also foils Joesoef 's attempts to woo Soehaemi (Hadidjah) , whom Mochtar loves . Djoekri tires of the Black Wolf 's interference and takes him on in a battle . Though Djoekri almost wins , ultimately the Black Wolf emerges victorious . It is later revealed that Mardjoeki remains alive and Mochtar was the Black Wolf .

= = Production = =

The film was written and directed by Tan Tjoei Hock for Action Film , a subsidiary of producer The Teng Chun 's Java Industrial Film (JIF) . Tan , who had made his directorial debut in 1940 , based Srigala Item on the stories surrounding Johnston McCulley 's fictional bandit Zorro ; as with the American bandit , the Black Wolf used a whip and wore all black . The black @-@ and @-@ white film was shot by The Teng Chun 's brother Teng Gan , with Hajopan Bajo Angin as artistic designer .

The film starred Hadidjah and Mohamad Mochtar , who had first acted together in JIF 's Alang @-@ Alang (Grass ; 1939) and were promoted as a celebrity couple in competition with Raden Mochtar and Roekiah of Tan 's Film . It also featured Bissoe , Tan Tjeng Bok , and Mohamad Sani . Bissoe had made his feature film debut with JIF 's Oh Iboe in 1938 , while Sani had made his debut for JIF in 1940 . Tan Tjeng Bok , a former stage star with Dardanella , made his feature film debut through Srigala Item .

Music for Srigala Item was done in the kroncong (traditional music with Portuguese influences) style , popular at the time , by Mas Sardi . Hadidjah is credited as singing two songs , " Ja . Ja . Ja . Ja . " (" Yeah . Yeah . Yeah . Yeah . ") and " Termenoeng @-@ Menoeng " (" Pensive ") ; Tan Tjeng Bok is also recorded as performing a song .

= = Release and reception = =

Srigala Item premiered in the first half of 1941 , one of nine films released by JIF and its subsidiaries that year . It was advertised , sometimes under the Dutch name of De Zwarte Wolf , as sensational , full of action , and mysterious " and marketed for all ages . The film was released in Batavia (modern day Jakarta) , the capital of the Indies , and by July 1941 it had reached Surabaya , in Eastern Java , and Singapore , then part of British Malaya .

An anonymous review of Srigala Item in the Surabaya @-@ based daily Soerabaijasch Handelsblad was positive , predicting the film would be a commercial success . This prediction was fulfilled , as Srigala Item reached extensive audiences ? mostly lower @-@ class natives . The Indonesian film historian Misbach Yusa Biran credits this success to escapism . He writes that the

film 's theme of an oppressed , financially destitute youth who is able to control his destiny by becoming a masked vigilante , allowed viewers to be able to see themselves as the Black Wolf , and thus take revenge against those who had wronged them .

Action Film and JIF continued producing films until the beginning of the Japanese occupation of the Indies began in early 1942 , leading to the closing of all but one film studio . The cast of Srigala Item remained with JIF until the company closed , as did Tan . According to JB Kristanto 's Katalog Film Indonesia (Catalogue of Indonesian Films) , a copy of Srigala Item is stored at Sinematek Indonesia in Jakarta . The reels have been damaged by acid , leading to part of the film being excised .

= = Explanatory notes = =