

= Air Mata Iboe =

Air Mata Iboe (Perfected spelling : Air Mata Ibu ; Malay for A Mother 's Tears) is a 1941 film from the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) directed and written by Njoo Cheong Seng . Starring Fifi Young , Rd Ismail , Ali Sarosa , and Ali Joego , it followed a mother who raises her children lovingly but is ultimately betrayed by her eldest sons when she falls upon hard times . The film , billed as a musical extravaganza , featured a soundtrack by R. Koesbini , and an eponymous title song written by Njoo .

The last production completed by Fred Young 's Majestic Film Company , Air Mata Iboe was released in December 1941 , shortly before the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies . This film , now possibly lost , received positive reviews . A remake was produced under the same title in 1957 ; Young retook her role .

= = Plot = =

Soegiati (Fifi Young) is the mother of four children : sons Achmad (Rd Ismail) , Idris (S Poniman) and Soemadi (Ali Sarosa) , and a daughter named Soepinah (Soelami) . She loves them all , but Soemadi receives the most of her attention because he receives little from his father , the merchant Soebagio (Ali Joego) . As the children grow , they marry and move away , and eventually only Soemadi is left . Although he begins a relationship with a young woman named Noormala (Soerip) , he does not marry her as his income is not enough to support them .

On the night of Eid al @-@ Fitr , the family gathers for the holiday . Unknown to the family , Soebagio is leading a double life as a robber , and that evening the police come to arrest him . To protect his father , Soemadi declares himself the culprit , and he is exiled . Feeling guilty for his sins , Soebagio falls ill and dies soon afterwards . Because of their debts , their home and belongings are repossessed , leaving Soegiati to fend for herself .

Though wealthy , Achmad and Idris refuse to take Soegiati in , fearing their respective wives Moedjenah (Titing) and Mariam (Ning @-@ Nong) . Soepinah and her husband Bakar (Koesbini) are willing to take her in , but they live in poverty . Unwilling to burden them , ultimately Soegiati decides to leave and find her own way , depending on the kindness of strangers . Years pass , and Soemadi returns from exile . Encountering his mother , who now lives in poverty , he decides to take revenge on his brothers .

= = Production = =

The Malang @-@ based Majestic Film Company announced Air Mata Iboe in June 1941 together with two other films , Boedi Terbenam (Hidden Wisdom) and Bachtera Karam (Wrecked Ark) . Production began soon afterwards and , by early December 1941 , over 55 reels had been shot , as well as 60 sound reels .

Air Mata Iboe was written and directed by Njoo Cheong Seng under his penname M. d 'Amour ; he had previously directed Djantoeng Hati (Heart and Soul ; 1941) , which also had a tragic ending , for the company . The film was produced by the company 's owner , Fred Young . It starred Njoo 's wife Fifi Young (no relation to Fred) , Rd Ismail , Ali Sarosa , and Ali Joego . Other roles were held by established singers of keroncong (traditional music with Portuguese influences) , including Soerip , Titing , Soelami , Ning Nong , and Poniman . The film , which used make @-@ up to make Fifi Young age into an old woman over the course of its plot , was the actress ' first for Majestic ; she had been ill during the production of her husband 's debut for the company .

The black @-@ and @-@ white film featured eleven keroncong songs written by music director R. Koesbini , who also had a role in the film . Backing music was provided by Koesbini 's troupe , the Krontjong Syncopaters , while songs were performed by the cast . Notes and lyrics for the film 's title song , " Air Mata Iboe " , were published in the December 1941 edition of Pertjatoeran Doenia dan Film .

= = Release and legacy = =

Air Mata Iboe , which was rated for all ages , was distributed by Columbia Pictures and premiered at Sampoerna Theatre in Surabaya on 24 December 1941 . Also advertised under the Dutch title *Tranen Eener Moeder* (a literal translation from Malay) , the film was promoted as a " musical extravaganza " ; other advertisements emphasised the size of the cast . An anonymous review in the *Soerabaijasch Handelsblad* noted the extensive use of *keroncong* and praised the acting and singing , suggesting that native audiences would flock to see the film .

Air Mata Iboe was the last film produced by Majestic Film Company , which closed following the Japanese occupation . During the occupation Njoo , Fifi Young , and Fred Young established their own travelling theatrical troupe , *Pantjawarna* , though all returned to cinema in the 1950s . Joego likewise returned to film after spending the occupation in theater . Poniman , Sarosa , Ismail , and Soerip all returned to cinema , the men in the 1950s and Soerip in 1973 . Soelami is not recorded as acting in any further productions .

A remake of Air Mata Iboe was produced in 1957 , after Indonesia had obtained its independence . Directed by Fred Young , the film had Fifi Young retake her role as Sugiati , while Rd Ismail took the role of Subagio . The remake 's other cast members had not appeared in the original film . The sons Achmad , Idris , and Soemadi were portrayed by Sukarno M. Noor , Boes Boestami , and Kamsul , respectively . The couple 's daughter , renamed Atikah , was played by Farida Arriany .

Air Mata Iboe may be lost . Movies in the Indies were recorded on highly flammable nitrate film , and after a fire destroyed much of Produksi Film Negara 's warehouse in 1952 , old films shot on nitrate were deliberately destroyed . Thus , the American visual anthropologist Karl G. Heider wrote that all Indonesian films from before 1950 are lost . However , JB Kristanto 's *Katalog Film Indonesia* (*Indonesian Film Catalogue*) records several as having survived at Sinematek Indonesia 's archives , and Biran writes that several Japanese propaganda films have survived at the Netherlands Government Information Service .

= = Explanatory notes = =