

= Pah Wongso =

Louis Victor Wijnhamer , Jr . (11 February 1904 ? 13 May 1975) , better known as Pah Wongso (Chinese : 王松所 ; pinyin : Bó Wángsu?) , was an Indo social worker popular within the ethnic Chinese community of what was initially the Dutch East Indies , and subsequently became Indonesia . Educated in Semarang and Surabaya , Pah Wongso began his social work in the early 1930s , using traditional arts such as wayang golek to promote such causes as monogamy and abstinence . By 1938 he had established a school for the poor , and was raising money for the Red Cross to send aid to China .

In late 1938 , Pah Wongso used a legal defense fund , which had been raised for him when he was charged with extortion , in order to establish another school ; this was followed by an employment center in 1939 . In 1941 , Star Film released two productions starring him and featuring his name in the title . During the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies , Pah Wongso was held in a series of concentration camps in South @-@ East Asia . He returned to the then @-@ independent Indies by 1948 , and raised funds for the Red Cross and ran an employment office until his death .

= = Early life and social work = =

Louis Victor Wijnhamer , Jr . , was born on 11 February 1904 in Tegal , Central Java , the Dutch East Indies . One of three siblings , Wijnhamer was born to an ethnic Dutch administrator from Surabaya , Louis Gregorius Wijnhamer , Sr. , and J. F. Ihnen ; he was of Indo descent . He studied at the senior high school in Semarang , before spending some time at the Suikerschool in Surabaya , later arriving in Batavia (now Jakarta) . There , between 1927 and 1937 , he worked as an amanuensis at the School tot Opleiding van Inlandsche Artsen .

By the early 1930s , Wijnhamer , known as Pah Wongso , was recognised in West Java for his promotion of social causes . These included promoting monogamy and faith in western medicine , as well as combating gambling and the use of opium and alcohol . In conveying his messages he often used the Sundanese wayang golek (a form of shadow puppets) , as the local people were generally unable to read . He was able to speak Dutch , Malay , and Javanese fluently , and had some command of Chinese and Japanese . This social work was funded predominantly from Pah Wongso 's day job , selling fried peanuts (kacang goreng) .

By 1938 Pah Wongso had married and opened a school for poor children , particularly those of mixed Chinese descent , in Gang Patikee ; it was funded by donations . He was also a member of the Indies branch of the Red Cross , and recognized for his humanitarian work . He organised night fairs in various cities in the Indies (including in Yogyakarta , Semarang , and Surabaya) , holding auctions and selling drinks and snacks in order to raise money to send aid to China , then fighting against the Japanese .

= = Establishment of schools and popularity = =

After one of these fairs , in Yogyakarta , Pah Wongso was arrested for writing a threatening letter to Liem Tek Hien , who refused to pay f . 10 for a walking stick he said that he had not purchased , and held at Struiswijk Prison in Batavia . He was charged with " attempted extortion and unpleasant treatment " . The case was widely followed by ethnic Chinese in the Indies , and the magazine Keng Po established a defense fund for Pah Wongso , which raised more than f . 1 @, @ 300 by mid @-@ June 1938 ; this had reached almost f . 2 @, @ 000 by the end of the month . The case was brought to trial on 24 June 1938 . Although Liem regretted reporting Pah Wongso to the police , the prosecutor called for a two @-@ month sentence , while the defence asked for an acquittal , or time served .

Ultimately , on 28 June 1938 the judge gave a sentence of one month ? equal to the time Pah Wongso had served ? and he was released . Pah Wongso appealed the court sentence , calling for an acquittal ; in August 1938 his sentence was reduced to a 25 @-@ cent fine . The defense fund collected by Keng Po , totaling almost f . 3 @, @ 500 by August , was allocated to the establishment

of a school ; on 8 August 1938 the Pah Wongso Crèches school for impoverished youth opened at 20 Blandongan St. in Batavia . By the end of the year Pah Wongso had participated in a march on opium use and been featured in a special issue of Fu Len .

In 1939 Pah Wongso expanded his school in Blandongan to include an employment office . Established with f . 1 @, @ 000 , the office was located above the school and by November 1939 was training 22 job seekers . The Pah Wongso Crèches , meanwhile , served more than 200 ethnic Chinese and indigene students . He continued speaking out against the working conditions in the Indies , giving a lecture to a 1 @, @ 000 @-@ strong audience at the Queens Theatre in Batavia in October 1939 . He remained highly popular with the ethnic Chinese .

In 1941 , Star Film made two films starring Pah Wongso to take advantage of his popularity . The first , Pah Wongso Pendekar Boediman (Pah Wongso the Cultured Warrior) , depicted him as a nut seller who investigates the murder of a rich hajji . It was released to popular acclaim , although the journalist Saeroen suggest this was predominantly because of Pah Wongso 's existing popularity within the Chinese community . A second film , a comedy titled Pah Wongso Tersangka , depicted Pah Wongso as a suspect in an investigation and was released in December 1941 . Writing in the magazine Pertjatoeran Doenia dan Film , " S. " praised the introduction of comedy to the Indies ' film industry , and expressed hope that the film would " leave audiences rolling with laughter " .

= = Later life = =

In March 1942 , the Empire of Japan occupied the Dutch East Indies . Pah Wongso was captured in Bandung on 8 March , and spent three years in a series of concentration camps in South @-@ East Asia , including in Thailand , Singapore and Malaya . He returned to the Indies , now independent and known as Indonesia , by 1948 , when he established the " Tulung Menulung " (literally " mutual assistance ") social office ; he also worked for Bond Motors ' Jakarta branch . In the mid @-@ 1950s he met President Sukarno , and by 1957 a biography of Pah Wongso was for sale . He and his wife Gouw Tan Nio (also known as Leny Wijnhamer) had their fifth child on 3 February 1955 .

Pah Wongso continued to raise money for the Red Cross by selling fried peanuts . He also continued to operate his school in Blandongan , as well as the employment office , which trained young men and women for positions such as maids , gardeners , and bellhops , then placed them with employers . Several of Pah Wongso 's students came from islands other than Java . De Nieuwsgier gave the story of one young man , from Bengkulu , who had come to Java to study , been robbed of all his possessions while in Jakarta , then been helped by Pah Wongso to find work .

Pah Wongso continued operating his school and employment office , under the auspices of the Pah Wongso Foundation , into the 1970s . He touted that the foundation had found positions for 1 @, @ 000 young women and 11 @, @ 000 young men , and advertisements offering to place labourers were issued in Indonesian , English , and Dutch . The institution also provided printing services ; wrote letters on demand in English , Dutch , and Indonesian ; and provided wayang performances with four kinds of puppets . Pah Wongso died in Jakarta on 13 May 1975 .

= = Explanatory notes = =