

= Sang Penari =

Sang Penari (The Dancer) is a 2011 Indonesian film based on the trilogy of novels Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk by Ahmad Tohari and directed by Ika Isfiansyah . Starring Nyoman Oka Antara and Prisia Nasution , it tells the story of a young man and his friendship with his small village 's new ronggeng .

The second adaptation of the Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk trilogy , Sang Penari required two years of research to better present the historical context , including the 30 September Movement and ensuing anti @-@ communist actions ; these details , censored in the original trilogy by the New Order government , were more explicit than in the novels . Although the film was set and shot in Purwokerto , Central Java , neither of the leads was ethnic Javanese . Nasution , cast in her debut role , is Batak , while Antara is Balinese .

Upon its release on 10 November 2011 , Sang Penari was critically praised . Tohari called it a " sublime adaptation of his work " , while Labodali Sembiring of the Jakarta Globe described its socio @-@ cultural elements as worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy . At the 2011 Indonesian Film Festival , Sang Penari won four awards , including Best Picture , out of nine nominations .

= = Plot = =

In 1953 , two tempeh bongkrèk makers in Dukuh Paruk , a small hamlet in Banyumas , Central Java , accidentally sell poisoned tempeh , which kills many residents , including the much respected ronggeng (local traditional dancer) . The residents of the hamlet begin panicking and rioting , causing the tempeh makers to commit suicide . Their daughter , Srintil , survives and is raised by her grandfather Sakarya (Landung Simatupang) .

Ten years later in 1963 , Srintil (Prisia Nasution) and Rasus (Nyoman Oka Antara) are fast friends . Rasus also has romantic feelings for her . With the hamlet starved and in a depression since the loss of its ronggeng , Sakarya receives a vision that Srintil will become a great ronggeng , capable of saving the hamlet from starvation . He then convinces Srintil to become a ronggeng . She then tries to prove herself to Kartareja (Slamet Rahardjo) , the hamlet 's ronggeng caretaker and his wife (Dewi Irawan) by dancing at the grave of Ki Secamenggala , the hamlet 's founder . Her attempt is only successful after Rasus gave her the ronggeng amulet belonged to the late ronggeng of Dukuh Paruk . Seeing this amulet , Kartareja then announces that Srintil has been chosen by the founder 's spirit . Meanwhile , Indonesian Communist Party member Bakar (Lukman Sardi) arrived in the hamlet and convincing local farmers to join the party , saying that the Communist party are the only ones who can help save the wong cilik (underclass) of Dukuh Paruk and their starved hamlet .

After the success of her dance at the grave of Ki Secamenggala , Srintil is told that she must undergo a ritual before she can truly become a ronggeng , called bukak klambu (literally " opening the veil ") ; her virginity will be sold to the highest bidder . This upsets Rasus , who tells Srintil that he is not comfortable with her becoming a ronggeng . Srintil says that she will give her virginity to Rasus , and on the day of the bukak klambu they have sex in a goat shack ; that evening , Srintil has sex with two other " highest bidders " and becomes a full ronggeng .

Devastated , Rasus runs away from the hamlet leaving Srintil broken @-@ hearted , and joins a local army base , where he befriends Sergeant Binsar (Tio Pakusadewo) . Binsar teaches him to read and wins Rasus ' trust . Meanwhile , the residents of Dukuh Paruk start to embrace communism under Bakar 's leadership , despite their unawareness of political knowledge . During Rasus ' military time , Dukuh Paruk 's ronggeng troupe which includes Kartareja , Sakarya , Sakum the blind kendhang player , and Srintil becomes increasingly popular and become involved in many rally events organised by the communist party .

Two years later , following the failed Communist @-@ led coup d'état in Jakarta . Rasus is sent by Binsar in operations to clear the presence of Communists in the area . However , when Dukuh Paruk 's turn comes in the massacre , Rasus hurries back , leaving his army comrades to his hamlet to find and save Srintil . He found Dukuh Paruk have been destroyed and void of its inhabitants ,

leaving only Sakum , the blind kendhang player . His continued effort ended in vain as Rasus arrives in a hidden army concentration camp just as Srintil is taken away by the army and disappear along with the rest of Dukuh Paruk 's residents .

Ten years later , Rasus met a street dancer and a blind man in a village close to Dukuh Paruk who resemble Srintil and Sakum . He quickly stops her , giving her the amulet of Dukuh Paruk 's ronggeng which he found in Dukuh Paruk during his search for Srintil ten years ago . The dancer nervously accepts it and leave Rasus , who smiles , signalling his recognition of his love Srintil . The movie ends with the dancer and the blind man dancing away and disappear in the horizon .

= = Production = =

Sang Penari was directed by Ifa Isfansyah . Husband and wife team Wong Aksan and Titi Sjuman were chosen to do the scoring , which they spent a month and a half on ; they later said that work on the film brought them closer together . Shanty Harmayn , who had previously worked on *Pasir Berbisik* (*Whispering Sands* ; 2004) , was chosen to produce , while Salman Aristo , known for his scripts for *Ayat @-@ Ayat Cinta* (*Verses of Love* ; 2008) and *Laskar Pelangi* (*Rainbow Warriors* ; 2009) spearheaded the writing . The screenplay went through twelve drafts and took two years of research .

Sang Penari is based on the *Ronggeng Dukuh Paruk* (*Ronggeng of Paruk Hamlet*) by Ahmad Tohari ; it is the second adaptation of the work , after *Darah dan Mahkota Ronggeng* (*Blood and Crown of a Dancer*) , directed by Yazman Yazid and starring Ray Sahetapy and Enny Beatrice , in 1983 . The film was shot mostly in Banyumas , Central Java . Director Ifa Isfansyah attempted to cast the lead role of Srintil there , but failed after several months looking .

Isfansyah eventually chose a new actress , Prisia Nasution . Balinese actor Nyoman Oka Antara , who had previously played in *Ayat @-@ Ayat Cinta* (*Verses of Love* ; 2008) and *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban* (*The Girl With the Keffiyeh Around Her Neck* ; 2009) , was cast in the leading male role . The film also featured Slamet Rahardjo , Dewi Irawan , Hendro Djarot , Tio Pakusadewo , Lukman Sardi , and Teuku Rifnu Wikana in supporting roles ; Happy Salma also had a cameo as a dancer .

= = Style and themes = =

Sang Penari touches on the history of communism in Indonesia , focusing on the nation 's communist party spreading its ideology and the government 's purge of the Communist Party 's members from 1965 ? 1966 , which is thought to have killed several hundred thousand . It is only the third Indonesian film to cover the killings , following Arifin C. Noer 's *G30S / PKI* (1984) and Riri Riza 's *Gie* (2005) . Tohari later said that if he had written about the killings as they were depicted in the film , the repressive New Order government would have had him shot .

Sang Penari features many spoken lines in the Banyumasan language spoken in the area . It also features several aspects of Indonesian culture , including batik and Javanese music .

= = Release and reception = =

Sang Penari was released on 10 November 2011 . Tohari , who had refused to watch the first adaptation , enjoyed Sang Penari and reportedly considered it a " sublime adaptation of his work " . Triwik Kurniasari , writing for *The Jakarta Post* , described the film as " artistically stunning " and that Isfansyah " smoothly translates the sinister moment and the vicious attempts taken by the military in handling possible traitors " . Labodalih Sembiring , writing for the *Jakarta Globe* , said the socio @-@ cultural elements in the film were worthy of a Shakespearean tragedy and that it featured good acting and direction ; however , the film 's soundtrack was considered lacking .

= = Awards = =

Sang Penari was nominated for nine awards at the 2011 Indonesian Film Festival , winning four . The film was selected as the Indonesian entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 85th Academy Awards , but it did not make the final shortlist .