

= Ucu Agustin =

This is an Indonesian name which does not have a family name . The subject should be referred to as Ucu

Ucu Agustin (born 19 August 1976 in Sukabumi , Indonesia) is an Indonesian journalist , writer , and documentary filmmaker .

Educated in an Islamic boarding school , Ucu became interested in journalism after realising that there were many prostitutes from her hometown . Beginning in the print media , she moved to making documentaries after she saw a lack of opportunities for human interest pieces in newspapers . One of her first documentaries , Death in Jakarta , was produced with the help of funds from the Jakarta International Film Festival . Other documentaries include Ragat 'e Anak and Konspirasi Hening . She has also written several children 's books and short stories .

Ucu has been described as " one of Indonesia 's top documentary filmmakers " and often deals with social issues in her work . Ragat 'e Anak was screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2009 .

= = Early life , education and early career = =

Ucu was born in Sukabumi , West Java , on 19 August 1976 to a strict Muslim family . As a child , she studied in the Darunnajah Islamic boarding school in Jakarta for six years ; removed from the outside world , she felt shocked when she learned that many of the women in her hometown worked as prostitutes . This discovery led her to become more critical of the world around her and made her interested in journalism . Ucu later attended the Jakarta Islamic State University .

After graduation , Ucu began working with print media , contributing to Pantau magazine after publishing several short stories and articles elsewhere . Dissatisfied with the lack of opportunities for writing pieces dealing with social issues she later switched to audio @-@ visual media ; she has also cited the intense amount of editing that her works went through as a reason for the change , noting that there " always seemed to be a wide space between the reality that happened and the ' reality ' that was reported " .

Ucu also became active in writing . She published five Islamic @-@ themed children 's books in 2003 , insisting on receiving royalties rather than the standard flat rate . She has also written a short story , entitled " Lelaki yang Menetas di Tubuhku " (" The Man That Hatched Inside My Body ") , for inclusion in the lesbian @-@ themed short story collection Un Soir du Paris (An Evening in Paris) . The book also included stories by Clara Ng , Seno Gumira Ajidarma , and Agus Noor .

= = Filmmaking = =

Ucu 's first documentary was Pramodya : Last Chapter . In 2005 , Ucu made the 28 @-@ minute documentary Death in Jakarta . This film , dealing with the experiences of poor people after a loved one dies in Jakarta , was inspired by her observations when passing Utan Kayu Public Cemetery in Utan Kayu , East Jakarta . It was produced after becoming one of four finalists in the Jakarta International Film Festival Script Development Competition . Ucu received Rp . 25 million (US \$ 3 @,@ 000) in prize money and was lent a camera by the competition ; it was her first time using a professional @-@ grade camera . In April of that year she released Kalau Kanakar (If Kalakar ?) , a short story collection .

Her next film , Ragat 'e Anak (For The Sake of Children) , dealt with the lives of two part @-@ time prostitutes in a cemetery in Tulungagung , East Java . The documentary was included in Pertaruhan (At Stake) , a compilation of works produced by the Kalyana Shira Foundation . In August 2006 , Ucu released a short story compilation , Dunia di Kepala Alice (The World in Alice 's Head) , and a novel , Being Ing . On 4 June 2009 , the Tulungagung government shut down the prostitution district as a result of the documentary ; in response , Ucu said that she regretted the decision .

Her next documentary , Konspirasi Hening (Conspiracy of Silence) was produced by Nia Dinata . It drew its title from a statement by Kartono Mohamad , former head of the Indonesian Doctors

Association , that a " conspiracy of silence " had led to rules about healthcare being essentially unenforceable . The feature @-@ length film , Ucu 's first , explored healthcare issues in Indonesia by following the lives of three people , two who had suffered from malpractice and a poor man without access to healthcare .

In 2011 Ucu collaborated with Dinata again on Batik : Our Love Story , a documentary on the traditional textile batik . Dinata directed , while Ucu served as screenwriter . As of September 2011 , Ucu is working on three documentaries : Knocking The Door , about the Indonesian Bill for Public Information ; Thank You for Loving Me , about deforestation in Indonesia ; and Where Did You Go My Love , about kidnap victims .

Through the Cipta Media Bersama program , run by the Ford Foundation in collaboration with several other groups , in November 2011 Ucu received a Rp.700 million (US \$ 100 @,@ 000) grant to produce a new film . The film , entitled Tidak Bermula [dan Tidak Berakhir] dengan Berita (Not Starting [and Not Ending] With News) will compare the habits of the press during the death of former president Soeharto and the media in 2012 ; it is hoped to shed light on issues faced by the press in both periods and promote media literacy .

= = Themes = =

Ucu 's Islamic children 's books take a moderate stance .

Ika Krismantari , writing for The Jakarta Post , notes that Ucu tends to deal with " challenging " themes such as social injustice , healthcare , and gender inequality in her documentaries ; gender issues are present in most of her works . Ucu considers social justice and human rights other key themes of her works .

Ucu has noted that she hopes that viewers are influenced by the hard lives faced by the subjects , whom she calls " inspiring " . In September 2011 , she stated that she was most pleased with Death in Jakarta , Ragat 'e Anak , and Konspirasi Hening . Many of her documentaries are distributed online .

= = Reception = =

Krismantari describes Ucu as " one of Indonesia 's top documentary filmmakers " .

Ucu was one of the winners of the 2005 Jakarta International Film Festival Script Development Competition , which led to her being able to make Death in Jakarta . Pertaruhan , containing her documentary Ragat 'e Anak , was shown in the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2009 ; together with Laskar Pelangi (also shown that year) , it was the first Indonesian film shown in Panorama . Ucu went to Berlin with Dinata to attend the showing .

= = Personal life = =

Krismantari describes Ucu as being " a petite woman who can pack a fair punch " , in reference to Ucu 's 1 @.@ 55 m (5 ft 1 in) frame and strong mind .

= = Filmography = =

Pramoedya : Last Chapter (2006)

Death in Jakarta (2006)

Nine Lives of A Women (2007)

Women Behind the Cut (2008)

An Unfinished One (2008)

Ragat 'e Anak (For The Sake of Children ; 2008)

Waktu itu , Januari 2008 : Sebuah Catatan Kaki (That Time , January 2008 : A Footnote ; 2009)

Konspirasi Hening (Conspiracy of Silence ; 2010)