

= Soeara Berbisa =

Soeara Berbisa ( [ suʔara bʔrʔbisa ] ; Perfected Spelling : Suara Berbisa ; Indonesian for Venomous Voice ) is a 1941 film from the Dutch East Indies . Produced by Ang Hock Liem for Union Films and directed by R Hu , this black @-@ and @-@ white film starred Raden Soekarno , Ratna Djoewita , Oedjang , and Soehaena . The story , written by Djojopranoto , follows two young men who compete for the affections of a woman before learning that they are long @-@ lost brothers .

Completed between September and October 1941 , Soeara Berbisa featured keroncong music and was shot partly in western Java . It was released to coincide with the Eid al @-@ Fitr holiday , and rated for all ages . Advertisements emphasised the film 's appeal to both Native and Dutch audiences , and a review in De Indische Courant was positive . Although the film ? Union 's penultimate production ? was screened as late as 1949 , it is now likely lost .

= = Plot = =

The young athlete Mitra and his sweetheart Neng Mardinah are to be wed . However , a young man named Mardjohan has fallen in love with Mardinah , and to win her heart he spreads rumours about Mitra being the son of a convicted criminal . In the backlash over the rumours , Mitra abandons the city and his beloved , hoping to find peace in the countryside .

There , Mitra finds work at a factory which is , coincidentally , owned by Mardjohan . Refusing the romantic advances of a worker there , he leaves the factory . One day , he comes across Mardjohan , gravely injured following an accident . Mitra saves the man , then takes him for treatment . Mardjohan 's mother , seeing Mitra , believes that he is her son who went missing when he was aged three . She finds several witnesses who testify of the resemblance , and is ultimately able to prove her suspicions . Meanwhile , Mitra 's name is cleared , and he is reunited with Mardinah .

= = Production = =

The sixth production of Union Films , Soeara Berbisa was produced by Ang Hock Liem and directed by R Hu , an ethnic Chinese director who had worked for the company since 1940 ; the sound technician Boen Kin Nam served as assistant director . The screenplay was written by Djojopranoto , who replaced Union 's former screenwriter Saeroen after the latter left for rival company Star Film following Wanita dan Satria ( 1941 ) . The film began production by September 1941 , and by October it was nearly complete .

Soeara Berbisa starred Raden Soekarno and Ratna Djoewita , and featured the acting talents of Oedjang and Soehaena . Soekarno and Soehana were new hires , whereas Oedjang and Djoewita had previously done work for Union ; the former had been acting for Union since its first production , Kedok Ketawa , in 1940 , and the latter had held a role in Wanita dan Satria . This black @-@ and @-@ white film included several keroncong songs , and was partly shot in the Preanger region of west Java .

= = Release and reception = =

Union announced that Soeara Berbisa would be released to coincide with the Eid al @-@ Fitr holiday , which began on 22 October 1941 , and advertisements for screenings in Medan , in northern Sumatra , date to early November 1941 . A review in the Surabaya edition of De Indische Courant , however , indicates that the film had only premiered in the east Javan city on 14 January 1942 . That newspaper gave a positive review , describing Soeara Berbisa as a tense film with humorous moments and beautiful scenery . Its review ended with a recommendation that young people and their parents see the film .

Soeara Berbisa was open to audiences of all ages . To reach educated audiences , Union claimed to have " paid attention to dialogue , arranged it as best as possible in accordance with the wants of the Indonesian people " . In Dutch @-@ language newspapers , the film was advertised as " an

interesting and fascinating tale of two young men in the world of indigenous sports " , which nonetheless was produced in a " civilised " manner such that it could be appreciated by European audiences .

= = Legacy = =

Union 's final production , Mega Mendoeng , was directed by Boen and released in early 1942 . It again starred Soekarno , though this time alongside the new find Sofiati . The company was closed after the Japanese occupied the Indies in March 1942 , and most of its employees never returned to the film industry . Soekarno was an exception ; he continued to act until the 1970s , though he was generally credited as Rendra Karno .

Soeara Berbisa was screened as late as February 1949 . The film is likely 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 . As such , American visual anthropologist Karl G. Heider suggests 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 film historian Misbach Yusa Biran writes that several Japanese propaganda films have survived at the Netherlands Government Information Service .

= = Explanatory notes = =