

= Sorga Ka Toedjoe =

Sorga Ka Toedjoe ([?s?r?a k? ?tud?u] ; vernacular Malay for Seventh Heaven ; also advertised under the Dutch title In Den Zevenden Hemel) is a 1940 film from the Dutch East Indies (present @-@ day Indonesia) directed by Joshua and Othniel Wong for Tan 's Film . It follows an older couple (Kartolo and Annie Landouw) who are reunited after years of separation by another , younger couple (Roekiah and Djoemala) . The black @-@ and @-@ white film , the first production by Tan 's Film after the departure of Rd Mochtar , featured kroncong music and was targeted at lower @-@ class native audiences . It was a commercial and critical success . Roekiah and Djoemala took leading roles in three more films before Tan 's closed in 1942 . Sorga Ka Toedjoe is now thought lost .

= = Plot = =

Rasminah (Roekiah) is living with her blind aunt Hadidjah (Annie Landouw) in Puncak , a village south @-@ east of Buitenzorg (now Bogor) . Hadidjah has been separated from her husband , Kasimin , for several years , ever since she accused him of adultery . Although she regretted the incident almost immediately , it was too late ; a corpse resembling Kasimin was found floating in a river , and in her hurry to see the body Hadidjah was struck by a car , blinding her . Now she sings the kroncong song " Sorga Ka Toedjoe " , which Kasimin declared to be a symbol of his love , at 5 p.m. every day . Unknown to Hadidjah , Kasimin (Kartolo) is alive and well ; he also sings " Sorga Ka Toedjoe " every day at the same time .

Following an encounter with the rich and detestable Parta , who intends to take her as his second wife , Rasminah goes to the nearby city of Batavia (now Jakarta) to find a job . Several days later , having found work , she returns to Puncak to pick up Hadidjah and take her to Batavia . However , Parta and his cohort Doel are waiting in ambush . When Rasminah 's carriage is stuck in a rut , the two begin to chase after her . Rasminah runs into the woods and , after several close calls , finds shelter in a small house . There she rests the night , without seeing the owner .

The following morning , Rasminah is awakened by the sound of a guitar , played by the house 's owner , Hoesin (Djoemala) . Afraid that he is collaborating with Parta , she sneaks outside , only to be confronted by Parta and Doel . Retreating , she is chased by the pair . Hoesin intervenes and , after a fierce fight , defeats the two and chases them away . He then reassures Rasminah and escorts her home .

Over the following days Hoesin repeatedly visits Rasminah , and slowly the two begin to fall in love . When Rasminah takes her aunt to Batavia to live , Hoesin follows . They begin discussing their future together , but Rasminah insists that she will only marry when her aunt is reunited with Kasimin . After a lengthy search , in which he almost gives up hope , Hoesin finds Kasimin at a small plantation in the hills outside of the city . Hadidjah 's long @-@ lost husband previously operated his own orchard , but had been evicted by a conniving and greedy landlord only days before . Kasimin and Hadidjah are reunited , allowing Hoesin and Rasminah to begin their own preparations .

= = Production = =

Sorga Ka Toedjoe was directed by brothers Joshua and Othniel Wong for Tan 's Film , a company owned by the ethnic Chinese brothers Khoen Yauw and Khoen Hian . The Tan brothers , who owned a pair of cinemas , had been active in the industry since Njai Dasima in 1929 . The Wongs had worked for Tan 's since 1938 , when they directed the hit film Fatima , helping to reestablish the company after it had been dissolved in 1932 . Sorga Ka Toedjoe was shot in black @-@ and @-@ white , with some scenes filmed at Telaga Warna , near Buitenzorg .

The film starred Roekiah , Rd Djoemala , Kartolo , and Annie Landouw and featured Titing , Ismail , and Ramli . Roekiah had regularly been paired on @-@ screen with Rd . Mochtar ? despite being married to Kartolo ? beginning with Terang Boelan . In 1938 the three had come to Tan 's , where

they acted together in three films beginning with *Fatima* . However , after a wage dispute following *Siti Akbari* (1940) , Mochtar left the company . To replace him , Tan 's hired the tailor *Djoemala* as *Roekiah* 's romantic foil . *Sorga Ka Toedjoe* was their first film together .

Kartolo handled the film 's music , and many of the cast had experience singing *kroncong* (traditional music with Portuguese influences) . Before making their feature film debut in *Albert Balink* 's *Terang Boelan* (*Full Moon* ; 1937) , *Roekiah* and *Kartolo* had found popularity with the stage musical troupe *Palestina* . *Landouw* had been a *kroncong* singer with *Hugo Dumas* ' *Lief Java* orchestra , and *Titing* was likewise an established singer .

= = Release and reception = =

Sorga Ka Toedjoe had its Surabaya premiere on 30 October 1940 , one of fourteen domestic productions released that year . By March 1941 it had reached Singapore , then part of the Straits Settlements . As with all of Tan 's productions , the film was targeted at lower @-@ class native audiences of all ages . It was advertised , sometimes under the Dutch title *In Den Zevenden Hemel* , as a " simple yet compelling film " which featured " good music , catchy songs , and beautiful scenery " . A novelisation of the film was released by the Yogyakarta @-@ based publisher *Kolff @-@ Buning* and included several production stills .

The film was a commercial success . Reviews were likewise positive . The *Soerabaijasch Handelsblad* gave the film high praise , stating that it had good dialogue and music as well as a " well chosen , romantic and not exaggerated " theme . According to the reviewer , *Sorga Ka Toedjoe* seemed to have been inspired by American films but still showed its Indies character . The reviewer also opined that *Djoemala* was as good as , if not better , than *Mochtar* . *De Indische Courant* praised the scenery and noted that the film criticised rich landlords who abused their power , while the *Singapore Free Press* praised *Roekiah* 's acting .

= = Legacy = =

After *Sorga Ka Toedjoe* , Tan 's Film produced a further four films , a much lower number than its competitors such as *The Teng Chun* 's *Java Industrial Film* and its subsidiaries . Three of these productions starred *Roekiah* and *Djoemala* in the leading roles , and featured *Kartolo* . *Landouw* , according to *JB Kristanto* 's *Katalog Film Indonesia* (*Indonesian Film Catalogue*) , did not make another film . Tan 's was ultimately shut down in 1942 , following the Japanese occupation of the Indies .

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 , the American visual anthropologist *Karl G. Heider* writes that all Indonesian films from before 1950 are lost . However , *Kristanto* 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 = =