

= Tjioeng Wanara =

Tjioeng Wanara ([tʃi?u? wa?nara] ; Perfected Spelling : Ciung Wanara) is a 1941 film from the Dutch East Indies (modern @-@ day Indonesia) directed and produced by Jo Eng Sek . Starring R Sukran , Elly Joenara , and AB Djoenaedi , it featured more than 500 people in supporting roles . The film follows a young prince named Tjioeng Wanara who must reclaim his throne from the cruel King of Galuh ; it is adapted from the Sundanese legend of the same name .

The second production by Star Film , Tjioeng Wanara was released on 18 August 1941 . It was advertised heavily , emphasising the fact that the scholar Poerbatjaraka had served as the historical adviser and that the film was based on Balai Pustaka 's version of the legend . It premiered to commercial success , but received mixed reviews . This black @-@ and @-@ white production , which was screened until at least 1948 , is now thought lost .

= = Plot = =

In 1255 Saka , Permana Dikoesoemah is the King of Galuh , beloved by his people and his wife Naganingroem . The minister Aria Kebonan wants power for himself , and persuades the king to surrender the crown to him . Permana Dikoesoemah warns Aria Kebonan to respect him always and not to bother his wife . He then abdicates to meditate , ultimately ascending to a higher plane of existence . Aria Kebonan , meanwhile , magically gains the king 's appearance , ensuring that the people of Galuh are unaware that they have a new king .

Aria Kebonan proves to be an unpopular ruler . One day , he hears that both Naganingroem and the king 's former concubine , Dewi Pangrenjep , are pregnant . With Dewi Pangrenjep , Aria Kebonan plans to eliminate Naganingroem 's son . During childbirth the son is replaced with a dog , while Dewi Pangrenjep takes the newborn and throws him into a river . He is later found and rescued by farmers , who name him Tjioeng Wanara . Dewi Pangrenjep , meanwhile , gives birth to a son , Aria Banga .

Years pass , and Tjioeng Wanara grows to be a strong young man . Aria Banga , meanwhile , has taken over the throne and rules with an iron fist , hated and feared by his people . Tjioeng Wanara returns to Galuh and overthrows the king , arresting Aria Kebonan and Dewi Pangrenjep ; Aria Banga , however , is able to escape and establish the kingdom of Majapahit . Tjioeng Wanara rules kindly over his people and later moves his capital to Pajajaran .

= = Production = =

Tjioeng Wanara was directed and produced by Jo Eng Sek for Star Film . It was the second production by both Jo and the company , following Pah Wongso Pendekar Boediman in 1941 . Poerbatjaraka , a scholar of traditional literature , served as the historical adviser to the production . Cinematography for the black @-@ and @-@ white film was handled by Chok Chin Hsien . By June 1941 production was almost complete .

The film starred R Sukran , Elly Joenara , AB Djoenaedi , Muhamad Arief , and S Waldy . Waldy had made his film debut in 1940 's Zoebaida for Oriental Film Company , later joining Star for Pah Wongso ; Joenara and Arief had begun their cinema careers in the latter film . Tjioeng Wanara featured the first on @-@ screen performances by Djoenaedi and Sukran . The stars were supported by over 500 extras and actors in bit parts . As such , JB Kristanto 's Katalog Film Indonesia records the production as the first " colossal " film in the Indies , in terms of scale .

Tjioeng Wanara was based on a Sundanese legend of the same name , retold by M. A. Salmoen in a 1938 Balai Pustaka @-@ published edition which was then adapted by Rd Ariffien ; as such , a review in the Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad found that the film contained little of the original tale except for the characters ' names . The film featured traditional arts such as the Serimpi dance .

= = Release and reception = =

Though initially slated for a July 1941 release , Tjioeng Wanara ultimately premiered at the Orion Theatre in Batavia (now Jakarta) on 18 August 1941 . It was publicised extensively , often emphasising the role of Poerbatjaraka and using the name of Balai Pustaka , the official publishing house of the Dutch East Indies government known for its printed versions of traditional tales , in advertisements . The film was rated for all ages .

The premiere of Tjioeng Wanara was shown to a packed theatre . Reception of the film , however , was mixed . An anonymous review in the Soerabaijasch Handelsblad was positive , considering the film to be successful in its adaptation of the legend , while another , in the same newspaper , recommended it . Indonesian film historian Misbach Yusa Biran , however , writes that some viewers considered the film " nothing more than a stage play brought to the silver screen " .

= = Legacy = =

Star made four further films before it was closed in 1942 , when the Japanese occupied the Indies ; Jo Eng Sek did not direct again . After writing Tjioeng Wanara , Ariffien left Star Film to work at a circus ; Biran writes that he was disappointed over the work 's poor reception . Joenara , Arief , and Waldy remained in the film industry ; Joenara went on to be a producer , while Arief and Waldy later took up directing . Neither Djoenaedi nor Sukran are recorded as making another film .

Tjioeng Wanara was screened as late as June 1948 , though it is now 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 , Kristanto records several as having survived at Sinematek Indonesia 's archives , and Biran writes that several Japanese propaganda films have survived at the Netherlands Government Information Service .

= = Explanatory notes = =