

= Mega Mendoeng =

Mega Mendoeng ([m??ga m?n?d??] ; Perfected Spelling : Mega Mendung) is a black @-@ and @-@ white drama film from the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) directed by Boen Kin Nam and produced by Ang Hock Liem for Union Films . Starring Rd Soekarno , Oedjang , Boen Sofiati , and Soehaena , it follows two young lovers who are separated by lies but ultimately reunite at the village of Mega Mendoeng in Bogor . This film , Union 's seventh and final production , was shot concurrently with Soeara Berbisa and completed over a period of three months . It was released in early 1942 and screened as late as July of that year , but may now be lost .

= = Plot = =

Winanta 's father , Raden Koesoema , tells him that he should divorce his wife , Retnaningsih , to marry his cousin Fatimah , on threat of being disowned . To spare her husband from this fate , Retnaningsih decides to abandon him and moves from Bandung to Batavia (now Jakarta) , where she lives a life of poverty . Unknown to her , this decision is used by Raden Koesoema as proof of her that she was not trustworthy . Winanta falls into despair , but eventually marries Fatimah .

Eighteen years later , Winanta and Fatimah have had a daughter named Koestini (Boen Sofiati) , who is studying in Batavia . Educated , graceful , and beautiful , she is popular with young men but only returns the affections of Soedjono (Rd Soekarno) , a young assistant pharmacist who is polite and refined . One of her spurned suitors , Soekatma , decides to ruin their relationship by telling Winanta that Koestini has spent all of her time chasing boys rather than studying . Believing these lies , Winanta recalls Koestini to Bandung .

Koestini falls ill , and her death is reported . Driven mad by the news , Soedjono begins wandering aimlessly . Ultimately , as if guided by some unseen force , he discovers Koestini alive in a village called Mega Mendoeng , near Bogor . This discovery brings him back to his senses , and the two are able to live happily together .

= = Production = =

Mega Mendoeng was directed by Boen Kin Nam for Union Films , a production house based out of Batavia (now Jakarta) which was run by Tjoa Ma Tjoen and financed by Ang Hock Liem . A sound technician by training , Mega Mendoeng was Boen 's only full directorial credit . Liem served as producer . The film was announced in September 1941 and produced concurrently with Soeara Berbisa (Venomous Voice) , a film on which Boen acted as assistant director . Mega Mendoeng was completed by December 1941 , after Soeara Berbisa .

The black @-@ and @-@ white film starred Rd Soekarno , Oedjang , Boen Sofiati , and Soehaena ; it also featured Ratna Djoewita , Ratnasih , Gamari Fadjar , and Moesa . Oedjang had acted for Union since its first film , Kedok Ketawa (The Laughing Mask ; 1940) , while Soekarno and Soehaena had made their debuts in Soeara Berbisa . Sofiati , a stage actress who operated her own troupe , was a newcomer to cinema . This cast was of various socio @-@ economic backgrounds , including noblemen and stage actors . Although Union stated that the film was made along realist lines and aimed at educated viewers , owing to the inclusion of stage actors ? people who usually entertained lower class audiences ? the Indonesian film historian Misbach Yusa Biran suggests that this was untrue .

= = Release and legacy = =

Mega Mendoeng was released in early 1942 , the seventh and final film completed by Union . With a Japanese invasion looming , the February 1942 edition of the film magazine *Pertjatoeran Doenia dan Film* reported that several studios would move away from the colonial capital of Batavia or go on a production hiatus . Union , though already beginning production of a film set in the Majapahit era titled *Damar Woelan* , was forced to close shop ; it never reopened . Soekarno returned to the film

industry in the 1950s and was active until the 1970s , mostly credited as Rendra Karno .

Mega Mendoeng was screened as late as July 1942 , but may now be 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 suggests that all Indonesian films from before 1950 are lost . However , J.B. Kristanto 's Katalog Film Indonesia 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 = =