

Final Report

Musume - A Short Documentary Visualizing Dialogues Between Daughters from Japan and Indonesia

Body Text.

This project is a short documentary film production focusing on father-daughter relations in Japan and Indonesia.

In Japan and Indonesia and other Asian countries, the strong paternalistic culture puts the father-daughter relation in a complex reality. However, the difference between a strong and weak father-daughter relation has a big impact in lives of women. An old legend from Japan, Hase Hime and Princess Kandita from Indonesia gives an example. The film titled *Musume* (Daughters) also involves the filmmaker as one of the subject.



Photo 1. Musume (Daughters) Film Screening Poster (Design by: Gandhi Setyawan)

The production took place in Kyoto and Tokyo Japan during the fellowship (January 22 2017 – March 11 2017). The fellow interviewed 5 women, 2 living in Kyoto, 2 living in Tokyo and 1 from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Each interview involved the fellow, 2 subjects and an interpreter sitting together around a tatami table with tea and some snacks. The set up of the interview was chosen to build a safe and equal environment for the subject to share their stories. The camera was also absent and was only used to record audio. The discussion began by the fellow describing about the relation with her father to the women and her reflection towards the two legends. The women responded about the legend and also towards the fellows' personal stories with their own personal stories.



Photo 2: Poster of Musume –rough cut screening at CSEAS

This method was chosen by the fellow to create a safe and open environment for the women to share their stories.

Although the women seem they were comfortable in telling their stories, the fellow felt like talking about their fathers was not something common for them. They were realizing things while they convey their opinions and sometimes sound uncertain.



Photo 3 The audience at Japan Foundation Jakarta during Musume screening

Compared to the fellow and the subject from Indonesia, the women in Japan seem like they do not think that their relation with their fathers needed to be improved or questioned. They were more receptive towards their fathers even though they were sometimes absent from their lives. This film records these dialogues between the fellow and the Japanese women while talking about the father figure about being a role model, about support and appreciation, about hopes and dreams also about love.



During the production, the fellow was hosted by the Centre of Southeast-Asian Studies (CSEAS) at Kyoto University and supervised by Associate Professor Mario Ivan Lopez who was also an initiator of the annual Visual Documentary Project. The rough cut of the film (60 minutes) was presented in front of the staff, researchers and open for the public at CSEAS and also attended by a representative of the Asia Centre Japan Foundation. Another short film of the fellow was also screened (Nyalon, 2014) and initiated a light discussion on Indonesia's politics.

The final cut of Musume (43 minutes) was screened for public at the Japan Foundation Jakarta, Indonesia on July 13th 2017. Daisuke Kato from Japan Foundation opened the public screening that was attended by approximately 90 people at the Japan Foundation Hall.



After the screening, a discussion session was held with the fellow, Ima Puspita Sari and Diana Sahidi Nugroho representing Japan Foundation. The discussion focuses a little about the Asia Centre Fellowship and more on the fellows' process and experience during the fellowship. Both Ima and Diana encouraged the audience especially young filmmakers to submit an application for the next fellowship year.

During the discussion, one audience asked about the process of approaching the subjects in the film since there is an assumption that it would be a challenge to ask about personal matters. The fellow explained that she had to seek for friends of friends prior to her departure to Japan and explain about her project through Facebook chat. Even though she had not yet any confirmed subjects when she arrived in Japan but after 2 weeks of research in Kyoto, 2 people finally responded and were happy to be filmed. On the day of filming, both of them brought another friend. The fellow responded the surprise by re-arranging the interview technique into a group discussion, which led to an open and friendly conversation between them. Another audience who was a regular at Japan Foundation Jakarta's events said that the film opened up her perspective about Japan especially on Japanese modern women.

Two articles was found online regarding the public screening of Musume at the Japan Foundation, one was written and posted at a local film news portal titled [Reportase: Makna Ikatan Keluarga dalam Musume \(Daughters\) Karya Ima Puspita Sari](#) (Report: The Meaning of Family Ties in Musume (Daughters) The work of Ima Puspita Sari). The other one was more of a film review written by a university student titled [Musume: Film tentang Relasi antara Ayah dan Anak Perempuan](#) (Musume: Film about Relationships between Father and Daughter).

The fellows next plan regarding the film is to have it screened in communities and universities and Indonesia also local film festivals.