



After six nights in Melbourne, four nights in Sydney and ten selected film screenings, the 5th Indonesian Film Festival has wrapped itself neatly. Audiences are flowing the ACMI cinemas from night to night, immersing themselves deeply in the authentic Indonesian culture through the silver screens.

The festival's theme for this year was also articulated well through the film selections, as all of them were depicting Indonesian women with various backgrounds, stories, struggles and setbacks, both in the past as well as the contemporary world.

The Festival's Opening Night film racked more than 350 viewers, of those who were enticed to watch the World's Premiere Screening of '7 Hearts, 7 Love, 7 Women'. Kicked off with an Opening Gala Party, the Opening Night was an unforgettable experience. The film's very own director, Robby Ertanto Soediskam has successfully blown the audiences' mind with his first full-length feature movie, which tells 7 different struggles of Indonesian women in the country's contemporary condition. Robby and four leading actors of the film were attending the night, providing the audiences with Q&A session at the end of the screening.

The second night of the festival rolled on Saturday, August 21, 2010. The IFF proudly presented a contemporary action film, 'My Dearest', offering a heroine figure in a mother who would do anything in finding her abducted daughter. It was our honor to have the producer and the director 'My Dearest' attending the screenings of the movie. The Q&A session that was held after the film captured the audiences' attention, as Charles Gozali and Linda Gozali surprised us with many interesting facts and details that occurred behind the scene.

The festival continued with the screening of an experimental piece, 'At the Very Bottom of Everything' directed by Paul Agusta and followed by a series of four short films, displaying various Indonesian filmmaking talents, including Children of Mud, La Promesse, loVe, and Full Moon. Chairun Nisa (director of Full Moon) attended the festival for Q&A session. A 1980 production film 'Shackled Woman' was also chosen as this year's official selection. The wide range of film selections enabled the movie enthusiasts to have an extensive choice of flicks to suit their interests and needs.

Simultaneously, the Indonesian Film Festival, in conjunction with VILTA and Wesley College, was holding the Educational Program. It was a program especially catered for students who are learning Bahasa Indonesia. 'Maida's House', a film imbued with Indonesian history was chosen as the official education film.

A screening of an award-winning film, 'Under the Tree', closed the festival. ACMI cinema was filled with hundreds of audience who were appealed to see the work of one of Indonesia's finest film director, Garin Nugroho. 'Under the Tree' has successfully captured the audience in awe with its dense storyline, which tells three stories of women in the spiritual realm of Bali. It is important to note that during the Closing Night in Melbourne (26 August 2010), the Indonesian Film Festival was officially opened in Sydney.

The 5th Indonesian Film Festival was also celebrated with numerous special events such as Short Film Competition, Film Workshop, Public Talk and an after party. All in all, the 5th Indonesian Film Festival was proven to be a huge success. Ronald Wicaksana (Founder and Executive Director) and Zendi Rizki Tjandra (Head of Programming) of the IFF Inc. promises to deliver the 6th Indonesian Film Festival (2011) in more extravagant way.