

A Perfect Soldier

Directed by John Severson 2011. 56 minutes

Purchase: \$295 / Classroom Rental: \$95

An extraordinary and inspiring documentary about one man's journey from child soldier to international hero. A Perfect Soldier tells the story of Aki Ra, who as a young boy was taken by the Khmer Rouge and forced to plant hundreds of landmines in the Cambodian countryside. As an adult, he has devoted his life to removing them, one landmine at a time. In 2010, he was named one of CNN's Top 10 Heroes of the Year.

"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to those interested in Cambodia, Southeast Asian history, and the continuing legacy of the Khmer Rouge".

-Educational Media Reviews Online

Promised Paradise

Directed by Leonard Retel Helmrich / 2007, 52 minutes Purchase: \$295 / Classroom Rental: \$95

How can one believe that terrorism leads to heaven? Banned by the Indonesian government, this provocative documentary examines the psychology of extremism in Indonesia. The film follows a traditional Indonesian puppeteer and troubadour as he creates various performative interventions around themes of Islam, violence, and difference.

"Offers unique insights into the important role Indonesia's modern artists are taking in dealing with social and political issues."

-Asian Theatre Journal

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED —Video Librarian



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Sun, Moon, Stars: The Indonesia Trilogy

Directed by Leonard Retel Helmrich 2001-2011, Total length: 294 min / 3 DVDs Purchase: \$795

Thirteen years ago, filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich decided to visit Indonesia, the birthplace of his Dutch father and Indonesian mother, looking for inspiration. The trip ignited his fascination with the country and he started filming a working class family, the Sjamsuddin's, living in the slums of Jakarta.

The result is *Sun, Moon, Stars: The Indonesia Trilogy*, a landmark documentary trilogy that has been winning awards and accolades around the globe. Like no other documentary work before it, it captures the tumultuous changes taking place in Indonesia by following three generations of the Sjamsuddin family for more than 10 years. Viewed together, the films offer a vibrant, essential portrait of the world's fourth most populous nation and home to its largest Muslim community.

"A wonderful piece of work. A realistic depiction of the changing tides of Indonesian life as it is felt by many of its citizen today."

-Anthropology Review Database

The films that comprise the trilogy are:

POSITION AMONG THE STARS 2011. 111 minutes SHAPE OF THE MOON 2004, 92 minutes THE EYE OF THE DAY 2001, 94 minutes

Sun, Moon, Stars: The Indonesia Trilogy



The Eye of the Day

2001. 94 minutes

Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125







Against a backdrop of social unrest that led to the ouster of Indonesia's long-time dictator President Suharto, *The Eye of the Day* begins filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich's award-winning trilogy. It introduces us to the Sjamsuddin's, including the sixty-year-old-grandmother Rumidjah, her sons Bakti and Dwi, and her friend Ibu Sum.

It is a family Helmrich would return to and document over the course of three films.



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

"Helmrich constructs a larger narrative of a country at the crossroads of big change, grappling with growth and the effects of globalization. Helmrich's cinematic eye and vigilant attention to detail combined with his aptitude for juxtaposing the urban and rural makes the story all the more compelling."

-Educational Media Reviews Online



Shape of the Moon

2004, 92 minutes

Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125







The end of the Suharto regime ushered in an era of rapid sociopolitical upheaval in Indonesia. In this second installment of the *Sun, Moon, Stars* trilogy, filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich returns to the Sjamsuddin family to intimately capture the changes taking place in their country, including the troubling rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

RECOMMENDED "Documents remarkably well the tremendous social growth of Islam in Javanese society, as well as the tone of this new globalized Islam in contrast to the more traditional Javanese Islam of the classic anthropological literature." – Anthropology Review Database



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

"Incorporating cinéma vérité style and unwavering attention to every detail, Helmrich's camera continues to craft a rich and layered visual narrative."

—Educational Media Reviews Online



Position Among the Stars

2011, 111 minutes

Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125







In this final film of the *trilogy*, Helmrich confronts the most important issues facing the country's fast-changing society: corruption, conflict between religions, gambling addiction, the generation gap, and the widening disparity between rich and poor.

"Engrossing, poetic and often very funny, *Position* like its predecessors, uses the lens of a single family to view the tumult of an entire country."

—The New York Times

RECOMMENDED "A wonderful piece of work. Helmrich's approach to the camera is highly creative... A realistic depiction of the changing tides of Indonesian life as it is felt by many of its citizen today."

- Anthropology Review Database