

FILMS UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES



"SHADOW PLAY"

16mm colour, 7 mins. 32 secs.

NARRATION SCRIPT

FOOTAGE

IMAGE

SOUND

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SHADOW PUPPET
PERFORMANCE

Wayang-kulit, the ancient art of Javanese shadow puppets. An endless struggle between good and evil played out in epic tales of historic battles between Hindu kings and their warriors, but not without moments of comic relief.

033

PUPPETEERS MAKING
PUPPET AT HOME.
CHILD LOOKING ON

A future fourth generation master puppeteer plays while his father the Dalang Soetarno supervises the making of a new puppet, one of the comic characters, a poor man weighed down by the burden of 20 children. The shadow plays do more than merely amuse their audiences.

During the struggle for independence they were used to convey information and to poke fun at the Europeans. Today the Indonesian Government finds their powerful cultural influence can help to spread many social messages including family planning.

057 SHADOW PUPPET
PERFORMANCE

The characters are refugees, fleeing a war. "This bridge won't hold you with all those children. How come you have so many children?. You should use family planning."

092 DISSOLVE TO RICE
FIELDS

There are about 145 million Indonesians, 20% of them living in the densely populated Eastern province of Java. The people, mostly poor rice farmers with high infant mortality and illiteracy rates, are participating in an extraordinarily successful family planning programme, contradicting the conventional wisdom that economic development has to come first before contraception will be accepted.

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VILLAGE STREET SCENES

Pugeran is one of a number of villages taking part in the programme. Everywhere you look there are reminders. Here, as in villages all over the world, the strongest influence is often, "What will the neighbours think?" Everyone who has joined the programme has a sign on their house, blue for an IUD, an intra-uterine device, yellow for the birth control pill, red and green for other methods of contraception. You're considered behind the times if there's no sign on your house. The gong reminds women to take their pills every day.

PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSES

130

MOSQUE

Java has been predominantly Moslem for centuries, but many of the old Hindu traditions survive and there is a strong community organization. So the local

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MOTHERS CLUB MEETING

leadership, religious, traditional and official has been given responsibility for the family planning programme;

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WEIGHING CHILDREN,
FOOD DISTRIBUTION,
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Mothers' clubs meet once a month, their most important concern being children's health. Careful records are kept of weight and growth. There are demonstrations of nutritious recipes, and an opportunity to sample them. Mothers also exchange ideas on ways to earn a little extra income.

161 CONTRACEPTION PILL
DISTRIBUTION

Those mothers who use family planning dress up for the meeting in the appropriate colour for distribution of contraceptives. Pills for the women in yellow.

172 WOMEN WITH IUD GOING
TO MINI CLINIC

The women in blue who use IUDs can go to a mini clinic for medical services including a check-up if necessary. These clinics are run by a new type of family health worker, trained to provide family planning services and to insert IUDs, they also provide health education, immunization programmes and training for traditional midwives.

189 MOTHERS' CLUBS'
 SPEECHES

The moral seems to be that if people can run their own programmes there's a much better chance of success.

201 SHADOW PUPPET
 PERFORMANCE

In the cities too, the mothers' clubs turn out in force to watch the shadow puppets and listen to their message. In other parts of Indonesia it might be a masked dance or a play, but the method is the same - make use of local cultural traditions to spread your message and local community groups to put it into practice.

Shadow plays go on all night, and sometimes its very late before the message is delivered.

The deputy chief of the village is visiting a household. "It's cold here" he says, "so you just stay indoors and make children." But the chief tells us we should remember to use the pill and make the family planning programme a success."

The theme song: "It's good to have a small family, a health happy family."

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LAST FRAME