

“Seputih Cinta Melati” - OFLC Requirements

Film Title – “Seputih Cinta Melati” (As Pure As Melati's Love)

Director's Name – Ari Sihasale

Producer's Name – Nia Zulkarnaen, Ari Sihasale

Duration – 79 minutes

Genre – Drama

Language – Indonesian with English subtitles



Classifiable Elements:

Elements	Examples that could be included:
Themes	Traditional village life, Religion, family relationships, education,
Violence	
Sex	Nil
Language	Nil
Drug Use	Nil
Nudity	

This film contains classifiable elements approximately corresponding to PG classification.

Adequate synopsis

Seputih Cinta Melati follows Melati and her brother Rian during the fasting month of Ramadan. Two inmates, Ivan and Erik, escape from prison a few weeks before the end of the fasting month. They are hiding from police in a cottage in a village when they come across Rian and Melati. Ivan helps Melati when her legs caught as she is fishing with her brother in the river. The children thank Ivan and Erik and are pleased to make acquaintance with their new friends.

Over the coming days, Rian and Melati visit their two new friends in the cottage. Over time they became close friends. Rian teaches Erik how to fish and Melati invites Ivan to memorize verses of the Koran. Erik is still looking for a way to escape from the area, while Ivan does not want to go because he has developed a bond with Melati and Rian. A quarrel erupts between Ivan and Erik over this.

On the last day of fasting, Melati and Rian arrive at the cottage with a wide variety of food (*iftar* meal). Erik is initially suspicious of Melati and Rian, but is touched by the kindness of both children. But it's too late as Ibu Andini, Rian's and Melati's mother have found out who Ivan and Erik actually are.

Sequence of scenes

00:00:25

The opening scene begins with two men, Ivan and Erik, escaping from prison in the middle of the night.

00:01:05

A prison guard discovers an item of clothing dropped by the escaping convicts and sounds the alarm.

00:01:23

A farmer is farewelled by his wife as he leaves for market. The escapees hide under a tarpaulin in the back of his truck.

00:01:50

When the truck stops along a country road, Ivan and Erik jump out and run through the woods until they reach an abandoned shack where they decide to rest. A police car travels the same road.

00:03:30

The police car arrives at the village where the local officer is fixing his motorbike. The newly arrived senior officer reprimands the junior officer for not wearing his uniform, tells him they have important work to do and gives him five minutes to get ready. The important work concerns finding the escaped convicts, Ivan and Erik whom the officer describes as very dangerous. He supplies a WANTED poster with photographs of the two convicts.

00:05:10

The village *imam* (priest) and assorted villagers are noisily parading through the village to wake everyone before dawn in order to pray and eat before the daylight-hours when fasting period begins. Although still sleepy, Melati gets up as soon as Mum wakes her and is ready to begin breakfast but Mum says she needs to wait for Rian. Melati goes to wake her brother but he resists her gentle attempts to get him up. Melati opens the window and calls to the imam and his group to help wake Rian. After two attempts, Rian is roused from his bed.

00:09:14

On their way to school, dressed in Scouting uniforms, Rian and Melati encounter Pak Haji but they do not see the two escaped convicts looking on from the bushes. They comment on the long Arabic-style robes worn by Pak Haji as a symbol of his status of having made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

00:10:52

At school the teacher is talking about the holy month of Ramadan. Rian has trouble staying awake and the rest of the class laugh at him when he is woken by the teacher.

00:12:08

Two sarung have been taken from Pak Haji's washing line. He notices and is confused.

00:12:40

Mopping the school verandah as punishment for falling asleep in class, Rian laments that it is only 10am and there are still several hours of school to go. He alters the time on the school janitor's clock while the janitor is asleep and when the clock alarm sounds soon after, the janitor rings the school bell and children pour from the classrooms. The teachers have some trouble returning them to class. Rian's teacher suspects he was involved in the prank.

00:14:45

Ivan and Erik, now wearing the long robes of Pak Haji, stroll through the village and encounter a villager who pays homage to their status (assumed by their stolen robes) as men who have gone on the Haj. They also encounter Pak Haji, who recognises his robes and goes to report the theft and the thieves to the police. As the thieves escape, Pak Haji matches their faces to the wanted poster and he and the junior officer set out by motorbike to catch them.

00:17:12

The hungry escapees raid a strawberry patch owned by the local candidate for election. In their haste they overturn several baskets. The owner believes the damage is related to the current political contest

00:18:50

Ivan and Erik see 'their' wanted poster on a wall in the village and make plans to hide. Meanwhile, the police officer is examining the scene of the theft and confiscates Pak haji's washing line as evidence. The second theft/damage report catches up with him here and he heads off to investigate.

00:21:47

Melati is completing her homework but Rian wants to go fishing. Rian complains about getting into trouble for sleeping in class, but Melati sees things from the teacher's point of view. They both set off to fish.

00:24:08

The police officer is briefing the senior officer and others about the thefts in the village and the sight of the fugitives. He says they are now likely to be armed and directs his men to a search area.

00:24:37

Ivan is complaining of hunger and Erik is sharpening his machete as Melati and Rian come down to the river to fish. Melati stumbles and her foot is trapped. Despite Erik's misgivings, Ivan rushes to free Melati.

00:26:52 The police officer shows Pak Haji his new, old car and gives him some cord to replace the washing line taken as evidence in the theft case.

00:28:00 At the shack where he and Erik have taken refuge, Melati asks Ivan, whom she addresses as Pak Haji, to help her with her religion homework - memorising a prayer. Ivan is uncomfortable.

00:30:33 By the river, as Rian and Erik are fishing, Rian confides his problem of falling asleep in class. Erik confirms the importance of staying awake in order to learn but says he doesn't know how Rian can achieve this.

00:32:00 Pak Haji's washing line is installed but, like the new, old car, it fails its purpose.

00:35:00 An election poster is pasted over the Wanted posters of Erik and Ivan obscuring the fact that they are fugitives. The children are subjected to some rousing electioneering and given a poster to take home and when they see photos of Ivan and Erik posted on the same wall they surmised that they are also candidates for election.

00:38:00 Mum is cooking dinner when the children arrive home full of news about the election and their new acquaintances, the two Haji. Ivan and Erik, meanwhile, steal the police van and are pursued by villagers. Ivan is having second thoughts about escaping.

00:43:00 At sunset the villagers gather for prayer (during which Rian falls asleep) but Ivan and Erik break into a house. Erik helps himself to the food waiting on the table for the family's return, but Ivan is drawn to the photograph of Melati and her drawing of the day's events by the river.

00:48:00 Melati, Rian and their mother sit down to break their fast and discover that all the food is gone. Fearful, Mum checks the house but the thieves have returned to their shack. Although hungry, Ivan eats none of the stolen food.

00:50:45 In religion class the teacher explains the importance of Lailatul Qadar:

variously rendered in English as the Night of Decree, Night of Power, Night of Value, Night of Destiny, or Night of Measures, is in Islamic belief the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. It is one of the

odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan and is better than 1000 months of worship. Muslims believe that on this night, the blessings and mercy of Allah is abundant, sins are forgiven, supplications are accepted, and that the annual decree is revealed to the angels who also descend to earth.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laylat_al-Qadr

00:52:10 After school, Melati and Rian visit their new friends the two 'haji'. While Rian fishes and snoozes with Erik, Melati cares for Ivan who is unwell and has a fever. She also notices that his food containers look the same as her mother's. They discuss the death of the children's father and what Melati misses by not having a father. Rian and Erik discuss fishing, fasting and lack of sleep.

1:00:30 The police are frustrated that they haven't found the escapees. They believe that someone must know where they are.

1:00:55 The children receive campaign t-shirts for Ivan and Erik. They tell the campaigner that they are for two 'Haji', men who have made the pilgrimage to Mecca and when they get home, Melati asks Mum if she can give food to people who are less fortunate. Mum is proud of her thoughtful daughter.

1:04:30

1:10:30 As the police search narrows to the area along the river, Ivan and Erik fall out over Ivan's growing attachment to the children. Their fight, so unHaji-like especially during Ramadan, scares Melati and Rian. Ivan chases after them and apologises. He listens to Melati's prayer recitation and she plays on the swing he made for her. Rian and Erik go fishing together. Later, as Ivan and Erik eat the meal Melati brought for them, she talks to her father's photograph about the two men who have no family, no-one to care for them. Ivan prays in the hut.

1:20:20 It's the end of Ramadan and the village will be crowded with people, which is why Erik doesn't want Ivan going to look for Melati. He points out the differences in their circumstances and natures and says they must avoid Melati and Rian for the children's sake.

1:21:25 Mum makes the connection between the two unfortunates whom the children have befriended and the wanted convicts. She becomes alarmed when she can't find the children. They are at the shack, providing their new friends with more gifts to make their lives a little more comfortable.

1:25:00 At the shack, the four friends break the fast together, but not until the correct prayers have been said, as Melati insists. More formal prayers are observed after the meal. Meanwhile, police searchers and Mum have found the shack. They wait until the children are on their way home then surround the shack with armed officers and call on the men to surrender. Erik would rather die than return to prison. He convinces Ivan to commit suicide by police. The children, distressed at the police action struggle free of their mother and run to embrace Ivan and Erik, shouting, "Don't! Don't!". All four are crying. The police take Ivan and Erik into custody without shooting.

1:35:10 *Two years later.* Melati, Rian and Mum join all the villagers heading for the mosque to celebrate Lebaran at the end of Ramadan. Ivan and Erik, now clean shaven and dressed for prayer, joyfully greet them.