

**Film Title** – “Hafalan Shalat Delisa” (Delisa’s Prayers)

**Director's Name** – Soni Gaokasak

**Producer's Name** – Mithu Nisar, Fiaz Servia and Reza Servia

**Duration** – 102 minutes

**Genre** – Drama / historical fiction

**Language** – Indonesian with English subtitles

**Classifiable Elements:**

<b>Elements:</b>	<b>Examples that could be included:</b>
Themes	Religion, natural disasters, international relief, aid and foreign relations, family relationships
Violence	Images of dead people (acted), killed by the tsunami.
Sex	Nil
Language	Nil
Drug Use	Nil
Nudity	Nil

This film contains classifiable elements approximately corresponding to PG classification.

**Adequate synopsis**

*Hafalan Shalat Delisa* follows the story of Delisa, a young cheerful girl who lives in Lhok Nga, a small coastal village in Aceh, who has a beautiful life. She is the youngest child in her family. Her father, Abi Usman, works on a tanker for an international oil company. Delisa is very close to her mother Ummi, as well as her three sisters Fatimah, Aisyah and Zahra.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004, Delisa and her mother were waiting for Delisa to sit her Koranic prayer recitation test when suddenly there was an earthquake. The earthquake made Delisa and her mother scared. Then the tsunami struck, hitting their small village, destroying their school and churning up Delisa’s small body and hundreds of thousands of other Acehnese people, as well as other of remote coastal areas in South-east Asia.

Delisa was saved by an American soldier, Adam Smith, days after losing consciousness on a rocky outcrop. Sadly she was badly wounded and her right leg had to be amputated. Delisa’s suffering attracted the attention of many people. Smith wanted to adopt Delisa on his own but Abi Usman finds her. Delisa is happy to be reunited with her father, although she is sad to hear the news that her three sisters have already gone to heaven, and that nobody knew what had happened to her mother, Ummi.

Delisa rises from her feelings of sorrow from her loss and sense of giving up suffered by Abi Usman and other Acehnese people, Delisa becomes a small angel, sharing her smile with everyone around her. Despite her heavy heart, she teaches how sorrow can become strength to stay afloat. Although her tears do not seem to want to stop she tries to understand that sincerity allows us to get on with life without asking for anything.

## Sequence of scenes

- Opening scene 24<sup>th</sup> December 2004, village of Lhok Nga: Ummi and her three daughters go about their daily routines. Delisa is due to sit her Koran recitation exam and spends her day practicing the verses. Ummi invites Delisa to the market to buy a necklace as present for when she completes her examination.
- Delisa's sister Aiyasha displays signs of jealousy that Delisa has received a necklace and criticizes the manner in which she recites the prayers. Meanwhile the father, Abi Usman, telephones from the ship he is working on to encourage Delisa to study hard. Ummi confronts Aiyasha and counsels Delisa's older sister and the jealousy is resolved.
- At sunset the children play soccer on the beach and Delisa is scolded by her mother for coming home late and being late for prayer. The girls and their mother pray together and Delisa shows great affection towards her mother, hugging her and telling her "I love you because of God". The family embrace each other and show their love.
- The children receive religion lessons from Ustad Rahman. They are reminded of the need to be focused when reciting their prayers, and not to be tempted by distractions. The next day is the day of their prayer exams. In the evening the girls and mother sit together outside the front of their house for what will be the last time.
- The following morning, the day of Delisa's exam, Ummi and her are about to leave but decide to quickly go inside the house and get the necklace. Delisa wants to wear it but her mother tells her she needs to pass her exam first. Suddenly there is a strong earthquake and they flee the house. After the earthquake has subsided, the family gather together and plan to look after each while, Ummi takes Delisa to her exam.
- Delisa is inside the building to do her exam while her mother watches from outside through the window. Ummi holds up the necklace beforehand to motivate her to do well. As she recites the prayers, there is another earthquake and everyone is aware that there is a tsunami approaching, all except Delisa, who continues undistracted from her prayers. A series of flashbacks and imagined scenes of her communicating with family members denotes that she has been knocked unconscious by the force of the tsunami.
- Abi Usman is working on the ship and receives news that his hometown in Aceh has been hit by a tsunami. He tries to telephone but cannot get through. Delisa has been washed up on a rocky cliff. She is alive but unconscious. The recovery process involving domestic and foreign military, Red Cross, UN etc is underway
- 29<sup>th</sup> December 2004: Abi Usman arrives in Banda Aceh but due to communication networks being down has no news.
- Delisa slips in and out of consciousness but cannot move. Her leg is wounded and trapped under a piece of wood. Next to her is a dead girl. An American soldier Adam Smith, working for the recovery team rescues her. At the hospital doctors declare her ready for an operation.
- Abi Usman arrives in Lhok Nga, in search of his family, overwhelmed by the destruction caused by the tsunami. He finds some survivors from his village who inform him that his wife and three girls had all perished and had been buried.
- At the hospital Soldier Smith tells a foreign health worker Sister Sophie, the story of how he lost his own daughter in an accident and that Delisa is the same age as his daughter. Delisa wakes to find her leg has been amputated.

- Sister Sophie and Adam Smith gradually help Delisa recover from her injuries and help to find her family. Adam Smith offers to adopt her and take her back to America. But before she can reply, Abi Usman enters and father and daughter are reunited.
- Delisa expresses feeling of guilt that she quarrelled with her sisters. Her father gently breaks the news that her mother and sisters are all dead. They return to their home which has been total destroyed by the tsunami and they visit the mass grave where their mother and sisters are buried.
- Ustad Rahman walks around and is devastated by the destruction. He meets Delisa who matter-of-factly recounts what happened to her family. She remains buoyant with the notion that they have gone to heaven. Despite having lost her leg, she tries to play soccer with the other children. She continues to inspire the adults around her.
- Abi Usman has rebuilt their house but he struggles to bring her up and replace the role of her mother. Both have bouts of loss and sorrow and they bicker but thanks to Delisa's positive spirit, always resolve their issues.
- Sister Sophie and Adam Smith have to leave Lhok Nga and there is an emotional farewell. Ustad Rahman and Sister Sophie express mutual attraction but are embarrassed due to the religious conservatism of the local area.
- One day, a man runs up to the children and declares that "Umami has been found" and she misunderstands this that her mother has been found. When it is explained that it is not her mother but her friends, she gets angry and says that everyone leaves her, including Sister Sophie. She goes to the shore and gets swept up by the waves, however she is not hurt.
- Ustad Rahman pays a visit and gives Delisa a package that he had received from Sophie and it is revealed that has been corresponding with her.
- Delisa imagines she is saying goodbye to her mother at the gates of heaven, where her mother gives her a necklace.
- Delisa finally sits her prayer recitation test again. As she is praying she imagines finding her mother's body and takes the necklace from her hand. She passes the examination.
- In the final scenes Delisa and her father stand on the shores of the beach. They discuss how they miss Umami and sing a song of loss.