

“Di Timur Matahari” - OFLC Requirements

Film Title – “Di Timur Matahari” (To the East of the Morning Sun)

Director's Name – Ari Sihasale

Producer's Name – Nia Zulkarnaen, Ari Sihasale

Duration – 110 minutes

Genre – Drama

Language – Indonesian with English subtitles

Classifiable Elements:

Elements:	Examples that could be included:
Themes	Traditional tribal life, Religion, family relationships, education, tribal war
Violence	Images of dead people (acted), killed by spears.
Sex	Nil
Language	Nil
Drug Use	Nil
Nudity	Partial nudity - wearing of penis gourds by males in villages in Papua

This film contains classifiable elements approximately corresponding to PG classification.

Adequate synopsis

Di Timur Matahari follows a group of young Papuan children as they struggle to learn despite not having a teacher for six months and an ongoing tribal war.

Thomas, Mazmur, and their friends are waiting for a teacher, who should arrive by plane which will land at the small airstrip near their village. The airstrip is their only contact with the outside world. They have been without a teacher for six months. They have studied on their own, from nature and their elders, such as Priest Samuel, Doctor Fatimah, and the elders Ucok and Jolex.

Mazmur's father is killed by the father of their friend Agnes. This news drives Mazmur's uncle, Michael, and his wife Vina to come to the village from their home in Jakarta. They arrive in the village as tensions continue to build. Michael tries to ease tensions between the two factions, but is unsuccessful; his other brother, Alex, despises Michael's modern way of life and insists that the killers must pay an eye for an eye. While open violence breaks out among the adults, the children – despite being from different factions – continue to play together and learn with Vina.

Sequence of scenes

- Uncle Ucok dressed in a coat and traditional head dress plays a traditional instrument. He sees a young boy called Mazmur running past. Mazmur is going to the airstrip to see if their teacher is arriving by plane. After waiting some time he leaves disappointed and runs back to school. His friends are waiting for him in the

classroom and he lets them know that the teacher has not arrived so they can study singing. The children start to sing.

- The children run through the main street of the village. They run past a Priest giving a sermon to a group of men. The children keep running by and come to a hanging foot bridge and cross to the other side. Mazmur is running along the road when he sees a motorcycle coming towards him. He screams out, but the motor cycle does not stop and collides with Mazmur. Mazmur is taken to hospital to be checked by the doctor.
- In Jakarta Michael receives a phone call from his sister-in-law, Mazmur's mother, telling him that Mazmur is hurt, however she is so upset she tells him that Mazmur is dead. She tells him he must return to their village. Michael speaks to the priest who is handed the phone and he tells Michael that Mazmur is okay and that he is just in the hospital to be checked before being released.
- The motor cyclist who collided with the boy comes to the hospital to ask for forgiveness from Mazmur's uncles who are waiting outside. He says he will do whatever he can to be forgiven. The uncles ask for 50 million rupiah and the motor cyclist is surprised and angry at being asked to pay such a large amount. He opens his wallet and gives them all the money he has, about 500 thousand rupiah, saying that is all the money he has. They accept his money and the motorcyclist is forgiven.
- In class the children play soccer as their teacher has still not arrived to teach them.
- In the village people are sitting around a fire as they cook food to eat. The children run past them.
- The police come to where the motor cyclist works to tell him that a shooting took place last night. The motor cyclist is the project manager of a mining company.
- The doctor comes to the village to vaccinate the children, when they see her they run and hide because they don't want to get a needle. Their mothers call out to them and they return and are given their vaccinations.
- A group of men from the village come to the project manager of the mining company to ask for work. He says he can only employ three of the men so he chooses three of the men and tells the other men to leave. The ones who have been chosen to work ask for a work uniform. The project manager tells them there is no uniform and to get to work.
- The Priest comes to the bird seller, Mazmur's father Blasius, and asks about the birds the men are holding. They tell the priest that the birds are females and that the males will come to visit the females. The children have returned from the market with bird seed for the birds. The bag with the bird seed has a hole in it and most of the seed has fallen out. Blasius returns to the market to buy more seed.
- Mazmur's mother returns home on a motor bike and her husband Blasius ask her who she got a ride with. He is not happy with her and we hear him shouting at her then he hits her and she cries. (This is not seen only heard).
- The doctor is at the clinic giving women health check. Then she returns to the village to give health checks to the children and finds out that the children do not have a teacher. She sits down with them and talks with them and gives them a quiz.
- The next day Uncle Ucok waits at the airport, but when no plane arrives he goes straight to the school to let the children know that no teacher has come, but the children are not there. The children are walking along a mountain track and playing. One of the children's mothers passes by and gives the children passionfruit. One of

the children pinches the passionfruit and the other children run after him trying to get the passionfruit off him.

- The children visit the project manager to ask for a job, he tells them to go home because there is no work for them. Then the children visit the Priest and he asks them why they are not at school. They tell him that they don't have a teacher. He tells them to come to Sunday school as they can learn there as well.
- The priests ask where Yong got his hand phone. Yong tells the priest he got it from a shop at the market. He tells the priest it cost 2 million rupiah but it only has naughty pictures (naked ladies) on it. The priest goes to the phone shop and tells the man who sold the phone not to corrupt the youth of the village with bad images.
- Basius sold some of his birds and with the money he received from the sale he goes to buy his sons some clothes. When he pays the shopkeeper tells him the money is counterfeit money and cannot be used. Basius is angry and he goes to visit Joseph who introduced the buyer of the birds. He is angry with Joseph and he fights with him and wins.
- Joseph is angry and feels humiliated so he decides to retaliate. He sees Blasius crossing the footbridge and he comes out from where he was hiding behind bushes and kills Basius with a spear. This is the beginning of the tribal war where the death of a one tribal clan member is avenged with the death of a member of the opposing tribal clan.
- Michael receives a call from Basius's wife asking him to come home to Papua. Michael and his wife, Vina, return home to Papua. When they return his tribal clan hold a meeting to discuss compensation for Basius's death. They ask for 3 million rupiah and say if Joseph's clan cannot pay then there will be war.
- At Basius's funeral the Priest begs the people gathered not to take revenge for his death. The crowd sing songs in honour of Basius's life.
- Vina finds it difficult to adjust to life in Papua as it is very different from her life in Jakarta. She finds it difficult to sleep the first night because everything is so strange for her.
- The day after the funeral Basius's wife goes to an open field and cuts off part of her finger (this is not seen we only see her finger wrapped in a bandage later) to show her grief at the passing of her husband. This is a custom of people in this area of Papua.
- Michael and Vina go shopping the next day to buy rice and are shocked at the very high price they have to pay. That night Vina goes to visit Basius's wife who is recovering from her grief.
- The next day the tribes meet to fight each other. The priest tries to stop the clans from fighting. Joseph's clan are disrespectful to the priest and Basius's brother Alex tells the other tribe to show respect for the priest.
- The children are at the river with Michael and Vina. The children ask Vina to swim, but Vina declines.
- Michael and Alex fight about why their mother was buried in Java. Michael tells Alex he could not afford to bring their mother back to Papua to be buried. Michael tells Alex that while she was in Java she was worried about Alex and Basius.
- Michael, Alex, people from their village and the children gather on the mountain side to plant yams. Mazmur falls and is taken to the doctor for a check-up. She checks his

eyesight and finds that he is very short sighted so she prescribes glasses. When the glasses arrive she goes to visit Mazmur who is playing soccer with his friends.

- Michael and Vina decide that it is time to return to Jakarta. On the way to the airport their car is ambushed and Uncle Ucok is speared by someone from Joseph's tribe. They decide to return to the village to bury Uncle Ucok. When they get there they find that their houses have been burnt so they decide to go to the church. They are about to have the funeral service for Uncle Ucok when Alex and some of the members of the tribe, dressed in tribal war clothes with spears enter the churchyard. They have decided to avenge the death of Uncle Ucok. The Priest and Michael plead with them not to take revenge, but they will not listen. The priest asks them to leave the churchyard as he is angry that they have brought their spears into the churchyard.
- The next day Alex is brought injured to the churchyard. Alex's son begs the doctor to help his father, but she does nothing as she had said she would not help anyone who got involved in the tribal war. He keeps on pleading and in the end she helps but it is too late as he has died.
- Mazmur witnesses this scene and he runs to where the fighting is taking place. The children follow him and the adults follow the children. When Mazmur reaches the place where the tribes are gathered he starts to sing. When the children get there they also start to sing. The children belong to both tribes. The fighting ceases as the tribesmen understand they cannot fight in front of their own children. The adults who ran after the children witness the two tribes coming together in a dance of peace. The tribal war is over.
- Michael and his wife return to Java. Michael returns later to his village to be the village teacher.