

SCIENCE AROUND US



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01 SPECS

Country of Production : The Netherlands, Indonesia

Format : Short film

Genre : Drama - Comedy

Aspect Ratio : 1: 2.39. 25FPS 4K

Release : December, 2021

Duration: 20:00

Language: Javanese, English, Dutch

Subtitle: English

Sound: 5.1

Publicity and Distribution:

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02

LOGLINE

After finding out that his father was admitted into hospital and refuses further medical treatment in Indonesia, Budi has to convince his stubborn father to take medical treatment while trying to clean up his post-sex party Airbnb . All in 20 minutes.



03

SYNOPSIS

Budi (ARIV) is an Indonesian, in-the-closet, prodigal son, living in the Netherlands whose relationship with his family is far from ideal. In The Netherlands by himself, he managed to own an AirBnB Apartment to rent.

One day, after he had a wild party in his AirBnB, his AirBnB guests tell him that they are about to arrive in 20 minutes while his AirBnB is still a big mess.

Additionally, one of the guests, Henk (Aris Julian), is still in Budi's apartment, high as a kite.

The plot thickens when at the same time, Budi receives a call from his brother (Muhammad Banyu Bening) in Indonesia and tells him that his father (Ibnu Gundul Widodo) is in a hospital and refuses medical treatment in Indonesia.

Budi has to deal with everything in 20 minutes.



04

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Often, language between father and son is a language of action. Not of words. Language understood through eyes, not of ears.

The phrase “I love you” in father and son language can be in the shape of helping to build Ikea cupboards, teaching how to bike, teaching how to shave, or even filing our first or tenth tax forms.

Like any other language, some are fluent. Some are inarticulate. Many fathers would rather build hundreds of Ikea cupboards or fill 15 years worth of tax forms instead of saying to their sons “I love you”, “I forgive you”, “I am proud to be your father” or “I am sorry”.

“Science Around Us” is an awkward and endearing attempt between a father and an in-the-closet Indonesian son who live thousands kilometers away to communicate all of those important messages through a very little common ground they have. An obscure science radio show they once loved, decades ago.

“Science Around Us” also shows the struggle of both father and son to find back their affection because of each other’s absence. Reminding us that we love the best way we could. The best we know how. Although, not necessarily the best way we should.



WRITER & DIRECTOR

ARIV



After working as a junior associate lawyer for two years, worked as a junior legal counsel for four defendants of death penalty cases in Indonesia, he boxed his thick law books, donated his suits and worked as Creative at Advertising Agency like Wieden + Kenney Amsterdam and Anomaly Amstaredam.

Two D & AD New Blood pencils later, he wrote, directed, acted and edited his first short film “Science Around Us”. This film was selected at the IFFR, The Netherlands Film Festival and nominated for VEVAM Talent Award 2021.

ARIV is currently working on a new project supported by the Dutch Film Fonds while also cooking a new Series and a documentary podcast.

PRODUCER MARIJN VAN DER PLOEG



Marijn van der Ploeg is a producer and filmmaker with a big passion for social-cultural projects.

In 2018 she founded Stichting KamerFilm. Currently, working from Berlin, she produces the Teledoc Campus ‘Onderweg’, in collaboration with broadcaster Human

DOP TOBIAS SMEETS



Tobias Smeets (1987) attended the HKU University of Art Utrecht. He works as a director of photography, screenwriter and director. His film *Kort! - Gratis* (2016) received the Golden Calf for Best Short Film.

COMPOSER RENÁN ZELADA CISNEROS



Renán Zelada Cisneros is a composer specialized in music for visual media such as film, TV, and theater.

Renán collaborates regularly with filmmakers both in the Netherlands and abroad.

He has worked in award-winning films such as *A View From Above* (winner of the Pathé Tuschinsky Award at the Netherlands Film Festival 2020) and *Harmonia* (winner of the Topkapi Fiction Prize at the Keep an Eye Festival and the Wildcard at the Netherlands Film Festival 2020).

Recent projects include music theater productions in collaboration with KASKO and house for music theater in Zwolle.

SOUND DESIGNER

ZENO HEHENKAMP



Zeno Hehenkamp (1998) is a Dutch sound designer. He graduated from the Netherlands Film Academy in 2020, after which he started working as a freelancer.

Zeno has worked on several short films, such as the documentary *A view from Above*, which won the prize for Best Documentary Short at the Odense Film Festival 2021. He also has experience working for television series, having worked on, and contributed to, Dutch series *Red Light*, *Onze Straat* and *Mocro Maffia*.

Last winter, Zeno worked on his first feature-length film, the drama film *Pleasure*, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival and premiered at Sundance Festival earlier this year.

Zeno is currently working for sound studio Soundcircus in Amsterdam.

Budi : ARIV

Bapak: Ibnu Gundul Widodo

Henk : Aris Julian

Bima: Muhammad Banyu Bening

Nurse: Kiswati Anjarini

Guest (Julia) : Julia van Berkom

Co-writer : Tommaso Genovesi

Editor: ARIV, Huub Verburg

Steadicam Operator: Max Franken

Focus Puller: Arjen Ottema

Data Handler: Celestin Dubin

Gaffer: Otto Ligt

Light Assistant: Kevin Kessels

Production Designer : Chavelli Martodihardjo

Make - Up : Anien Salomons

Art Department Assistant: Thomas Dekker

Sound Designer & Mixer : Zeno Hehenkamp

Sound Set Recorder : Jesper Bauer

VFX : Ömur Sönmez

First AD: Robert - Jonathan Koeyers

Second AD: Frederike Scheffer

Producer Assistant: Marjan Voskuilen

Graphic Designer: ARIV, Joran Baxk

English Translation Consultant: Lucy Courtnal

Dutch Translation Consultant: Bram Trouwborst

Javanese Translation Consultant: Novita Dwi Ariani

Acting Coach Budi: Arthur Buchholz



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ABOUT “SCIENCE AROUND US”

1. While Science Around Us is 90% in Javanese, only the Director and the Make-Up artist understand Javanese in the shooting location.
2. The dialogues in the film are inspired by both the director's experience of his own phone calls with his parents and books about how to build logical arguments when he was in the debating and the moot court competition team when he was in law school.
3. Science Around Us was shot and recorded live in two different countries. The film crew in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and Indonesian actors in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
4. The story of Science Around Us inspired by the death of the Director's grandmother while he was temporarily living in Lisbon.
5. The Director (ARIV) was not supposed to act as the main character in the film. But after three months of fruitless search for actors who can speak Javanese, English, Indonesian and Dutch, there are only two options remaining. Either to change the cultural background of the story or The Writer - Director himself should act. We choose the second.
6. While Science Around Us stands on its own as a short film, it is also a pilot for 8 separated stories called Road Home : Rotterdam. It tells 8 stories that take place in a Rotterdam Airbnb Apartment witnessing the private lives of its occupants, all in search of a home away from home.
7. Before the shooting day, Science Around Us got through 8 weekends of previsualisation with a cellphone camera.
8. The director decided to create the appearance of one long continuous take to strengthen the unity and the sense of time and space.
9. Science Around Us is shot in the director's apartment.
10. All the variety of sex toys seen in the film are sponsored by an online sex shop.













