

**The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD)  
proudly presents Dutch feature film “Oeroeg” - the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July**



\* Damascus, East  
Mezzeh, Farabi  
Street 85 (close to  
the Greek Embassy)

\* Evening starts at  
19:45 hours!

\* Dutch and Malay  
language – Arabic  
Subtitles!

**Oeroeg.** Dutch boy Johan grows up on the plantation of his father in Dutch Indonesia, always playing with his best friend Oeroeg, son of the foreman of the plantation. Johan and Oeroeg become blood brothers. As a boy Johan is barely aware of everything that divides them, but this gradually changes as he leaves for study in Holland. Johan comes back to Dutch Indonesia as a soldier in the Dutch army that is sent to Indonesia to fight against the Indonesian independence movement. Somewhat naïve as far as his position is concerned, Johan is torn apart by love for the country where he was born, and his duty as a soldier to take up arms against the Indonesians. Distressed by the ignorance and racism of his Dutch colleague soldiers, Johan intends to find his old blood brother Oeroeg again, although he has reason to believe that Oeroeg is now a leader in the Indonesian forces he is obliged to fight. He goes on a mission in the jungle to find him. Is the blood friendship between Johan and Oeroeg stronger than all the political circumstances dividing them?

The Dutch first came to Indonesia in 1596 and were present for more than three centuries. Between March 1942 and June 1945 Japan occupied the territories. In the period between July 1947 and January 1949 the Dutch carried out 2 military campaigns to restore control. The Netherlands recognized the independence of Indonesia on December 27, 1949.



A large part of 'Oeroeg' is set in the period of the military campaigns. This film is a free interpretation of the novel 'Oeroeg', of the well-known Dutch author Hella Haase. Her novel was first published in 1948.



**Filmdirector: Hans Hylkema.** Hans Hylkema (Amsterdam, 1945) graduated from the Dutch Film Academy in 1967. After working as cameraman for several years, he made his directing debut in 1970. Hylkema has directed many documentaries and feature films, including "The Kingmaker Connection" (1983), "Julia's Secret" (1987), "The Parrot" (1989), "Oeroeg" (1993), "Last Date" (1991), "Freemarket" (1997) and "Kid Dynamite" (2001).

**Prizes for Oeroeg.** Golden Calf for best actor (Rik Launspach, "Johan" in the film) at the Netherlands Film Festival 1993.

**Free Tickets.** For our limited number of seats free ticket are available and can be picked up at NIASD (East Mezzeh, Farabi Str. 85). Info: 61249790 & [assistant@niasd.org](mailto:assistant@niasd.org).

