



FACULTY OF FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUT KESENIAN JAKARTA PRESENTS  
FINAL ASSIGNMENT PROJECT ESA  
A DOCUMENTARY BY EVA AISYA PURNADIA



Standing on **one** earth, staring at **one** sky.  
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**PRESS KIT**

## Synopsis

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### ESA

A 13-minute documentary film about the representation of religious diversity which is expressed through a series of rituals of worshiping God and relationships between human beings based on love for God which is manifested in everyday life.

This film depicts the dynamics of the pluralistic lives of Surakarta society by combining a series of images taken in the present with journalistic visual archives from the past. The reality of the religious life of the people of Surakarta is displayed using a more universal visual language.

This documentary emphasizes the diversity and warmth of the religious practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Orthodox Christianity and Islam, as well as human relations which sometimes occur disputes and conflicts.

## Project Timeline

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**MARCH - AUGUST 2022**

**NOVEMBER 2022 - APRIL 2023**

**MAY - JULY 2023**

**FROM AUGUST 2023**

Pre-production

Production

Post-production

Screening & Distribution

WHERE  
THERE  
IS LOVE,  
THERE IS  
GOD

## Director's Statement

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The reality of the religious life of Surakarta people is represented through a poetic documentary for the first time. Surakarta is known for its pluralism, but acts of intolerance still frequently occur, which is proof that pluralism has not been managed well. This film pays attention to this problem by utilizing audio-visual art as a medium that is easily enjoyed by the public.

Through the series of images and the use of visual archival material, this film depicts the religious life of a pluralistic society. As a religious society, people have high ambitions to deepen their religious knowledge. On the other hand, it is also important for us as a pluralistic society to understand the religions of other people.

Understanding other religions and their existence is an effort to be tolerant. This film represents five religions that exist in Surakarta but are still often misunderstood, rejected, or even unaware of their existence, including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Orthodox Christianity.

Without using narration or interviews, this film minimizes the tendency of one-sided subjectivity. That way, the subject in this documentary is not just one person, but all the people involved.

Individual and collective awareness is needed in efforts to build awareness of tolerance. One way to maintain awareness of tolerance is by getting used to a diverse society and being willing to accept differences.

In the end, **Esa** will prove the ability of documentary films to help us understand the world we live in and become a contemplation in redefining religious tolerance.



## Screening & Distribution

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**Esa**, the documentary which has been completed and has become a complete work, was screened for the first time at the Faculty of Film and Television, Institut Kesenian Jakarta.

Furthermore, this film will be distributed to screening rooms and discussion forums that are interested in religion, socio-cultural, and tolerance themes, such as Kineforum, Forum Kerukunan Umat Beragama, and so on.

Additionally, this film will be available to third parties that interested in screening the film for educational purposes. All proceeds obtained from this film will be donated to the houses of worship and religious communities who had contributed during the making of the film.







DIRECTOR

**Eva Aisya Purnadia**

Eva Aisya Purnadia is a student at the Faculty of Film and Television, Institut Kesenian Jakarta, who has majored in documentary film since 2020. Eva started working by writing and making several short documentaries related to religion themes. She had made several short documentaries that raised racial and religious issues, including *Harmoni Sunyi* (International title: *Harmonious Silence*, 2021) and *Cina Muslim* (International title: *Chinese Muslims*, 2019).

Her latest film, entitled *Esa* (2023), is her final assignment project for obtaining a bachelor's degree which represents her concerns about religious intolerance. **Esa** is the third film that raises issues about race and religion. Growing up in a diverse environment but with a crisis of tolerance is the irony that inspired Eva to find the idea for her film.



## Contributing Parties

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Mr. Gimanto and all the Hindus at Pura Jonggol Shanti Loka and Pura Tunggal Ika.

Mr. Ida Bagus Komang Suarnawa, Mr. Putu Eri Wirasatia, and all the Hindus at Pura Indra Prasta.

Suhu Duta Arya, Mas Dani, and all the Buddhists at Vihara Lotus.

Mr. Eric Fernando, WALUBI, and all committee of Waisak Nasional 2022 in Borobudur.

Ustaz Ismail Muhammad, Ustazah Rhea, Ustazah Zahro, and all the teachers and students of the Daarul Arqom Modern Islamic Boarding School.

Mr. Henry Susanto, Mr. Aji, Mr. Dian, Mrs. Wiwin, and all the Confucian people at Lithang Gerbang Kebajikan and Kelenteng Tien Kok Sie.

Mas Agus, Mas Ari, Mas Sarjanto, and all the Barongsai Tripusaka crews.

Fr. Alexios Setir Cahyadi and family, and all the Orthodox Christians at GOI Paroikia Tritunggal Mahakudus.

Anggie Clarestya, Bintang Pandu Negoro, Nursalliya, Daniyah Nur Fikriyah, Rhea Khairun Nissa, Mas Kris, Mas Ihsan, Kak Hani, Ni Luh, and all friends who had helped and supported the production of this documentary.



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