

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is looking directly at the camera. She is in a hallway with blue lighting. The background shows a brick wall and a doorway. The overall mood is somber and cinematic.

ABU CINTA

SHORT FILM BY GIFARI NOTOWIDIGDO



SYNOPSIS

Jessica Wijaya, an Indonesian migrant and piano tutor, struggles with her internal conflict of overcoming an abusive relationship whilst finding herself amid a cultural crisis. Growing up in a predominately Asian culture, Jessica faces the challenge of navigating through the Western landscape and must learn how to express her emotions to another. In the midst of her existing conflicts, her mother, Nadya Wijaya, diminishes her independence and pressures her to abandon her new life and dreams, and return to Jakarta. During her time in Australia, she starts dating Yuri Li, a Cantonese businessman and struggles to convey her love to him. With Jessica struggling to overcome her mother's control and the looming presence of her abusive ex-boyfriend, she must make the ultimate choice: to take control of her life and heal or let others decide her fate.

SPECIFICATIONS

Title: ABU CINTA
Running Time: 10:01 minutes
Shooting Format: Red Gemini/4K
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Sound: 16bit/48KHz Stereo
Country of Production: Australia
Year: 2024
Production Company: NOTO Film Company

LOGLINE & TAGLINE

Suffering from the trauma of a past relationship, an Indonesian migrant and piano tutor, Jessica, must confront her inability to move on while discovering how to love others and herself once again.

Love can only bloom after the ashes settle.



CREW & CAST CREDITS

CREW

Director	Gifari Notowidigdo
Writer	Gifari Notowidigdo
Producer	Callum Vize
Supervising Producer	Antony Cirocco
Director of Photography	Sapphrine Andrews
First Assistant Director	Emily Erenavula
Production Designer	Jasmine Zolerick
Music composed by	Linus So
Gaffer	Angelique Anastassiou
Best Boy	Kerrie K & Linus So
First Assistant Cameraman	Brady O'Sullivan
Second Assistant Cameraman	Oliver Morse
Sound Recordist	Emogen Lane
Sound Assistant	Elijah Uy
Makeup Artist	Madison Kapral
Data Wrangler	Bill Robertson
Continuity Supervisor	Jackson Wells
Editor	Callum Vize
Colourist	Callum Vize
Sound Mixer	Troy V and Jeanise
Visual Effects & Credits	Gifari Notowidigdo
Casting director	Emily Erenavula
BTS Director	Hayden "Sydney" Hobbs
BTS Director of Photography	Joshua Jackson
Gear Transport	Bill Robertson, Sapphrine Andrews & Gennady Notowidigdo

CAST

Jessica Wijaya	Elissa Griselda
Yuri Li	David Lui
Samantha Jameson (Student's mum)	Claire Block
Nadya Wijaya (Jessica's Mum)	Vivi Joe





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Though, being an Australian-born Indonesian, I still found myself struggling throughout my life as I navigated through a Western landscape. While growing up in a family that holds themselves to an Islamic and Asian perspective of the world and how to conduct themselves, I found myself torn through both cultures as I had been surrounded by differentiating influences. The struggle to fit in or the inability to overcome trauma and express that to a family that doesn't often talk about theirs had shaped the primary goal of this film, *Abu Cinta* which translates to *Ashes of Love*. The culmination of different experiences, mine and

others, into one short film that represents the Asian-Australian community in the Australian film industry, filling in the gap for the lack of representation has always been the point I had been aiming for. I had aimed for this film to resonate with people and give Western audiences a new perspective on Asian culture.

This film aims to give Asian-Australian audiences a sense of cultural fulfilment in the Western landscape where they may experience a sense of displacement in society, allowing themselves to embrace their identity despite the contrasting values. However, this film also aims to allow

Western audiences to understand the struggle this group of people experience in their everyday lives within Australian society and how they are forced to adapt to this cultural shock. This film also delves into the concept of self-worth, an important aspect of the main character's journey as she learns to love and accept herself as an independent individual. She learns to overcome her trauma and stand up for herself against her controlling family, allowing her to become a relatable character that can resonate with audiences who might be experiencing the same issues.



Gifari Notowidigdo

DIRECTOR, WRITER, VISUAL EFFECTS & CREDITS

Gifari Notowidigdo is a 20-year-old Australian-Indonesian writer, director, gaffer, colourist and editor who is currently studying film production at SAE University College. Gifari has written and directed a short film called *COOK!* and has been the 1st Assistant Director on the short film, *'Fisherman's Folly'* (2023) directed by Liz "Odeil" Hill. Gifari has worked on other projects in a variety of different roles such as Producer, gaffer, and colourist for a short documentary called *'Thank You For The Music'* (2024) directed by Jasmine Zolerick, and has been a gaffer for a short film called *'Flame Trees'* (2024) directed by Bill Robertson. Another achievement of Gifari's directorial prowess was a commercial he made for Sydney Sports Recovery in mid-2024. Gifari has always been interested in writing, whether that'd be writing YouTube videos, scripts, or even books that never see the light of day, his passion for it has led to him eventually becoming a director for two short films and a commercial. After working in the Indonesian film industry alongside Hanung Bramantyo, Gifari was given the motivation to write an Indonesian short film to help him further explore his cultural identity and share it with others. The reason he wrote *Abu Cinta* (*Ashes of Love*) was to express his own cultural displacement that he had felt when moving to Sydney from Jakarta, Indonesia where he had to learn how to adapt to a new culture. However, after coming back from filming overseas, Gifari realised the potential that representation has on individuals. When writing *Abu Cinta*, Gifari wanted to help represent the Asian-Australian community and share his voice about the struggles of fitting in and how to accept one's own culture and identity.



KEY CREATIVES



Callum
Vize

PRODUCER, EDITOR & COLOURIST

Callum Vize is a 23-year old Australian filmmaker currently studying at SAE University College Sydney. Throughout his time at SAE Callum has specialized as a colourist in several films such as a short comedy 'Winners Don't Lose' (2023), a short documentary on the Harbour Bridge called 'Leap of Faith' (2024) and a music video for The Bancrofts titled 'Cruisers and Carltons' (2024). Callum has also worked on other short films as well as these performing various other production roles such as producer, continuity supervisor, director of photography, 1st assistant camera and editor.

"As someone who has grown up and spent almost their entire life living in a foreign country I was immediately drawn to the story of Abu Cinta. Jessica is a character that I can empathize with heavily, the sense of not belonging but also not feeling like you have a place that you call home."



Sapphrine
Andrews

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Sapphrine Andrews is a 21 year old filmmaker based in Sydney. She has been a passionate filmmaker from a young age going above and beyond starting out by making videos for her high school and social media. In 2022 Sapphrine decided to make her passion into her career, and started studying her bachelor of film at the Sae Media Institute Sydney. Ever since then she has worked on a variety of projects from short films, music videos and documentaries. Her love for being behind the camera has made her major in cinematography where she has been the director of photography in a number of recent projects. She continues to excel in her work and has started working on personal projects to showcase her advanced camera skills across social media.



Emily
Erenavula

1st Assistant Director & Casting Director

Emily Erenavula is a Sydney-based Pasifika filmmaker who is working towards receiving a Bachelor of Film Production at SAE Creative Media Institute Sydney. While studying at SAE Emily worked as the Director/Writer of What line is that? (2023), and took on the role of Producer and Marketing Coordinator for the short film 'This is not a gun' (Zoe Foran, 2023). Emily's most recent project was a documentary style video installation 'One Ocean, Many Waves' (Gabriel Faatau'uu-Satiu, 2024) that speaks to the Pacific Islander experience in Australia. One Ocean, Many Waves was the first project Emily worked on outside the confinements of SAE as the Associate Producer and First Assistant Director. This project prepared her for the role of First Assistant Director/ BTS videographer/ Marketing Coordinator on the documentary, 'Dancing on: The Story of West Dance Co.' (Stephanie Marin). Continuing to work on projects with heavy cultural themes worked as Assistant Director and Casting Director on 'ABU CINTA' (Gifari Notowidigdo, 2024).

KEY CREATIVES



HAYDEN "SYDNEY" HOBBS

BTS DIRECTOR

Sydney Nobbs is a 20 year old Australian filmmaker, editor and sound designer who's previously studied at SAE University College. She has worked in the online space as a freelance editor & voice actor and is currently involved with an audiobook style Youtube project by the name of Studio Reverie. Before Abu Cinta she worked on a plethora of projects such as "Thank you for the music" (2024), "Berried" (2024) & "Cook!" (2023). With a passion for all things visual media, Sydney loves how film can tell stories all through the look, feel and sound without the need for a single word to be uttered as well as experiment with the medium to enhance her knowledge in the field. She wishes to expand their filmography to include a multitude of different roles while expanding their repertoire inside of both the film and digital media industries.



Elissa Griselda

Model/ Actor, Played Jessica Wijaya

Elissa Griselda is an Indonesian model and aspiring actor. Elissa was a CGM model and has worked with many Australia photographers in professional photoshoots and studios In Indonesia Elissa has performed in a stage play called Lucid Dream. ABU CINTA is the first acting role Elissa has worked on, and had landed the head role as Jessica. Alongside modelling and acting Elissa is a vlogger.



David Lui

Actor, Played Yuri Li

David Lui is a promising actor who has secured multiple lead roles in short films within months of beginning his acting journey. His talent for authentic, evocative performances conveyed through subtlety has earned praise from directors and audiences alike. Beyond acting, David is the writer and executive producer for a feature film slated for 2025.

David's background as a psychologist enhances his acting and storytelling. His deep insight into the human mind allows him to portray complex characters with authenticity and empathy. This unique perspective also informs his writing and producing, adding depth to his projects. His projects often delve into themes of identity, the human psyche, and the immigrant experience, reflecting his own heritage and the stories of those around him. Through these narratives, David aims to foster greater understanding and appreciation of the human experience.

Known for his collaborative spirit, David enjoys experimenting with different storytelling techniques and pushing the boundaries of traditional filmmaking. This approach has earned him respect within the industry and a growing fan base.

Looking ahead, David continues to seek challenging projects that allow him to grow as an artist. His ambition is to create works that entertain, inspire, and provoke thought.





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