



In memory of P. Ramlee

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In memory of P. Ramlee

THE late P. Ramlee or Ramlee bin Puteh was an all-round entertainer. He was an actor, director, scriptwriter, singer, musician and composer all rolled into one.

As a film actor he achieved superstar status, having acted in nearly 200 films. He also directed about 50 of them.

As a composer he was very prolific, having written over a thousand songs, many of which were hits. And, as a singer he was well known as a man with

a 'golden voice'.

He started his film career in Singapore in 1948 as an 'extra' but he quickly rose to fame.

He made most of his films in the Jalan Ampas Studios in Singapore in the fifties and early sixties. In 1964 he moved to Kuala Lumpur.

He was born on March 22, 1929 and passed away on May 29, 1973, leaving an indelible mark on the entertainment worlds of both sides of the Causeway.

What is little known about him is his role in

the development of Malay language and culture.

Many colloquial expressions used in his films have now become everyday words used in conversations. Examples of such expressions are: 'angau', meaning 'love sickness', 'kapur' (to borrow something and to deliberately forget to return it), and

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forget to return it) and 'cubaan' (a distraction that comes at a time of meditation and one that should be looked upon as a 'test' of faith and endurance. Hence it also means a 'test' of steadfastness in pursuing something in life).


The word 'pawagam', meaning 'cinema' or 'movie theatre' was coined by him.

As is widely known, the development of Malay cultural dances owed much to the Malay films of the fifties. And, P. Ramlee was largely responsible for the production of most of those films.



The following is a report on the efforts made by Segugus Film Production to make a film about the life of the versatile entertainer. It is lifted from the New Straits Times.


"IT'S all fated," said film director Yusaini Amir of Segugus Film Production, now working on a \$600,000 film about P. Ramlee. "I dreamt of him one night. He was just smiling, he didn't say a word to me."



He said he then related his dream to his Indonesian-born wife. And her immediate reaction was: "Why not make a film about P. Ramlee?"

Sparked off by the suggestion and hoping to get more information on the late entertainer, Encik Yusaini wrote a letter to novelist Abdullah Hussein, a close friend of P. Ramlee's, who was then in Brunei.

Five days later, Encik Abdullah's reply came. He said he had, in fact, written a biography of P. Ramlee many years ago. To the delighted Encik Yusaini, it was yet another fulfilment of fate.



"Abdullah also told me in his letter that he had even drafted a film script on P. Ramlee," added Encik Yusaini. "What a coincidence it was."

Hobbies

Last week, nearly a month after the project was publicly launched, it was disclosed at a Press conference in Pulau Pinang that the man to play P. Ramlee had been found.

He is Daud bin Yusoff,

22, a laboratory assistant at a university in Kuala Lumpur. Encik Daud has, however, requested Encik Yusaini not to reveal which university.

The selection, said Encik Yusaini, has even been endorsed by Encik Abu Bakar Mohamad of Pulau Pinang, P. Ramlee's first music teacher and personal friend.

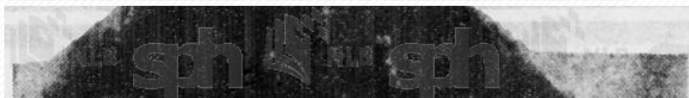
According to what is stated in his application form, Perak-born Daud Yusoff is currently residing in Kampung Sungai Ramal Baharu in Kajang, Selangor. His stated hobbies are singing and dancing.

Encik Daud's resemblance to the young P. Ramlee is reported to be close, in terms of face, body and character. When Encik Yusaini told Encik Abu Bakar that Daud also has pimples on his face, as P. Ramlee had, the music teacher was "immensely surprised".

Daud's voice will, however, not be used for the part. The man chosen for that, said Encik Yusaini, is Sulaiman bin Yassin,



The late P Ramlee.





Encik Daud.



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