



Jockey Boy

The 6-year Coming of Age Story of Dao, a Boy Jockey from Sumbawa Island, Indonesia.

© 2024. JH Production

SYNOPSIS



Dao, a small and agile jockey boy, has been competing in horse racing since he was five. With the money he earns from completing the races, Dao supports his family's livelihood. When his baby brother Fatih is born, Dao's parents face financial difficulties and send him to live with a horse owner. Dao leaves home to work and go to school at the horse owner's house. At night, Dao studies in a dark corner of the stable under dim lights. He dreams of becoming a veterinarian.

On the day of a training race, Dao is terrified when he sees a fellow rider fall from a spooked horse. His father takes him to a shaman who sprinkles him with holy water, says a prayer, and assures him that he will not be hurt even if he falls off the horse. Dao wants to believe those words, but hearing adults say that Fatih will also be raised as a jockey weighs heavily on his mind. With anxiety and hope, the boy stands in front of the starting line. How long will this race continue?



In the name of tradition, a 5-year-old boy becomes a jockey.
The poor farmer's son could not defy that fate.
Nevertheless, the boy dreams of becoming a veterinarian.

KEY CHARACTERS



Dao

He became a jockey at the age of 5 and retired at 13. He dreams of becoming a veterinarian and dedicates himself to his studies. However, when his brother Fatih is born, the family's finances deteriorate, so he moves into a horse owner to help and attend school.



Hermansyah

Dao's father.

Born into poverty, he was a jockey in his youth. He barely makes ends meet by farming and caring for horses of a horse owner. Although he has no money, he decides to send Dao to the horse owner's house to continue his education.



Handika

Dao's stablemate and retired jockey. Dao meets Handika when he comes to live in her house. He is the only one who has a realistic view of the society, which is dominated by tradition and shamanism. He supports Dao's dreams so that Dao can continue his studies and not drop out like he did.



Fatih

Dao's younger brother

The birth of Fatih marks a turning point in Dao's life.

Director's Statement



DIRECTOR

Jeonghwa Shin

In the spring of 2017, I met Dao at a horse racing track in Bima, where he was a 12-year-old boy who said he wanted to be a veterinarian. As the son of a poor farmer, Dao believed that if he worked hard, rode horses, and studied hard, he could achieve his dream. But it wasn't easy for the boy to realize his dream.

I had watched Dao's life for six years, and that was just one piece of his life's race. There is a much longer race ahead of him, and we can't wait to see what kind of outcome he will make.

Highlights of Filmography and Awards

2020 <Fisher Queen : Woman vs. Nature> 52mins

- 2021 Toronto International Women Film Festival - Honorable Mention Feature Documentary
- 2021 Asian Cinematography AWARDS (ACA) - Best Asian Director, Best Feature Film

2024 <Jockey Boy> 85mins

- 2020 EIDF - Prime Choice Award, EBS Prime Pitch
- 2021 Tokyo Docs - Colors of Asia 2022 Excellent Pitch Award

FILM MAKERS

Jeonghwa SHIN

DIRECTOR

Since 2001, SHIN has directed numerous TV series and documentaries. She's interested in Korean and Asian culture and people. As a graduate of the University of Sydney's Film & Digital Image program in 2006, she produced and directed <The March of Dying Candles>, a short documentary about Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, and <The Cry of Wild Goose>, a short film about the death of a 'goose father.' <Jockey Boy> is the 2nd feature documentary she produced by traveling back and forth to Indonesia since 2017.

Chai-min AHN

DIRECTOR of CINEMATOGRAPHY

Over 25 years, AHN has shot numerous documentaries for national and international broadcast and film. His work has taken him from Everest to the depths of the Pacific Ocean, from Antarctica to the rainforest, and from the rainforest to the Antarctic. Where his camera shines brightest is in documenting human beings. His film <My Barefoot Friend> was selected for the IDFA Feature Competition in 2010 and was an official selection at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival and Hot Docs in Canada. His directorial feature <Where is My Son?> won the EIDF Audience Award in 2018.

Kyung-Hai KIM

CREATIVE PRODUCER

Since 2000, KIM has produced and written documentaries for TV and film. She is interested in traditional culture, art, and social issues. <Logbook>, which followed the divers rescuing the Sewol Ferry, won the 2018 DMZ Docs Korean Competition Jury Award, and she has worked on UHD documentaries such as <Fisher Queen>, <The Praise of Four Seasons>, and <Little Bird>.



Film Info

Runtime : 85m 41s
Format : HD / 4K
Language : Indonesian
Subtitle : English

Contacts

- **Jeonghwa Shin** Director/Producer
E-mail : orpheus77@hanmail.net
- **Catherine LeClef** International Sales
E-mail : cat@catndocs.com
- **Maëlle Guenegues** International Sales
E-mail : maelle@catndocs.com