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G04

PROJECT TITLE: Strange Root (Keinginan)

COUNTRY/REGION | GENRE | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, The Netherlands | Horror, Fantasy | Malay, Mandarin | 100min

DIRECTOR:

Lam Li Shuen

PRODUCER:

Tan Bee Thiam

Looi Wan Ping

Mark Chua

IDP GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

FINANCING (USD)

Above-the-Line Production: US\$129,000

Below-the-Line Production: US\$704,000

Post Production: US\$127,000

Other: US\$48,000

TOTAL BUDGET: US\$1,008,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$214,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2019 *Revolution Launderette* (co-directed by Mark Chua)

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

In 11th-century Singapore, a yam-born demigod, worshipped and fed on by the islanders, is cast aside when a shipwrecked beast arouses a great obsession across the island, plunging him into a nightmarish descent into madness and jealousy.

SYNOPSIS

11th-century Singapore: Akshat, a demigod born from a yam, is ritually fed on by villagers of the island, since all animals died at his birth. Chaos erupts when a mysterious beast is shipwrecked during a storm. The villagers, obsessed with tasting its meat, abandon Akshat and vow to never feed on him again. Facing this loss of place, Akshat is only left with the cunning outcast Bidu, who feeds on him while secretly manipulating the chaos. Descending into madness and jealousy, Akshat is driven toward a violent and erotic confrontation that dissolves the boundaries between god and beast.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Strange Root is a mythological body horror film about power and desire. The film confronts the ugly cycles of violence, jealousy and paranoia that repeat in Southeast Asia's histories, like wounds that scab over, only to split open again. For me, it is an urgent reflection of our reality everywhere in the world today, its political and social horrors. With this atmospheric body horror, I wanted to see the horror as not something external, but something that comes from within, taking root in us.

DIRECTOR

Lam Li Shuen

Lam Li Shuen is an award-winning Singaporean filmmaker whose work explores anxiety, alienation and desire through body horror and speculative fiction. Her films, made with frequent collaborator Mark Chua, have screened at festivals including Rotterdam, New Directors/New Films, Uppsala, BFI London and Tampere, and have been distributed internationally on platforms like ARTE. They won Best Director in Southeast Asian Short Film Competition at the Singapore International Film Festival for *A Man Trembles* (2021). With Chua, she presented *Born of the Yam* (2026) at the Berlinale Forum Expanded. Her feature-in-development, *Strange Root*, was selected for Rotterdam CineMart 2025, Locarno Residency 2025, and Berlinale Talents Script Station 2024.

PRODUCER

Tan Bee Thiam

Tan Bee Thiam is the founding member of Singapore-based film collective 13 Little Pictures. Tan has produced over ten features premiering at Venice and the Berlinale, with films distributed globally by Netflix, Disney+ and MUBI, including *Demons* (2018) and the genre hit *Revenge of the Pontianak* (2019). Together with Looi Wan Ping, they have worked with international co-producers Meiske Taurisia, Roshanak Behesht Nedjad, and Anouk Sluizer.

Looi Wan Ping

Also a founding member of 13 Little Pictures, Looi is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents and Busan Asian Film Academy. Looi has produced *Before the Sea Forgets* (2025, Cannes Directors' Fortnight) and *Baby Queen* (2022).

Mark Chua

Mark Chua's works include *A Man Trembles* (2021) and *Born of the Yam* (2026), which he co-directed with Lam Li Shuen. The two films have been selected for Singapore International Film Festival and the Berlinale Forum Expanded.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

13 Little Pictures

Based in Singapore, 13 Little Pictures is a film collective creating films with unique directorial visions. To date, it has produced over 20 features and short films that have premiered at major international festivals including Berlin, Venice, and Locarno. In 2021, global curated streamer MUBI spotlighted the collective as “an important voice in the increasingly vibrant world of Southeast Asian cinema.” Its partners include Lei Yuan Bin, Daniel Hui, and Yeo Siew Hua, filmmakers recognised internationally for bold and culturally grounded works. The collective provides a long-term creative platform supporting auteurs across development, production and international distribution.

G04

電影計劃：異根

國家/地區 | 類型 | 語言 | 片長：

新加坡、印尼、德國、荷蘭 | 恐怖、奇幻 | 馬來語、華語 | 100 分鐘

導演：

林俐璇

監製／製片：

陳美添

雷遠彬

蔡聖恩

參與 IDP 目標：

籌集資金、聯合監製、銷售代理、片花買家

預算分佈（美元）

線上製作：US\$129,000

線下製作：US\$704,000

後期製作：US\$127,000

其他：US\$48,000

製作總預算：US\$1,008,000

已籌集的資金：US\$214,000

導演電影作品

2019 《信念的旋轉木馬》（與蔡聖恩聯合執導）

故事梗概

十一世紀新加坡島：從芋頭誕生的半神，身體供島民啖食多年；當船難漂流上岸的巨獸引發全島狂熱時，被拋棄的他墜入嫉妒與瘋狂噩夢。

故事大綱

十一世紀新加坡島：自芋頭誕生的半神阿克夏特，降生導致島上動物死亡，島民多年以儀式從他身體取食。暴風雨中一頭神祕巨獸漂上島，引發全島對其肉的狂熱追逐。阿克夏特被島民拋棄，只剩狡詐邊緣人碧杜相伴；她一面繼續以他為食，一面操控亂局。阿克夏特陷入妒恨與瘋狂，被推向暴烈而慾望橫流的對峙，神與獸的界線隨之崩解。

導演闡述

《異根》是一部探討權力與慾望的神話式身體恐怖片。影片直面東南亞歷史中不斷重演的暴力、嫉妒與偏執循環，那些結痂之後又再裂開的傷口。對我來說，它迫切反映出當今世界各地的現實，以及其中潛伏的政治與社會恐怖。我希望透過身體恐怖，把恐怖理解為不是外在襲來的事物，而是自我們體內滋生，在身心之中紮根的東西。

導演

林俐璇

新加坡導演，作品以身體恐怖與推測幻想探討焦慮、疏離與慾望。與蔡聖恩合作的影片曾入圍鹿特丹、新導演／新電影、BFI 倫敦等影展，新作品《芋中誕生》（2026）入選柏林影展論壇延展單元。開發中長片《異根》已入選鹿特丹 CineMart 與柏林影展新銳營劇本工作坊。

監製／製片

陳美添

「十三么電影合作社」創始成員。監製作品曾入選威尼斯、柏林等影展，由 Netflix、MUBI 全球發行，包括《惡魔》（2018）、《女復仇鬼》（2019）等。與雷遠彬協同運作，並與多位國際製片人合作。

雷遠彬

同社創始成員，柏林新銳營校友。監製《遺忘之海》（2025，康城導演雙周）及《嬰后》（2022）。

蔡聖恩

導演，與林俐璇合導《根慾》（2021）、《芋中誕生》（2026），入圍鹿特丹電影節及柏林影展論壇延展單元。

製作公司

十三么電影合作社

新加坡電影創作團體，致力於支持獨特作者視野的影像創作。製作長短片二十餘部，曾於柏林、威尼斯、羅迦諾等國際頂級影展首映。2021 年被 MUBI 譽為「東南亞影壇不可或缺的聲音」。團體為導演提供從開發、製作到國際發行的長期支持平台。