

**DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A MENTALLY DISABLED
PROTAGONIST IN THE FILM *MIRACLE IN CELL NO. 7*
BY HANUNG BRAHMANTYO**

A THESIS

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APPENDIXES

A. Biography of the Authoress

Hanung Bramantyo is a prominent Indonesian film director, screenwriter, and producer, known for his significant contributions to the Indonesian film industry. Born on October 1, 1975 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Hanung developed his passion for storytelling and artistry at an early age. He studied film and graduated from the Indonesian Institute of Arts (ISI) in Yogyakarta, where he honed his skills in directing and screenwriting.

Hanung's career in film began in the early 2000s, and quickly gained recognition for his ability to blend commercial appeal with meaningful narratives. His films often explore themes of family, love, and social issues, which resonate with audiences across Indonesia. One of his most famous works is "Miracle in Cell No. 7," released in 2013, which tells the poignant story of a mentally challenged father and his daughter, highlighting the challenges faced by people with mental disabilities and the discrimination they face in society. Throughout his career, Hanung has received numerous awards and recognition for his work, establishing himself as one of Indonesia's leading filmmakers. His films have not only achieved commercial success, but also sparked important conversations about social issues, including mental health, family dynamics, and justice.

Besides working in film, Hanung is also involved in various philanthropic activities, advocating for the rights of marginalized communities and promoting awareness of mental health issues. He believes in the power of cinema as a tool for social change and strives to make films that inspire empathy and understanding among audiences. With a diverse filmography that includes dramas, comedies, and literary adaptations, Hanung Bramantyo continues to be an important figure in the Indonesian film industry. His dedication to storytelling and social advocacy has left a lasting impact on audiences and aspiring filmmakers in Indonesia and beyond.

B. Hanung Brahmantyo's Film Works

Hanung Bramantyo has many movie works that cover various genres. Here are some of the movies he has directed:

1. Topeng Kekasih 2000
2. Gelas- Gelas Berdenting 2001
3. Kidung 2001
4. Brownies 2004
5. Ayat – Ayat Cinta 2008

6. Cinta Tapi Beda	2012
7. Kartini: Princess Of Java.....	2017
8. Rudy Habibie	2016
9. Satria Dewa: Gatotkaca.....	2022
10. Miracle In Cell No. 7	2022
11. Harlot's Prayer	2023
12. Dunia Tanpa Suara.....	2023
13. Jawara Desa	2023
14. Love is Never on Time	2024

C. Summary and Characters Of The Film

1. Summary of the Film

Miracle in Cell No.7 by Hanung Bramantyo is an adaptation of the very popular South Korean film of the same title. This Indonesian version presents a very emotional story about a father's love for his child, packaged with a relevant Indonesian cultural background and legal system. The story begins with the introduction of the main character, namely Dodo Rozak, a man with a mental disability who lives with his young daughter, Kartika. Dodo is a simple single father, working selling balloons and toys to meet daily needs with Kartika who loves him very much. They live happily in their limitations, and their relationship is filled with sincere affection. Kartika often helps her father and even understands his shortcomings, making them a very harmonious father-daughter pair. Dodo is known as an honest, innocent figure, and loves children very much, but because of his mental disability, he is often the target of reaching out to people around him. One day, a tragic fate befell Dodo when he accidentally was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and was involved in a case that he did not do at all. He happened to rape and kill an important official's child, even though he didn't fully understand what was happening and never had the slightest evil intention.

The case that befell Dodo attracted great public attention because it involved the son of an influential figure, namely a high-ranking police officer. Due to political pressure and the need to immediately resolve the case publicly, law enforcement officers rashly named Dodo as the main suspect, even though there was no strong evidence to really support the accusation. Dodo, who could not defend himself logically or verbally due to his limitations, was easily pressured to confess to a crime he never committed. He did not receive proper legal assistance, and investigators did not carry out their duties objectively. The audience is invited to see how the legal system can be very cruel and unfair to vulnerable people like

Dodo. The trial was not impartial, and due to pressure from the official who felt he had lost his child, Dodo was sentenced to death. Kartika, who was still a child at the time, did not fully understand what was happening, but was very lost and continued to harbor hopes of seeing her father again. This story is a bitter picture of how the law can hurt innocent people because of power, ambition, and the weaknesses of a system that does not consider a person's mental condition fairly.

After being thrown into prison, Dodo was placed in cell number 7, a place where hardened and dangerous prisoners were usually gathered. At first, the inmates were hostile towards Dodo, considering him to be a real perpetrator of a heinous crime against a child, which is one of the greatest sins in the prison environment. However, as time went by, they began to realize that Dodo was not what they had imagined. With his innocence, sincerity, and love for children, Dodo slowly won the hearts of the other prisoners. After learning that he had a daughter whom he loved very much, the inmates felt sorry for him and decided to help him. In an act full of warmth and humor, they smuggled little Kartika into the prison so that she could meet her father, creating a 'miracle' in cell number 7. Kartika also brought happiness into the lives of the prisoners, dissolving the gloomy atmosphere in the prison and making them a warm family. The audience was treated to many touching moments, laughter, and closeness between the prisoners who realized that Dodo did not deserve to be treated like a criminal. The relationship between Dodo and Kartika, as well as the support from their cellmates, is the emotional core of the film and proves that even in an environment full of suffering, love and kindness can still grow.

2. Characters of the Film

There are some characters of the film that need to be discussed in this research. They can be explained one by one as follows:

- a. **Dodo Rozak** : Dodo Rozak is the central character in this film. He is a man with intellectual disabilities, who in society is often misunderstood and looked down upon. Despite having a mental disability, Dodo is a very loving, honest, and innocent person. His love for his only child, Ika Kartika, is the greatest strength in his life.
- b. **Ika Kartika** : Ika Kartika is the only daughter of Dodo Rozak. Since she was little, she grew up with her father's extraordinary love. Little Kartika is described as a cheerful, spoiled child, and very close to her father. When Dodo was accused of committing a crime against an official's son, Kartika's life changed drastically. However, she never doubted

her father, and that belief carried over into adulthood. As an adult, Kartika became a lawyer, a profession she chose specifically to fight for justice for her father.

- c. **Hendar** : Mr. Hendar is one of the inmates who shares a cell with Dodo Rozak. Initially, he and his fellow inmates viewed Dodo with suspicion and tended to be hostile towards him. They even treated him roughly because they believed that Dodo was a perpetrator of sexual crimes against children—an act that is greatly hated among inmates. However, over time, Hendar began to see that Dodo was not actually a bad person.
Hendar's character has undergone significant development. From being initially cynical, he slowly began to melt by Dodo's kindness and sincerity.
- d. **Jaki** : Jaki is the unofficial leader in the cell where Dodo is imprisoned. He is a long-serving inmate and has great influence among the other inmates. Initially, Jaki also treated Dodo with suspicion. As a firm figure with harsh life experiences, Jaki sees Dodo as a burden and a threat to the harmony of their cell. However, as time goes by, he begins to open up.
- e. **The warden** : The warden in this film is a symbol of authority and strict law. He is depicted as someone who initially held the principle of "rules are everything." Therefore, when Dodo was arrested for a serious crime, he did not give much room for tolerance. However, this character also undergoes transformation over time.
- f. **Victim's father** : A powerful figure full of revenge and loss One of the emotional antagonists in this film is the father of the child who is the victim of the crime that Dodo is accused of. He is a high-ranking official who is deeply affected by the death of his child. In his grief and anger, he needs a "scapegoat", and Dodo is an easy target. This figure is very influential in pushing the legal process to punish Dodo as severely as possible.
- g. **Grandmother** : As a mother of a special needs child, Nenek has been through a long journey full of challenges since Dodo was a child. She understands Dodo's limitations, but never sees them as a disgrace. Instead, she has become a pillar of mental strength for Dodo, raising and guiding him with patience and love.