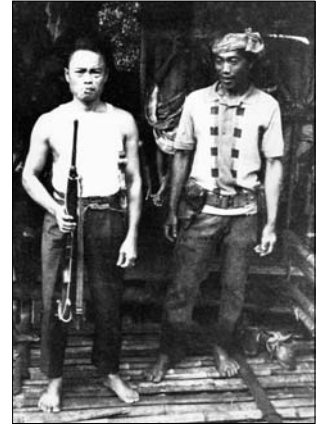


People of the Current

Produced by Thomas M. Kiefer, Anthropologist

A Film by George Paul Csicsery

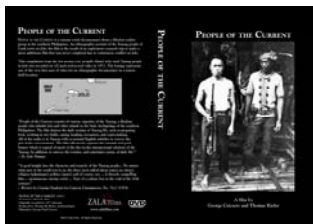
People of the Current is a cinema verité documentary about a Moslem outlaw group in the southern Philippines. An ethnographic portrait of the Tausug people of Luuk town on Jolo, the film is the result of an exploratory research trip to make a more ambitious film that was never completed due to continuous conflict on Jolo. This compilation from the few scenes ever filmed with rural Tausug people in Jolo was recorded on 1/2-inch reel-to-reel video in 1971. The footage represents one of the very first uses of video for an ethnographic documentary in a remote field location. (27 minutes, black & white, 1971)



What they said . . .

"This film was originally made on videotape as a pilot film for a more ambitious filming project which never materialized. Consequently, it was never intended to be a finished, or completed, film. When the more elaborate filming project fell through, Thomas Kiefer and George Csicsery apparently decided to release what footage they had rather than perpetuate the complete absence of any available film on the Tausug. *People of the Current* consists of various vignettes of the Tausug, a Moslem people who inhabit Jolo and other islands in the Sulu Archipelago of the southern Philippines. The film depicts the daily routine of Tausug life, such as preparing food, working in rice fields, eating, feuding, recreation, and copra-making. All of the audio is in Tausug with occasional English subtitles to convey the gist of the conversations. The film effectively captures the warmth and good humor which is typical of much of the day-to-day interpersonal relations of the Tausug. . . —H. Arlo Nimmo

" . . . a warm view of life in a native village in the Philippines, with people not unlike ourselves. . . . Very interesting film providing information in an efficient, informal manner. A good insight into the character and tenacity of the Tausug people. . . . No matter what part of the world you're in, the three most talked about topics are always religion (pilgrimage), politics (guns), and of course sex. . . . A fiercely compelling film . . . spontaneous cinema verité . . . Points up many similarities and also the differences between modern and primitive . . . Tour of a culture lost in the void of the 20th century." —Review by cinema students for Canyon Cinemanews, No. 74-2 (1974)



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