

NO PORK

NO LARD



NOT MY MOTHER'S BAKING

STUDIO59 CONCEPTS PRESENTS NOT MY MOTHER'S BAKING

SARAH ARIFFIN SITI MASTURA ALWI VINCENT TEE ZACK ZAINAL CHRISTINA HON KAYDASH CHEUNG SHING LAI ASRAF AMIN LIM MEI FEN BENJAMIN ZAINAL AL HAFIZ SANUSI MAYA JALIL
 STORY BY REMI M SALI HO PAK KIN WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY REMI M SALI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HO PAK KIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DZUL SUNGIT PRODUCED BY BELLA JULITA ASSOCIATE PRODUCER SHEIKH AHMAD BAFADHAL EDITED BY DZUL SUNGIT
 CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ERWIN TAN M. RIDWAN SOUND RECORDIST SAFUAN HAMID MAKE UP ARTIST NOURA SALLEH SOUND MIXING BACKBEAT STUDIOS COLOURIST AZMAN MOHAMED WWW.NOTMYMOTHERSBAKING.COM



Studio59 Concepts is excited to introduce our second independent feature, **Not My Mother's Baking 妈哩妈哩烘**, the movie with a delectable blend of pastry treats, good old-fashioned romance and a generous dose of 'halal-ism', set on the sunny side of Singapore!

Duration: **112 minutes**
Genre: **Romantic Comedy**
Language: **English, Mandarin & Malay (English Subtitles)**
Country: **Singapore**
Classification: **NC16**
Consumer Advice: **Some Mature Content**
Website: www.NotMyMothersBaking.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NotMyMothersBaking
Instagram: www.instagram.com/NotMyMothersBaking

Cast: **Sarah Ariffin** Sarah
Siti Mastura Alwi Chef Siti
Vincent Tee 池素宝 Mr Tan
Zack Zainal Chef Siti's Husband
Christina Hon 韓淑分 Madam Tan
Kaydash Cheung Shing Lai 张丞礼 Edwin
Asraf Amin Imran
Lim Mei Fen 林美芬 Joyce
Benjamin Zainal Yusri
Al Hafiz Sanusi Matin
Maya Jalil Tini



LOGLINE

An unexpected romance between a Malay Muslim woman and a Chinese man whose parents run a roast pork stall.

SYNOPSIS

Sarah has always been in the shadow of her mother, Celebrity Chef Siti. When she tries to make her own mark in the baking industry, she is unexpectedly caught between two men yearning for her affections. Imran is the perfect gentleman any Malay-Muslim parents would approve for their daughter, while Edwin is an earnest Chinese vlogger who, as Sarah's brother blatantly declares, isn't 'halal'!

To complicate matters, Edwin comes from a Taoist Chinese family which runs a popular roast pork hawker stall. And being the filial Chinese son, he is expected to marry a nice Chinese girl and take over the family business.

Will Sarah be able to navigate through their differences? Or will she succumb to family and societal expectations?





AWARDS

Not My Mother's Baking is the **1st Singapore feature film** to be officially selected and competed at the **24th Religion Today Film Festival 2021** in Italy. Religion Today is the foremost international and itinerant film festival dedicated to Cinema and Religions for a culture of peace and dialogue between faiths. Not My Mother's Baking was among the **83 participating films** from **36 countries** that have been chosen from more than **1400 entries** received.

Winner: **Religions Through Women's Eyes Award**, by the **Inter-religion Jury Municipality of Arco** The Inter-religious jury is composed of representatives of different religions and their specific theme is about the empowerment of women in religion. The jury report about Not My Mother's Baking and its significance is as follows:

“This film through images full of colours, joy and beauty tells a theme whose outcome, in reality, can be heavy, gloomy and dramatically Shakespearean. Through this narrative, the taboo of multi-cultural and religious unions is demolished which, in many social contexts, is still insurmountable. This is a radical break from traditional habits, showing that women can self-determine and choose their future unlike what happens with arranged marriages. This message is revolutionary because, by spreading it in an environment such as that present in Singapore, it can reach and constructively influence thousands of people.”

Nominee: **New Gazes Award**, by **Salesian Pontifical University** The Special Jury of the Salesian Pontifical University is composed of professors and students from the Faculty of Social Communication Sciences who are watching films that have new ways of storytelling and new techniques of filming.

Not My Mother's Baking was also one of the four Finalists for **Best Feature Drama** at the **Muslim Film Festival 2021** in Australia.





SCREENINGS

May 2023	Gezellige Afternoon of Singapore Stories , Schiedam, Netherlands
Oct 2022	Official Selection, Madani International Film Festival , Jakarta
Sep 2022	Official Selection, 2022 World Ethnic Film Festival , Taipei, Taichung & Kaohsiung
Aug 2022	Are We Crossing The Line? Finding your voice on issues of race, faith & relationship in Singapore. Movie Screening & Panel Discussion Harmony Centre at Filmgarde Leisure Park Kallang
Dec 2021	Reflecting Southeast Asia Series Cross-Cultural Film Festival National Chengchi University , Taipei, Taiwan
Nov 2021	Staff Learning Symposium, Assumption English School
Oct 2021	Screening and Q&A for Secondary 3 students, Nanyang Girl's High School
Oct 2021	Screening at Singapore Pavilion, World Expo , Dubai
Oct 2021	In Competition & Official Selection, Muslim Film Festival , Australia
Sep 2021	In Competition & Official Selection, Religion Today Film Festival , Italy
Aug 2021	Movie Premiere at Sea, Dream Cruises World Dream
May 2021	Theatrical Release by Cineplex Development Company in Taiwan
Dec 2020	9 weeks of Theatrical Release by Filmgarde Cineplexes in Singapore
Nov 2020	International Premiere, Five Flavours Asian Film Festival , Poland
Nov 2020	World Premiere, Singapore International Film Festival , Singapore





CAST

SITI MASTURA ALWI



Already a household name in Singapore with more than 20 years of experience in the culinary world, **Siti Mastura Alwi** has won numerous awards that reflect her dedication to the art of baking and author of her own dual-language recipe book "Ignite the Flame - Bonding the Generations". She has come a long way, from hosting her own baking show 'Vanila' on MediaCorp Suria, to being a judge on Season 1 of MasterChef Malaysia. Chef Siti is a bona fide celebrity influencer, with more than 610K followers on Facebook.

Siti plays a mother who tries to make up for her lost time with her daughter, fully aware that her celebrity status comes at a price.

SARAH ARIFFIN



Not to be outdone, **Sarah Ariffin** was the popular host and judge on two seasons of Astro Malaysia's *Hero Oven*, an all-male reality baking competition. She was also Chef Host for Mediacorp's infotainment series, *Manja*. Her passion has led her to train in top culinary schools in France, Thailand and Singapore, and this rising star shows no sign of slowing down with her recent hosting of the *Coupe du Monde de la Patisserie* (World Pastry Cup) Asian Qualifiers in Singapore.

Sarah plays an aspiring pastry chef who has to choose her Mr Right between two men, Imran and Edwin.



CAST

VINCENT TEE 池素宝



Vincent Tee is a seasoned veteran actor with an impressive list of television and movie credits. He is a familiar face not only on Chinese content but English and Malay mediums as well. He is known to delve deep into every character he plays, with each appearance more memorable than the last. Vincent treats his craft and peers with equal respect. His recent movie credits include *1400* (2015), *After Images* (2014), *Mister John* (2013) and *Ghost Child* (2013).

Vincent plays Mr Tan, the supportive husband of fiery Madam Tan.

ZACK ZAINAL



Zack Zainal has led an illustrious life in the Malay entertainment circle, from modelling to hosting and acting. He was a TV personality since 1986 and left the scene when he moved to Dubai in 2003. Zack was the winner of Manhunt 1989 and Male Model of the Year 1990. In fact, he was the first Malay to ever win the title in Singapore. Although taking it as a hobby, he went on to be a popular TV host and an amateur actor in the Singapore television scene. Despite his busy schedule, he took up his role in *Not My Mother's Baking* due to his passion for the story and contributed all his earnings to charity.

Zack makes his screen comeback to play Mr Yusof, Chef Siti's husband and father of Sarah.



CAST



CHRISTINA HON 韓淑分

The ever-bubbly **Christina Hon** always shines playing a heartland auntie in numerous local Chinese dramas. This petite lady is co-partner of Enterprise Group, an artistes and talents management company.

Christina plays Madam Tan, a fiery roast pork stall owner who gets the shock of her life when her son Edwin falls in love with Sarah.



KAYDASH CHEUNG SHING LAI 张丞礼

Singer-actor **Kaydash Cheung** spent 3 years in China acting for the state's China Central Television (CCTV). His impressive body of work there includes acting in Szechuan TV (SCTV) drama series *Mala Hotpot* and “*Mi Qing Jia Zu*”, and was the Champion of Szechuan Singing Competition 2014. Back home, his assured performance in the recent English web series, *Queen of Hearts*, helped snag the Worldwide Winner Prize at the Sao Paulo Webfest 2019.

Kaydash plays Edwin, a part-time vlogger who is set to take over his family's roast pork stall.



CAST



ASRAF AMIN

Up-and-coming heart-throb **Asraf Amin** is fast gaining the attention of the Malay community, with leading roles in Mediacorp Suria's drama series including “*Refleksi*”, “*Kek Untuk Kapten*” and “*Runcit*”. His brooding good looks and versatility as an actor assure him a steady flow of acting offers since he started acting when he turned 18.

Asraf plays Imran, a dreamboat who is simply too perfect for Sarah to handle.



LIM MEI FEN 林美芬

The talented and beautiful Malaysian actress and producer **Lim Mei Fen** has made her mark on the silver screen as well as on stage. She started her career as a TV model in *Deal or No Deal* game shows before venturing into TV drama and film. Her involvement in theatre began with the play *Takhta 3 Ratu* (2014) at the National Theatre as Princess Hang Li Po. In 2018, she produced the national day theatre – *Tanah Akhirku* which was attended by the Malaysian Prime Minister and his wife. Her film acting credits include *The Cage* (2014), *Two Sisters* (2018) and *Prebet Sapu* (2021). Mei Fen is currently pursuing her Master of Film Distribution & Marketing at the Beijing Film Academy.

Mei Fen plays Edwin's sister Joyce, who secretly wants to quit her office job and take over the family's roast pork stall.



CAST

BENJAMIN ZAINAL



The third child of Zack Zainal, **Benjamin Zainal** is literally a high-flyer as a cadet pilot with Air Arabia. He recently found his passion for acting and spends his leisure time engaging in art, sports and music. Not My Mother's Baking is his acting debut.

Benjamin plays Yusri, the cheeky son of Mr Yusof and Chef Siti who is constantly at loggerheads with Sarah.

AL HAFIZ SANUSI



Theatre actor **Al Hafiz Sanusi** is also a trained writer in poetry, plays and spiels. He is nimble on his feet, equipped to handle choreographed dance pieces as well as sword fights. A fluent bilingual, he performed in notable English and Malay stage productions such as *Family* (The Second Breakfast Company), late Kuo Pao Kun's *Mama Looking For Her Cat* (Paper Monkey Theatre) and *Cerita Cinta* (Akulah BIMBO SAKTI) to name a few. In addition, he has done movement pieces such as *An Anatomy Of A Heartbreak* (The Kaizen MD), *Prosecuting The Husband* (Nam Hwa Opera) and *Flower Nymph* (Cake Theatre).

Hafiz plays Edwin's video assistant Matin, the funny but politically-incorrect Malay who gets on Sarah's nerves.



CAST

MAYA JALIL



Lively and sassy entertainer **Maya Jalil** is constantly on the go, hosting events and teaching public speaking for kids. As an actress, she has done several supporting roles for Channel 5 shows such as *Lion Mums*, *Tanglin*, *Kin*, *BRA*, *Code of Law* and *Avenue 14*. As the Master of Ceremonies, Maya has hosted dinner & dance, birthday parties, gala events, weddings, seminars, roadshows, product launches, school events, festive events, and more! Maya takes pride in her work and her enthusiasm says it all.

Maya plays Sarah's best friend Tini, who becomes a third wheel when her brother Imran starts dating Sarah.





PRODUCTION TEAM

Story by	Remi M Sali Ho Pak Kin 何伯乾
Written and Directed by	Remi M Sali
Executive Producer	Ho Pak Kin 何伯乾
Art Director and Editor	Dzul Sungit
Producer	Bella Julita
Associate Producer	Sheikh Ahmad Bafadhal
Directors of Photography	Erwin Tan 陈威良 M. Ridwan
Sound Recordist	Safuan Hamid
Makeup and Wardrobe	Noura Salleh
Audio Post Production	Backbeat Studios
Colourist	Azman Mohamed





REMI M SALI – Director & Writer



Remi M Sali has more than 20 years of experience creating long and short works, ranging from music videos to movie features. He is known for pushing boundaries when creating Malay content. His portrayal of Malays on-screen has universal appeal, and his works provide Malays with a rare platform to showcase their individuality rarely seen on mainstream media.

Pre-millennium, he passionately contributed to the budding Singapore film scene together with his long-time collaborator Dzul Sungit. Their short film *eddy* was Special Jury Prize co-winner at Singapore International Film Festival 1994. They proceeded to win the Best Director Award for their short film *INfluence* a year later. In 1998, they

made their first feature movie *OffCentre*, an adaptation of the acclaimed play from one of Singapore's most successful theatre companies, The Necessary Stage.

Remi was an award-winning trailer producer with Singapore's national broadcaster before he returned to his first love: directing. Effectively bilingual in English and Malay, and currently learning Mandarin, he has directed popular dramas, telemovies, info-ed programmes and art series for local television. He was a nominee for Best Director Award at Pesta Perdana 2015 for the telemovie *Abah*. Remi has helped propel non-actors into the limelight and directed popular food-related shows such as *Cinta Kek*, *Delicatessen* and *Masak Mini* for Mediacorp Suria.

His experience in the industry was evident when he was invited to be one of the mentors for *AKSI!* (2018). The joint production between Singapore Mediacorp Suria and Radio Television Brunei featured him leading a team of aspiring filmmakers to produce a short film.

Remi's fervour for telling inclusive stories of race, language and religion resonates in his latest independent films - *Konpaku* (2019) and *Not My Mother's Baking* (2020). He is currently working on two feature films. One is *Chimalindinsin*, about an Indian, a Malay and a Chinese ghost catchers who are out to catch an elusive mythical spirit in Singapore. Another is *DKSG*, about a group of Chinese-Christian choir boys who join the national Malay Dikir Barat competition.



Director's Statement

I have a confession.

I was brought up to think that we Malay-Muslims were 'purer' than the Chinese. Why? Because the Chinese eat pork and touch dogs, both a huge no-no in Islam.

When I was in secondary school, I once freaked out during my lunch break at the school canteen. My Chinese classmate had innocently put a chicken dumpling onto my plate for me to try. I yelled at him, saying it wasn't 'halal'. All eyes were on us, teachers and students alike. He was embarrassed by my outburst. I felt bad, but also flustered that my lunch was 'tainted'. No amount of 'Bismillah' could salvage it, I felt.

Looking back, I wish I wasn't so judgemental, self-righteous and uptight.

To that Chinese classmate of mine, Wen Yao, please accept my sincere apology!

Not My Mother's Baking is my love note to address some sensitivities pertaining to race and religion in Singapore. We push ourselves to carefully weave in issues that might have otherwise been swept under the carpet or left unspoken, especially in local films.

Working on this romantic comedy was itself an eye-opening journey. There were many instances where the cast and crew got concerned at how far we should push the boundaries. For instance, our Malay producer wondered if we should substitute the roasted pig at the hawker stall with a styrofoam one! As the director, I was mindful to only capture actions that I could personally justify and fight for.

We are proud to feature a lot of firsts in this indie movie.

It is the first Singapore movie to feature an English-speaking Malay family as leads. We are blessed to have real mother-and-daughter Celebrity Chefs **Siti Mastura Alwi** and **Sarah Ariffin** to play as themselves. They were joined by real father-and-son talents **Zack Zainal** and **Benjamin Zainal**, who flew to Singapore all the way from Dubai.

Singapore is the first country in the world to allow Ustazahs (women religious leaders) to lead conversion to Islam sessions for men. This role is traditionally reserved for Ustazs (male religious leaders) only. We are privileged to showcase this momentous breakthrough for gender equality in Islam in this movie.

Not My Mother's Baking is a movie meant for all the Malay-Muslims and the non-, the Wenyaos, and everyone else in between.



HO PAK KIN - Executive Producer



Economics & Finance lecturer turned media entrepreneur **Ho Pak Kin** shares his wealth of experience managing the team, having extensive background working in Australia and New Zealand.

Pak Kin manages the finances and leads the business development team at Studio59 Concepts, which he co-founded with Remi M Sali. He inspires the team to constantly evolve with the ever-changing digital media landscape, and creates visionary new ways to fund and deliver original content to current and new audiences.

Pak Kin's first film project is a community-led and independently produced documentary, *Different Shades of Pink (2001)*, which provides an intimate and in-depth look at cross-cultural love and stereotypes in Sydney.

His second independent film project, *Konpaku (2019)* was produced with a micro-budget, had its World Premiere at the Udine Far East Film Festival 2019 and went on to grace the screens at the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival 2019 and Cambodia International Film Festival 2020.

Pak Kin's third independent film project, *Not My Mother's Baking (2020)* was much more ambitious in its vision and scope. Yet, it was still successfully produced with a very limited budget and funding support from multiple corporate sponsors in cash and in-kind. The movie is a provocative social commentary and made waves with the World Premiere at the Singapore International Film Festival 2020 and the International Premiere at Poland's Five Flavours Asian Film Festival 2020. The film was picked up by Filmgarde Cineplexes and Cineplex Development Company for theatrical distribution in Singapore and Taiwan, respectively.

Apart from films, Pak Kin recently produced an award-winning travelogue series *Ole Ole Temasya (2014–2016)*. Spanning two seasons, the popular series was much talked about. The 1st season showcases 8 festivals in 8 different Asian countries. The team outdid themselves with the 2nd season and did the impossible with the same limited budget, this time covering 8 festivals across 8 different European countries.

Pak Kin's fervour for telling inclusive stories that celebrates diversity resonates in all his current and upcoming projects.



Executive Producer's Statement

Not My Mother's Baking appeals to progressive viewers who yearn for content that everyone loves to watch, but nobody dares to make. It deals with enduring themes of love and acceptance, the definition of halal in food and conduct, reaffirmation of the bond between a mother and her daughter, fused with an unconventional storyline which celebrates interracial romance that captures the true Singapore identity.

Language is the key ingredient that sets **Not My Mother's Baking** apart from other Singapore-produced movies. For the first time ever, an English-speaking Malay family takes centre-stage, with a fluid switch to Bahasa Melayu when it fits the scene. Viewers are in for a surprise as the movie is narrated in Mandarin, from Mr Tan's perspective. The style is at once uniquely Singaporean, yet easily relatable and accessible to viewers in the region while enhancing cultural intrigue for international audiences.

Mother-and-daughter Celebrity Chefs **Siti Mastura** and **Sarah Ariffin** are already well-known in Singapore and Malaysia. They are joined by former television hunk and 1989 Manhunt champion **Zack Zainal**, making his screen comeback to act with his son **Benjamin Zainal**, who makes his screen debut as Sarah's brother. The mother-daughter and father-son pairings is a first for a local movie and possibly in the region. **Vincent Tee** and **Lim Mei Fen** add more star power, with their impressive acting credits in Singapore and Malaysia respectively.

Not My Mother's Baking is much more ambitious in its vision and scope compared to our previous independent movie *Konpaku* (2019). Yet, it was still successfully produced with a very limited budget and funding support from multiple corporate sponsors in cash and in-kind.

In the movie, we see Chef Sarah producing baking videos. These unique and valuable tutorial videos are separately produced and will be made freely available on the movie's website, www.NotMyMothersBaking.com.





DZUL SUNGIT – Art Director & Editor



Dzul Sungit directed crime drama series such as *Mata-Mata*, *CrimeWatch* and *9 Nyawa* in Singapore. He was the editor of two Dutch feature documentaries - *Sayed*, *Soccer Talent*, which won Honourable Mention at the Gulf Film Festival in Dubai, and *Voordeel van de Twijfel*, which premiered at the Dutch Film Festival.

He gained experience directing in 16 countries for 2 seasons of the local travelogue *Ole Ole Temasya* (2014 – 2016) and won Best Scriptwriting Award during Pesta Perdana in 2017 for the first season. His independent feature documentary *I Hugged the Berlin Patient* (2014) (with co-director Edgar Tang) was broadcast on MTV Latin America and won the Excellence Award at the Canada Film Festival.

In 2019, Remi M Sali's *Konpaku* (2019), of which Dzul was the Director of Photography, was shown at the Udine Far East Film Festival 2019 in Italy. This year, they paired up again with Dzul as Art Director and Editor for the feature film *Not My Mother's Baking* (2020). Currently, Dzul lives in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where he works as a freelance director / editor.





BELLA JULITA – Producer



Bella Julita has been actively involved in creating independent short films since 2014. She first joined a Malay filmmaking interest group, Majulah Filem Melayu Singapura from 2014 to 2016. Later, she founded MerakStory, a group for passionate talents to pursue their dreams in filmmaking.

Aside from filmmaking, she was a trainer in various schools for more than 10 years teaching ICT and media-related programmes.

To date, Bella has been involved in more than 10 short films in various roles. She was the scriptwriter, camerawoman and editor in her first feature film, *Kenapa Aku (2019)* by MerakStory. *Not My Mother's Baking (2020)* is her second feature film.

SHEIKH AHMAD BAFADHAL – Associate Producer



Sheikh Ahmad Bafadhal is the founder and owner of Madbuff, a social media creative agency based in Singapore. He has an honours degree in International Relations and is a social media influencer.

Ahmad is the co-producer of the local Malay film *Kenapa Aku (2019)* by MerakStory and hosted shows and covered interviews by the same production company. He also frequently appears in local television shows and drama in bit parts.



Not My Mother's Baking is independently funded and produced by **Studio59 Concepts**

Mission Statement

To bring Singapore content to a global audience, giving a new respect it ultimately deserves.

Who we are

Studio59 Concepts is the production house that breaks free from conventional television and film, transcending race, language and religion. Our original programmes range from provocative dramas and movies that challenge societal norms, to family-friendly works that celebrate our diverse values, culture and identity. Our stories are told from a uniquely Singapore perspective, that resonate with local and international audiences alike.



Our first independent movie, *Konpaku (2019)*, was the only Singapore entry officially selected for the Udine Far East Film Festival 2019 in Italy. We are the force behind two seasons of the award-winning *Ole Temasya (2014-2016)*, the travelogue for Mediacorp Suria that celebrated 16 festivals throughout Europe and Asia. We are actively venturing into digital content, producing our first original web series *Kampung Tok Hassan (2017)*. The heart-warming drama about a family coming to terms with their grandfather's dementia is re-released on Mediacorp's meWATCH as a full feature under the Lights. Camera. Singapore. Programme.

Website: www.studio59.com.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Studio59Concepts

Instagram: www.instagram.com/studio59.concepts

Brand YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/akupunyatv

Press Contact:

Ho Pak Kin

Executive Producer

pakkin@studio59.com.sg