

# PRESS RELEASE



## Sound of X: Reliving the Sounds of Jakarta's Invisible Comfort

Goethe-Institut has released its newest video soundscape entitled *Invisible Comfort*. The video soundscape was created by **Lie Indra Perkasa** (composer) and **John Navid** (drummer and percussionist of White Shoes & the Couples Company) in order to relive the sounds of the lost comfort in Indonesia's capital city, Jakarta. Their work is available to watch on the [Goethe-Institut Indonesien's YouTube channel](#).

*Invisible Comfort* is part of the international digital project **Sound of X**, an initiative by the Goethe-Institut that was first launched in 2020. Sound of X showcases video soundscapes created by artists and musicians from different regions that use sounds, noises and acoustics to explore their sonic environment that offers a unique way of reconnecting with the cities and spaces we live in, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're excited about the Sound of X project and felt that someone had to create something unique that represents what life is like in Jakarta. Indra Perkasa and John Navid are the perfect duo to do that, as they share the same longing to tell a story of Jakarta and had even talked about doing a similar project. We hope that our audience can take a break from their routine during the isolation and reconnect with Jakarta through the short video that our artists have created. It's amazing to see the locations Indra and John picked for shooting, where they have chosen to show different faces of Jakarta," says Elizabeth Soegiharto, Goethe-Institut Indonesien Program Coordinator, Friday (16/7/2021).

The concept *Invisible Comfort* refers to all the things in Jakarta that are invisible yet comforting. "For most people, living in a big city like Jakarta is all about work. This makes it hard for them to escape routine, which in turn leads them to forget about the comfort in everyday life. One thing that we discovered during our search is that most of the sources of comfort that we used to know are actually still there, hidden in plain sight. You may not always see it coming, but you can still hear it in the crowd, between the routines," says Indra, who is the composer of this video soundscape.

In search of the sounds of the lost comfort, Indra and John recorded sounds and shot videos for more than 2 weeks in May 2021 around Jakarta. John, the Director of Photography in this project, adds, "We visited all of the administrative cities of Jakarta and explored Cengkareng Night Market, Jelambar Funeral Home, Glodok, Pasar Senen, to Poncol Market and many more spots. During the project, we visited more places in Jakarta than ever before and discovered new things."

Their exploration is presented in a five-and-a-half-minute video soundscape that features immersive daily noises and includes everything from train honking, squealing rails, people singing karaoke, to the various sounds associated with street food—the jingles and sounds vendors use to attract customers and the sounds of food preparation.

Street food sounds are an important element in this project and show Indra and John's point of view concerning loss of comfort. Having grown up in Jakarta, both have fond memories of street food and the unique accompanying sounds—from the shrill sound that comes from the *putu* bamboo cake vendor, the clinking noise of a spoon hitting

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the small bowl serving *sekoteng* (ginger hot drink), to the tuk-tuk-tuk sound of the travelling meatball vendor.

For this project, Indra experimented with a Walkman to make tape loops. He explains that some recorded sounds—such as from the *tahu bulat* (fried tofu) and Miami ice cream vendor jingle—are then sampled through an old cassette tape to produce tape loops that are then processed again. “I did this because I thought it fit to the theme I’d chosen—making looping effects. And it also pictures how everything in life goes in loops,” Indra says.

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#### **About Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany’s cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programs support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

#### **About Lie Indra Perkasa**

Indra Perkasa started his musical journey during middle school at the age of 12. He has performed and recorded with numerous musicians, including Tomorrow People Ensemble, Mian Tiara, Indra Lesmana, Andien and many more. He has worked as an arranger, music director, and producer/arranger. As a film scorer, he has worked on several feature films, including *Tabula Rasa* (2014), *Banda the Dark Forgotten Trail* (2017), *Bebas* (2019) and many more. Indra is currently on the go as a film composer and music arranger, as a bass player for Tomorrow People Ensemble and Monita Tahalea, and teaches film scoring at Sjuman School of Music.

#### **About John Navid**

Born in Binjai, 10 September 1981, John studied percussion in 2000 and graduated from Jakarta Art Institute in 2007. He has been a drummer and percussionist in the band White Shoes & the Couples Company since 2003. The band has toured to several festivals abroad and recorded albums and soundtracks for Indonesian movies. John became interested in photography in 2008 when the band was on a tour in the U.S. during the “SXSW” festival; as a result, he has contributed photos to online magazines based in Jakarta and participated in several photo and art exhibitions. He currently lives in Jakarta and teaches drums in the German School Jakarta.

**Media representatives who would like to interview the artists are kindly requested to inform our Public Relations Manager as listed below. The video soundscape can be viewed on the [Goethe-Institut Indonesien’s YouTube channel](#).**

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