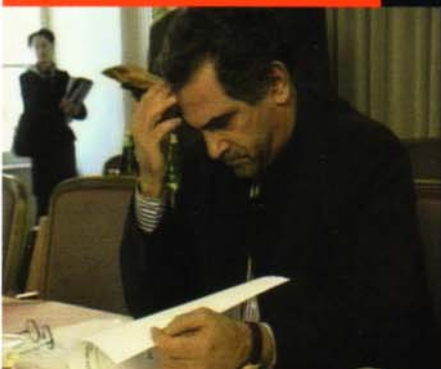


THE DIPLOMAT

The final chapter in José Ramos Horta's
24-year fight for East Timor's freedom



A FILM AUSTRALIA NATIONAL INTEREST PROGRAM



THE DIPLOMAT

The journey of one man.

The birth of a nation.

THE DIPLOMAT follows East Timor's freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner José Ramos Horta in the final tumultuous year of his campaign to secure independence for his country, a former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

Exiled shortly after the invasion, José Ramos Horta exchanged his gun for the suit and tie of a diplomat. He spent 24 years as a roving ambassador, fighting to ensure the world did not forget East Timor's desire for freedom. His is a life driven not by personal political ambition but by the debt of blood he owes to fellow Timorese who have died in the conflict, including two brothers and a sister.

THE DIPLOMAT takes up Ramos Horta's story in the final dramatic stages of his long journey – the fall of Indonesia's President Suharto, the referendum to determine East Timor's future, the overwhelming vote for independence, the devastating carnage that ensued, the intervention of United Nations peacekeepers, and Ramos Horta's final triumphant return to his homeland. José Ramos Horta allowed the filmmakers extraordinary access to his public and personal life. The film reveals his strengths and weaknesses, his moments of doubt and frustration, his anger and disappointment, his elation and triumph, his charm and his dry humour.

Ramos Horta emerges as a tenacious and beguiling character whose role as a diplomat and peacemaker was a crucial one that helped finally deliver his country its freedom.

DURATION: 86 minute and 52 minute versions

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2000

DIRECTOR: Tom Zubrycki

PRODUCER: Sally Browning

CO-PRODUCER/WRITER: Wilson da Silva

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Stefan Moore, Megan McMurchy

Cover photographs by Anastasia Vrachnos

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