

Warrior Spirit

New Music Video from Alena Murang



Photo by Vignes Balasingam

Alena Murang releases “Warrior Spirit” music video. Fondly known as Sarawak’s Sape’ sweetheart, we see another side of Alena that is fierce and strong. Released on YouTube, the music video is the work of the same team behind Alena Murang’s award-winning music video “Midang Midang” (2019), directed by her cousin, Sarah Lois Dorai, and co-produced with production house Project Room.

Warrior Spirit, shows the strength within, “we come from a line of warriors and heroes,” shares Alena, who is of dayak Kelabit descent, “my great great great grandfather Balang Nganud was a great warrior, the community called him ‘*the Tiger that floats enemies’ heads downriver*’. Though we no longer practice that anymore, we inherited their spirit, their courage, their strength; and more over, the courage to fight together for something greater than ourselves. I think many Malaysians, and people across the world also, can relate to the spirit of the warrior.

The looks and styling for the music video were mainly inspired by Alena Murang’s cultural heritage and that of the peoples of Borneo, mainly Sarawak, styled by Styllar and working with Malaysian designers and craftswomen, and make up artist Gebriel Padan.

For more information, images, interview or music please contact:
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Sarah Lois Dorai, the director and Warrior Spirit music says “At Project Room, we believe in taking the smallest seed idea and giving it space to grow to its largest potential. The contribution of every team member’s voice, skill and creative talent on this music video has made what started out as a plan to make a “dance video” turn into a visual statement of identity & culture”. It took a year to plan and shoot this video as we had to wait for the safest times to shoot, and to readjust our schedules.

The video features Alena’s bandmates, Joshua Maran, Jonathan Wong Ketshin, Herman Ramanado and Jimmy Chong, all of whom were instrumental in the creation of the track. The track has no lyrics, and is inspired by a sape’ folk tune which tells of the warrior watching the morning mist rising, coupled with influences from rock music.

Warrior Spirit is a single from Alena Murang’s latest album “Sky Songs” which is now available on all digital platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, KK Box, YouTube Music etc.). “Sky Songs” released by Alena Murang in April 2021 has been nominated for *International Indigenous Artist- Group Recording of the Year* at the Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards Canada. It can be purchased as CD and cassette from Tandang Store (KL) and Bandat Record Store (Kuching).

The music video, co-produced by Kanid Studio and Project Room, is supported by CENDANA, Sarawak Tourism Board and Sarawak Convention Bureau.

Statement from the director

The warrior spirit is a relentless, prevailing and unbreakable force that exists in an individual, birthed out of a deep sense of purpose that comes from knowing who you are. Because what is a warrior? Someone who defends, stands up for, fights for what they believe in and never gives up. But there must be a purpose of which it serves. And purpose is found in our identity.

If there is one thing that I have learned about heritage is that it is meant to be shared. It may be unique to each person given our various cultural backgrounds, but it was never meant to be exclusive. That is why it was important that our production team from Project Room, our crew, and even the dancers were not exclusively Sarawakian. Rather, it was Malaysian. Sharing of heritage begins with the process of creating and it later translates into the final outcome.

At Project Room, we believe in taking the smallest seed idea and giving it space to grow to its largest potential. The contribution of every team member’s voice, skill and creative talent on this music video has made what started out as a plan to make a “dance video” turn into a visual statement of identity & culture. We can’t wait to share it with the world.

-- Sarah Lois Dorai (Director)

Statement from artist

We come from a line of warriors and heroes - my great great great grandfather Balang Nganud was a great warrior, the community called him '*the Tiger that floats enemies' heads downriver*'. Though we no longer practice that anymore, we inherited their spirit, their courage, their strength; and more over, the courage to fight together for something greater than ourselves. I think many Malaysians, and people across the world also, can relate to the spirit of the warrior. I want to thank the team involved in the Warrior Spirit production. It's been a tough time for the creative industry in Malaysia, and everyone brought their best and brought their fire and spirit to the set. I also want to thank our project partners. I hope this video gives us the courage we all very much need at this time.

--Alena Murang (artist)

Statement from the stylist

The looks and styling for the music video were mainly inspired by Alena Murang's cultural heritage and that of the peoples of Borneo, mainly Sarawak. We injected elements of warrior into the looks we created by mixing traditional accessories like an Orang Ulu headgear, a warrior shield and a 'cawat'-inspired fabric draping with majestic and yet elegant pieces by Malaysian designers. These ensembles with structured silhouette are contrasted with beautifully handmade beaded accessories in bright and bold hues that signify our magnificent mother nature. It's been an honour for team Styllar to be planning the looks for Warrior Spirit music video and we take pride in every step of the process from creating our own handmade accessories to being on set for long but meaningful hours."

-- Saerah Ridzuan, of Styllar (stylist)

Warrior Spirit Music Video Credits

Production Credits

Produced by - Project Room & Kanid Studio
Executive Producer - Alena Murang & Fabian Joseph

Director: Sarah Lois Dorai
Director of Photography: Fabian Wilfred Joseph
Art Direction: Sarah Lois Dorai

Production Manager: Annabel Michael
Production Assistant: Emma Ruran Raja
Production Assistant: Tan Sherlyn
Production Assistant: Amy Ng
Production Assistant: Michael Agan Sutherland
Production Assistant: Puteri Suaida
Production Assistant: Natasha Tan

1st Camera Assistant: Teh U-Jinn
2nd Camera Assistant: Veknesuaran Thiagarajan
Camera Crew: Yugan Shanmugam
Camera Crew: Geraldine Piong
Key Grip: Zainordin Bin Zainal
Best Boy: Mokhtar Che Man
Lighting Crew: Rahamad Akmal Bin Razak
Lighting Crew: Nor Iskandar B Mazelan
Crane Technician: Mohd Sufian Nordin

Lighting/Crane Truck Driver: Muhammad Firdaus Bin Osman
Equipment Vehicle Driver: Herzamie Izra Bin Razali, Muraly A/L Paramasivam
Gen Set Vehicle Driver: Jamaluddin Bin Ahmad

Band

Alena Murang
Joshua Maran
Herman Ramanado
Jimmy Chong

Music

Written & Composed by Alena Murang and Joshua Maran

Released on May 27, 2021



Performed by Alena Murang, Joshua Maran, Jonathan Wong Ketshin, Herman Ramanado, and Jimmy Chong

Styling team

Styling by

Saerah Ridzuan

Styllar

Assisted by

Maizatul Yasmin

Anati Leeyana

Azrul Samzard

Alessandro Daveena Jitt

Wardrobe by

Angeline Chin, Bok Yi Lun, Falihah Asyqin, Hishaam Shamsul, Kozo, Maatin Shakir , Naz Manterang, Raben Beads , Saran Mutang Tagal , The artisans of Tanoti , WOO MOH Yee Wah

MUA

Gebriel Padan

Dance

Choreographers - Naz Manterang , Munirih Jebeni & Alena Murang

Post Production

Post Producer: Fabian Wilfred Joseph

Offline Editor: Sarah Lois Dorai

Online Editor: Sarah Lois Dorai

Color by Company 3 Los Angeles

Colorist: Tyler Roth

Producer: Mario Castro

Sponsors / Funders

Project Room, Kanid Studio , CENDANA, Sarawak Tourism Board, Sarawak Convention Bureau, Gebriel Padan, Styllar

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Akim YM, Anderson Kalang, Clash Donerrin , Huszainiey Hussain, Lesli Eli, Moose Hormat, Nicholas Gala Bato , Valerie Mashman, Dr. Chatichai Chong, Ricky Lim, DP Gadget Services, Eric Yeong, Gutso Grips, Cinerent (M) Sdn. Bhd.

Dancers

AMELIA MARTHA BOLUNG, ANDERSON KALANG, RACHEL BULAN ANAK RAMBA, MABEL IRA BULAN, HAIROL RHAMDAN BIN HARON, KIMBERLY ONG KIM MING, JOLENE WONG SIU HUEY, SHAHLIZA BINTI PATIMIN, YAZIRA BT AZIZI, NITQUIZA BINTI ABD RAZAK, ONG JEE TENG, DOUGLAS PHILIP LABADIN, ANG ZHEN WEI, RAFIADAH NUR ISMANIAH BINTI TUAH AMIR FAKIR, HANI IYLIANI BINTI ABDUL HADI, ABDUL GHANI BIN ROSLI, GRIFFIN ANAK ROBERT JAWAS, MIMIGEL JOANNES, DARREN GILBERT ANAK KOH, WONG CHI YING, KIESHA RAE LOH, FAINEH JIMLIN, MOHD FIRDAUS BIN ABDULLAH, MASTURINA HANI BT MANSOR, SHERYL ANAK GEOFURY, ELLYSA EDWARD EDUM, IRMINA MITIA ANAK MEXLIEN, JENITA GAYATHRIE PANY, MARIA ANAK STEBEN VINSEN, ROWENKY ANAK EDDIE, SITI JULIAKA BINTI ABDULLAH, MAMORRA ANAK SENGIANG, EMYLYIA SENIA ANAK PAYU, VICTORIA YUYUN, SHELBIE DIANA, ANNE MICHELLE ANAK VINCE RABING, CAROLYN WEE, CLEOPATRA SUPANG CHEW PEI SIA