SIGNED OUT

Disastrous mud flow at the heart of ‘Grit,’ film festival’s big award winner

By SIERRA HUBBARD

The Keene Sentinel

The rising mud levels.

The documentary follows two families among the roughly 60,000 people displaced by the mud flow. Told through the eyes of Harwati and her teenage daughter Diana, who was 8 at the mud expelled, “Grit” traces the disaster’s aftermath and the controversy surrounding its cause. Over the course of five years of filming, Diana finds her voice as an activist seeking compensation for the refugees’ losses. A 2008 international report blamed oil and gas drilling less than a mile from the eruption. According to the report, the company operating the well drilled through a fault line, creating the mud volcano. The documentary’s production company, the well, IPPTA Brasiliana, has repeatedly denied it is responsible and blamed the mud flow on an earthquake that struck in the area two days prior. At the past-viewing Q&A, Wade said she first heard about the mud flow in 2012, while directing a commercial in Indonesia. She spent a few days taking video and photos at the site, but did that, “to do the film justice, she needed to find a partner familiar with the local language and culture. At a film festival months later, she recruited a documentary directed by Matt Simon, New England Film Festival director. — moderated a discussion with the directors.

In 2006, a mud volcano erupted on 130 feet of mud covering Indonesian villages are encased in 150 feet of mud covering about two square miles. The eruption 13 years ago that turned landscapes into eerily flat, bar- ren wastelands is still flowing, and could continue for another decade.

A documentary on the destructive mud volcano — “Grit,” directed by Cynthia Wade and Sasha Friedlander — received the Jonathan Daniels Award at MONIFF — Sasha Friedlander, left, and Cynthia Wade — talk about the making of their documentary film “Grit” after a viewing at The Colonial Theatre Saturday night. The documentary follows two families among the roughly 60,000 people displaced by the mud flow. Told through the eyes of Harwati and her teenage daughter Diana, who was 8 at the mud expelled, “Grit” traces the disaster’s aftermath and the controversy surrounding its cause. Over the course of five years of filming, Diana finds her voice as an activist seeking compensation for the refugees’ losses. A 2008 international report blamed oil and gas drilling less than a mile from the eruption. According to the report, the company operating the well drilled through a fault line, creating the mud volcano. The documentary’s production company, the well, IPPTA Brasiliana, has repeatedly denied it is responsible and blamed the mud flow on an earthquake that struck in the area two days prior.

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New Hampshire is now surr
A federal outstanding issues, such as revenue projections, legal cannabis prohibition what they cr
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