

Korean Cultural Centre UK

Attending Korean Film Nights

All events are free but booking is required for each screening. To reserve your place, please visit www.kccuk.org.uk. Click on the Film Nights section and select the booking icon on the film you wish to see.

For the special screenings taking place outside the KCCUK, please visit our website, Twitter or Facebook pages for more information.

* the programme and venue may be subject to change, please confirm at the time of booking.

Find Out More

www.koreanfilm.co.uk Facebook: #theLKFF twitter.com/koreanfilmfest One of the longest running initiatives at the Korean Cultural Centre UK, our *Korean Film Nights* has successfully concluded the three-year project: The Year of 12 Directors (2012), The Year of 4 Actors (2013), The Year of the Film Professionals (2014). Through this, we have showcased a wide spectrum of films from Korea and introduced audiences to a number of key figures from the world of Korean Cinema.

In 2015, in the build up to the 10th anniversary of the London Korean Film Festival, *Korean Film Nights* has been programmed to celebrate early, less known works by 10 prominent directors from Korea who were not part of the 2012 programme (with the exception of director Im Kwon-taek). Each month we will present two of the early films by each director – some of which have never been shown in the UK.

Additionally, we have launched two exciting extensions to our film programme: *Korean Film Nights Amplified* and *Korean Cinema Echoes*. *Korean Film Nights Amplified* is a series of monthly pre-screening talks by UK-based film academics and critics. These talks will provide you with a fuller insight into these films by illustrating the recent history of Korean cinema as well as the socioeconomic context of the film industry in Korea. *Korean Cinema Echoes* takes our screenings at the Korean Cultural Centre UK off-site bringing Korean films to wider audiences. Our film programme will visit SOAS (University of London) and Royal College of Art (Battersea) once a month, and we thank both SOAS Student Union and RCA for their enthusiasm and kind support.

We hope that you will enjoy this year's diverse film events at the Korean Cultural Centre UK and beyond.

Im Kwon-taek



Wangsimni

15 January, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1976 Director: Im Kwon-taek Cast: Shin Seong-il, Kim Yeong-ae, Choi Bool-am and Baek II-seop 112 mins / Cert. 18

Jun-tae returns to his hometown, Wangsimni, after living abroad for 14 years. After settling in at a hotel, he walks around the streets of Wangsimni, reminiscing about the life he shared with Jeong-hui. Wangsimni has been transformed completely during his absence, but his feelings for Jeong-hui have not changed. He asks about Jeong-hui but is urged to forget her. The two finally meet, and yet Jun-tae's inheritance of his father's estate creates a series of complicated circumstances as the people surrounding him try to take advantage of



29 January, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1996 Director: Im Kwon-taek Cast: Han Eun-jin, Oh Jeong-hae and Ahn Sung-ki 108 mins / Cert. 12

Lee Joonsup is a famous writer in his 40s. One day he is informed that his mother who has been ill for a number of years has just passed away. Before he goes to his mother's house to assist with the funeral, he is busy cancelling his appointments and making arrangements. A journalist, Jang Haerim, comes to the funeral to write an article about Joonsup's literary world as seen through this family incident. The funeral starts and enmity among the family of the deceased deepens as Joonsup's niece, Yongsoon, arrives. When the funeral ends, however, all the relatives begin to cherish the wisdom and life of Joonsup's deceased mother.

Tony Rayns



Cannes prizewinner Im Kwon-taek is widely considered Korea's greatest living director, now with 102 features to his credit. His story resembles those of Hollywood masters like John Ford: he stumbled into the film industry almost by accident after the Korean War, made dozens of genre movies to order, and then gradually found his own distinctive voice as a director by exploring his own memories and tastes. Im has been making world-class films since the late 1970s, tackling both Buddhist and secular themes and often dealing with specifically Korean stories and issues. He's noted for his unsentimental humanism, for his work with many of Korea's best actors and for the classical beauty of his visual style. But he has also paid dues to his own roots in genre movies by making the Son of a General series, dealing with gang-feuds in the Jongno of the 1930s.

Kang Woo-Suk



Mister Mama

12 February, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1992 Director: Kang Woo-suk Cast: Choi Min-soo, Choi Jin-sil and Kim Se-jun 102 mins / Cert. 12

Hyung-joon who believes cooking, cleaning and especially childcare is solely a job for women gets a rude awakening when he wakes up to the cries of his son Sang-ah, only to discover that his wife has left him. He has no choice but to gather his son's diaper bag and take him to work. His office soon gets used to the cries of the baby and the crib as Hyung-joon becomes accustomed to taking care of his son. The only female employee, Young-joo, helps Hyung-joon look after Sang-ah when Hyung-joon has to pull overtime and the two subsequently become close.

Two Cops

26 February, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

KFN Amplified No.1: Introduction by Dr. Jinhee Choi

> South Korea,1993 Director: Kang Woo-suk Cast: Park Joong-hoon and Anh Sung-ki 110 mins / Cert. 15



Two Cops is often seen as the first film of the so-called 'police movies' from Korea. The experienced detective Cho has a new colleague, Kang who recently graduated top of the class from the Police Academy. The idealistic Kang always sticks to his principles and is often in conflict with Cho, an amoral cop who always tries to take advantage of his position. Kang tries to win Cho over to his side but fails. One day, a beautiful barmaid comes to the police station for help, and Kang falls in love with her. As their relationship develops, Kang soon becomes more like Cho.

Almost alone among the current generation of Korean filmmakers, Kang Woosuk sees himself as an heir to the traditions of the old Chungmuro film industry, the Korean 'Hollywood' which took shape in the decades after the Korean War. He began directing in 1988 and has notched up nearly twenty films over the years – but his directorial credits are hugely outnumbered by his credits as producer: his companies Cinema Service and KnJ have given us some 120 movies, including several of Korea's most inspired recent films. His own films range from the "odd couple" comedy-thrillers *Two Cops* and its sequel to the political action-thriller *Silmido* and from movies about the problems of teenagers to the powerful social critiques of the *Public Enemy* series. Over the years, Kang Woosuk has become an axiom of Korean cinema: a treasure.

Kim Jeewoon

By his own account, Kim Jeewoon came into the film industry (after a long period of joblessness) without any clear sense of what he hoped to accomplish. But his first film *The Quiet Family* (1998), a political allegory framed as a black comedy, established him as one of the most idiosyncratic and distinctive voices in Korean cinema – and everything he's done since has confirmed that position. He's brought his quirky humour and off-centre perceptions to bear on thrillers (*A Bittersweet Life, I Saw the Devil*), comedy (*The Foul King*), horror (*A Tale of Two Sisters*) and even the Western (The Good, the Bad, the Weird), not to mention sci-fi in his great short Heavenly Creature. His ongoing exploration of different genres and his taste for creative adventure has made him the most indemand of directors.

The Quiet Family

12 March, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1998 Director: Kim Jee-woon Cast: Park In-hwan, Na Moon-hee, Choi Min-sik and Song Kang-ho 103 mins / cert. 18



After their father's dismissal from his company, a family decides to open a mountain lodge in the suburbs of Seoul. Although they initially expect a rush of lodgers, the mansion remains empty for days leaving the family anxious. Meanwhile, Mina (the youngest daughter) is upset by strange noises at night and a strange old woman's ominous omen. The first guest appears two weeks after their opening. Excited, the family pours excessive favours on him. However, the guest is found dead the next day, and so the family buries him in a panic to avoid any risks of ruining their newly formed business. The second guests are a couple who commit suicide, and so the family buries them again. About the time when the family gets accustomed to digging, they learn there will be a new path constructed by their lodge just where the bodies are buried.



The Foul King

26 March, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

KFN Amplified No.2: Introduction by Dr. Chi-Yun Shin

> South Korea, 2000 Director: Kim Jee-woon Cast: Song Kang-ho, Jang Jin-young and Jang Hang-sun 112 mins / cert. 12

The story of a banker who shines as a prowrestler. In the days when head-butting wrestler Kim II was in his glory, a young boy idolised Ultra Tiger Mask, the one and only foul-playing wrestler. Now the boy has grown into a shy and incompetent man. His days are long and tedious, and his boss always harasses him. One day he decides to learn to wrestle. His lifeless eyes start to sparkle, and muscles break out on his pot-bellied body. He's born again. In the ring, he becomes the vicious Foul King.

Hong Sang-soo

Hong Sangsoo made his first film in 1996, just as a modern film culture was taking off in Korea, but soon left the mainstream film industry to work as an independent. Laid-back and often very droll, his films focus on the many ways that we lie to ourselves and each other; he is constantly reinventing the rom-com. But he is equally interested in the ways we tell and understand stories: the tricks and traps of narrative itself, the ambiguities, the alternative possibilities. Hong used to pride himself on never using the same actor twice, but nowadays has a "stock company" of favourites like Moon Sori and Yu Junsang – plus the odd non-Korean star, such as Isabelle Huppert and Kase Ryu. One bonus for foreign viewers is his built-in guide to Korean alcohol: the fiery *soju* triggers repressed feelings and starts arguments, while the mellower rice-wine *makgeoli* stimulates nostalgic memories.

The Day a Pig Fell Into a Well

16 April , 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

KFN Amplified No.3: Introduction by Tony Rayns

> South Korea, 1996 Director: Hong Sang-soo Cast: Kim Eui-sung, Park Jin-sung, Cho Eun-sook and Lee Eung-kyeong 113 mins / cert. 18



The title derives from John Cheeverm's short story, and the film portrays a struggling novelist. Hyo-seop is a miserable novelist who has not yet published a single decent novel. While suffering from a sense of inferiority and victimhood for being treated as a thirdclass novelist, Hyo-seop falls madly in love with a married woman, Bo-kyung. Bo-kyung's husband Dong-woo has mysophobia, a fear of germs, and often goes on a business trip to Jinju. However, he doesn't trust Bo-kyung wholeheartedly. On the other hand, Minjae, a girl who works at a ticket booth in a movie theatre, dreams of marrying novelist Hyo-seop. She is a girl with some sense of vanity and illusion of becoming a novelist's wife. She is happy as she helps Hyo-seop with editing his manuscripts. However, Hyo-seop is not satisfied with Minjae and indulges himself in an affair with Bo-kyung.

The Power of the Kangwon Province

30 April, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1998 Director: Hong Sang-soo Cast: Baek Jong-hak, Oh Yoon-hong and Kim Yu-seok 108 mins / cert. 18

It's another hot humid summer in Seoul, and a trip to the mountain and temples of Kangwon Province is one way to revive one's spirit in the aftermath of a breakup. Or not ... On the rebound from a love affair with Sang-Kwon, her married university instructor, Ji-Sook joins two girlfriends for a trip to Kangwon Province. Although Ji-Sook is the only woman he has ever loved, Sang-Kwon seems to have moved on and is now searching for a tenured position. His trip to Kangwon Province coincides with Ji-Sook's, and up in the mountains, both have a brush with the same tragedy. Both also have drunken spats with friends and indulge in joyless flirtations. Ultimately, both leave Kangwon Province lonelier than ever. Will the ephemeral ties which bind the two ever gain substance in the smog of Seoul?



M A Y

Hur Jin-ho



Christmas in August

14 May, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1998 Director: Hur Jin-ho Cast: Han Seok-kyu, Shim Eun-ha and Shin Koo 97 mins / cert. 15

In a quiet corner of Seoul, Jung-Won runs a small photo studio. A humble shack passed down from his widower father, the studio is a space where Jung-Won goes about his daily routine of dealing with fussy customers, enlarging photos of class heartthrobs for local kids and photographing pictures to place on funeral altars. For Jung-Won, life seems to be a series of peaceful events, but in reality his time on earth is too limited for comfort. Life goes on as usual until one day he meets Darim. Darim, who works at the Traffic Control Division of the local district office, is a regular customer at the studio. Her daily visits to develop snapshots of parking violations, and she makes somewhat bold attempts to capture his attention, which stirs feelings of anticipation inside Jung-Won. As his health gradually deteriorates, Jung-Won is faced with the painful duty of bidding farewell to family, friends, to the studio and to Darim.

One Fine Spring Day

28 May, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 2001 Director: Hur Jin-ho Cast:Yoo Ji-tae and Lee Young-ae 113 mins / cert. 15

Sang-wu is a sound engineer who lives with his grandmother, his widowed father and his sister. One winter, he meets radio programme director, Eun-su. Sang-wu and Eun-su go on a trip to find sounds of nature for her radio show. The two become close, and they spend a night together at Eun-su's apartment. Sang-wu finds himself falling fast and hard for Eun-su. Their relationship begins in the winter, progresses through the following spring but begins to fall apart in the summer. Sang-wu travels to and from Seoul to Kang-neung unable to overcome his emotions and affection for Eun-su.



When he graduated from the Korean Academy of Film Arts (alongside Bong Joonho, Jang Junhwan and others), Hur Jinho was widely expected to become a 'new wave' innovator in Korean cinema. Instead, he pursued a much more personal course, making a series of obliquely autobiographical films about young people struggling to overcome their inhibitions and express their feelings. Films like *Christmas in August* and *One Fine Spring Day* touched a nerve with audiences (not only in Korea), and established Hur as an exceptionally sensitive chronicler of awkward emotions. But he found himself trapped by the film industry view of him as a specialist in romance, and has taken time off from directing to rethink his priorities. Never prolific, he has spent recent years exploring the possibilities and practicalities of working in China, where he has a large fan-base.

Kim Tae-yong

Family Ties

11 June, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

KFN Amplified No.4: Introduction by Dr. Mark Morris

> South Korea, 2006 Director: Kim Tae-yong Cast: Moon So-ri, Ko Doo-sim, Uhm Tae-woong, Kong Hyo-jin and Bong Tae-gyu 113 mins / cert. 15

The film Family Ties is an ensemble story of three seemingly unconnected episodes. It begins with Mi-ra, who runs a small restaurant and has a troublesome brother, Hyung-chul. After being discharged from the military he goes missing only to turn up five years later accompanied by a middle-aged woman, Musin. He gives a bunch of flowers to Mi-ra and introduces Mu-sin as his wife, even though they have not had a wedding ceremony. From that moment, an eccentric family is born. As the literal translation of the original Korean title 'Birth of a Family' indicates, each 'family' is born out of seemingly random or even impulsive acts rather than being blood-related.

Memento Mori 2

25 June, 7pm Korean Cultural Centre UK

> South Korea, 1999 Director: Kim Tae-yong, Min Kyu-dong Cast:Kim Gyuri, Park Ye-jin and Lee Young-jin 97 mins / cert. 12

Min-ah discovers a purple diary. As she reads through the pages, she realises it is a journal exchanged between Hyo-shin and Sheeeun. Min-ah suspects something more than friendship is going on between the two, and her suspicion becomes stronger as she discovers them together in the school's emergency room. Hyo-shin's sudden death evokes a series of strange occurrences to which the journal contributes. Eventually, the school is transformed from its rather tranquil exterior of rules and regulations into a place of morbid carnivalesque, as if 'Memento Mori' written in the journal meaning, 'remember the dead' has come to life.

A favourite of critics but with an erratic history at the box-office, Kim Taeyong has one of the messier careers in modern Korean cinema, and he's currently devoting more energy to teaching than to making films. But a glance through his CV reveals a wealth of accomplishments. His debut feature *Memento Mori* (co-directed with his film school classmate Min Gyudong) and his solo debut *Family Ties* ran rings around the ghost story and the family melodrama respectively, while *Late Autumn* is the bestever Korean film shot in the US. Kim has also made short films, acted for director Leesong Heeil, worked in theatre, mounted a revival of the oldest surviving Korean silent movie and made a feature documentary about the Yoon Dohyun Band on tour. However random or unco-ordinated it seems, this is actually a spectacular career – crowned by his recent marriage with Chinese actress Tang Wei.



Korean Cinema Echoes

A series of monthly screening events taking place outside the Korean Cultural Centre UK

KOREAN

Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) has successfully carried out a fortnightly screening programme of Korean cinema since 2008 under the title *Korean Film Nights*, and this year it's expanding!

With this new title *Korean Cinema Echoes*, KCCUK is proud to present its film programmes to various universities across London and beyond.

Free admission, booking essential Open to the public & students

CINEMA

March / SOAS

A Tale of Two Sisters 16 March / 7pm SOAS University of London, Room B111

South Korea, 2003 Director: Kim Jee-woon Cast: Lim Soo-jung,Yum Jung-ah and Kim Ghab-soo 115 mins / cert. 12

The film A Tale of Two Sisters is inspired by The Story of Janghwa and Hongryeon - a wellknown Korean fairy tale from the Joseon era. Two sisters Su-mi and Su-yeon return home from their long recuperation in Seoul and are greeted by their stepmother Eun-ju. Despite Eun-ju's pronounced care for the sisters, it is evident that they are wary of her. Since the first day at the house an ominous aura seems to settle down, and they are haunted by hallucinations and nightmares. Su-mi wants to take care of her father Mu-hyeon and younger sister Su-veon in the absence of her deceased mother. Eun-ju shows a sign of extreme emotional insecurity and drives the family into fear, and Su-mi tries to stand up to her. Meanwhile, bizarre incidents continue around the house as one by one the family's secrets are revealed.

April / SOAS

Korean Novels on Screen 20 April – 24 April / 7pm SOAS University of London, Room B111

A week-long programme featuring five films based on novels by Korean writers. Launched to celebrate the Korean Market Focus Cultural Programme for *The London Book Fair 2014*, every April the Korean Cultural Centre UK will present a series of films that have been adapted from Korean literature. t

20 April / 7pm The Daughters of Kim's Pharmacy

South Korea, 1963 Original novel by Park Kyong-ni Director: Yu Hyun-mok Cast: Choi Ji-hee, Um Aing-ran and Hwang Jung-seun 108 mins / cert. 18 A portrayal of four daughters of a herb shopkeeper who face troubled marriages, complicated by their sibling rivalry.

21 April / 7 pm A Dwarf Launches a Little Ball

South Korea, 1981 Original novel by Cho Se-hui Director: Lee Won-se Cast: Jeon Yang-ja,Ahn Sung-ki, Kim Choo-ryeon and Geum Bo-ra 100 mins / cert. 18

A story about a dwarf and his poor but loving family who are forced to leave their home.

22 April / 7 pm Deep Blue Night

South Korea, 1985 Original novel by Choi In-ho Director: Bae Chang-ho Cast: Ahn Sung-ki and Chang Mi-hee 110 mins / cert. 18

A road movie of sorts depicting complicated relationships intertwined with the traditional arc of separation and return driven by each character's desire and ambition.

23 April / 7pm Our Twisted Hero

South Korea, 1992 Original novel by Lee Moon-yeol Director: Park Jong won Cast: Hong Kyung-in,Go Jeong-il and Tae Min-yeong 119 mins / cert. U

A sharp elucidation of politics, power and violence seen through the dynamics of 5th graders at Y primary school in the early 1960s.

24 April / 7pm Chunhyang

South Korea, 2000 Based on the Pansori Chunhyangga as sung by Cho Sang-hyeon Director: Im Kwon-taek Cast: Yi Hyo-jeong and Cho Seung-woo 136 mins / cert. 12

A forbidden love story between a governor's son Mongryong and the daughter of a courtesan Chunhyang told through Pansori - a traditional Korean form of storytelling.

May / RCA

Festival

11 May / 6:30pm Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Dyson Building Royal College of Art, Battersea SW11 4AN

> South Korea,1996 Director: Im Kwon-taek Cast: Han Eun-jin, Oh Jeong-hae and Ahn Sung-ki 108 mins / Cert. 12

Im Kwon-Taek is South Korea's most celebrated filmmaker and has made over one hundred films since his first, *Farewell Duman River*, in 1962.

This film *Festival* is based on the novel of the same title by Lee Cheong-jun. It has an intriguing structure, moving between the unfolding reality of the funeral and a children's story written by the main character Lee Joon-seop.

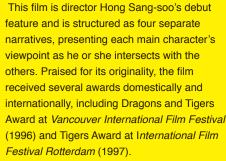
"Through the motif of the funeral, the most extensively scaled ceremony in life, I have tried to explore the meaning of death and its effects shadowing the bereaved. I have also tried to bring to light the sentiments of the survivors: their sorrow, egoism, solemnity and even frivolity. I want to give the viewers who see this film a moment to think about what is truly valuable and precious in our quickly changing world. At this moment, I consider this goal my duty as a director." - Director Im Kwon Taek (quoted from 27th International Forum of New Cinema 1997)

Lee Joonsup is a famous writer in his 40s. One day he is informed that his mother who has been ill for a number of years has just passed away. Before he goes to his mother's house to assist with the funeral, he is busy cancelling his appointments and making arrangements. A journalist, Jang Haerim, comes to the funeral to write an article about Joonsup's literary world as seen through this family incident. The funeral starts and enmity among the family of the deceased deepens as Joonsup's niece, Yongsoon, arrives. When the funeral ends, however, all the relatives begin to cherish the wisdom and life of Joonsup's deceased mother.

June / RCA

The Day a Pig Fell into a Well 8 J<mark>une</mark> / 6:30pm Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Dyson Building, Royal College of Art, Battersea SW11 4AN

South Korea, 1996 Director: Hong Sang-soo Cast:Kim Eui-sung,Park Jin-sung, Cho Eun-sook and Lee Eung-kyeong 113 mins / cert. 18



The title of this film derives from John Cheeverm's 1954 short story, and the film portrays a struggling novelist. Hyo-seop is a miserable novelist who has not yet published a single decent novel. He visits a publishing company where one of his junior colleagues works only to confirm that his manuscripts are worthless. On the same night, he goes out for a drink with friends, gets into a fight with a critic and ends up in jail. While suffering from a sense of inferiority and victimhood for being treated as a third-class novelist, Hyo-seop falls madly in love with a married woman, Bo-kyung, Bokyung's husband Dong-woo has mysophobia, a fear of germs, and often goes on a business trip to Jinju. However, he doesn't trust Bo-kyung wholeheartedly. On the other hand, Minjae, a girl who works at a ticket booth in a movie theatre, dreams of marrying novelist Hyo-seop. She is a girl with some sense of vanity and illusion of becoming a novelist's wife. She is happy as she helps Hyo-seop with editing his manuscripts. However, Hyo-seop is not satisfied with Minjae and indulges himself in an affair with Bo-kyung.

EMBEDDEDNESS

Experimental Films and Videos from Korea

A week-long programme of screenings presented in collaboration between three organisations: EX-IS (international experimental film & video festival in Seoul), LUX artist moving image and the Korean Cultural Centre UK. This is a mini-survey of experimental films and videos produced by Korean artists/filmmmakers made between 1969 and 2014. Three screenings will feature over 15 works and represent key artist/filmmakers including Ku-lim Kim, Ik-tae Lee, Dong-hee Koo, Seungho Cho, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Jangwook Lee and Minha Park. This programme will also host workshops and panel discussions at Central Saint Martins and Royal College of Art. Details of the programme will be available shortly on kccuk.org.uk.









Korean Film Nights 2015 10 Years, 10 Directors www.koreanfilm.co.uk www.kccuk.org.uk

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