

KOREAN  
FILM  
NIGHTS  
2015

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TEN  
YEARS  
TEN  
DIRECTORS



Korean Cultural Centre UK

## Attending Korean Film Nights

Booking is required for each screening. To reserve your place, please visit [www.kccuk.org.uk](http://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 away from the KCCUK, please visit [www.koreanfilm.co.uk](http://www.koreanfilm.co.uk), 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

[twitter.com/koreanfilmfest](https://twitter.com/koreanfilmfest)  
[www.koreanfilm.co.uk](http://www.koreanfilm.co.uk)  
Or find us on Facebook #theLKFF

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2015 marks a decade of our Korean film events in London and so in this celebratory year we have programmed a range of screenings, talks with guest speakers, retrospectives and events that will all culminate in the autumn with the 10<sup>th</sup> London Korean Film Festival. We are thrilled that this year's festival will open on 2 November at the BFI Southbank. The festival will run between 2 November and 14 November at diverse cinemas and venues across London.

As we build up to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival, our *Korean Film Nights* celebrate early, less known works by 10 prominent directors from Korea. We have shown two of the early titles by Im Kwon-taek, Kang Woosuk, Kim Jeewoon, Hong Sang-soo, Hur Jin-ho and Kim Tae-yong – some of which had never been shown in the UK before now. Following on from this, we are delighted to present the second half of this year's programme with a selection of films by Kwak Kyung-taek, Jang Jin, Lee Chang-dong and Ryoo Seung-wan.

Furthermore, this year has seen the successful launch of two exciting additions to our film programme, namely *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 give a fuller insight into these films by offering an introduction to each of the directors and the broader contexts in which these pieces were produced and distributed. *Korean Cinema Echoes* takes our regular screenings beyond the Korean Cultural Centre UK to meet new audiences. We are excited to announce that this film programme will visit the Royal College of Art and Sheffield Hallam University later in the year.

We very much hope that you have enjoyed the diverse range of film events so far this year. We look forward to welcoming you to the Korean Cultural Centre UK for the second half of the programme, and of course the 10<sup>th</sup> London Korean Film Festival in November!

## Kwak Kyung-taek

The jovial Kwak Kyung-taek, born in Busan in 1966, once likened the job of directing films to being a field commander in a battle. That suggests wall-to-wall violence, but his films are actually rich in quirky humour and off-beat local colour: he's one of the most characterful of genre-movie directors. He went to film school in New York and came back to Korea just as new possibilities were opening up in the mid-1990s. His first two features announced his distinctive talent: *3pm Paradise* is a panoramic social comedy set in a public bath-house in Busan, and *Doctor K* is a drama about a medic burdened by what seem like supernatural powers of healing. But it was his third feature *Friend*, a huge hit in Korea in 2001, which really made his name. Again set in his hometown Busan, it's a powerhouse of a movie centred on the ways that adolescent bonds both endure and break down in later life – especially when some of the old friends turn to crime. Yes, there's violence. But also laughter, tears and more complex emotions.



### Dr.K

9 July, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

South Korea, 1998  
Director: Kwak Kyung-taek  
Cast: Cha In-pyo, Kim Hye-soo,  
Kim Ha-neul, Yu In-chon,  
Park Sang-myeon  
107 mins / Cert. 15 / Eng Subs

Neuro-surgeon resident K is embedded with state-of-the-art medical knowledge. He is always full of esoteric energy despite his hectic schedule of long, stressful operations, allowing him only two hours of sleep each day. Born to a shaman mother, he is gifted with spiritual powers which he uses to treat critical patients. PYO Jee-soo, a female anesthetist and a classmate of K, has great admiration for him, as well as jealousy. When K saves three young terminally-ill patients, rumors of unnatural practices conducted in the hospital spread, and to make matters worse, the head of the neurosurgery ward starts having doubts about K's operations.



### Friend

23 July, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

AMPLIFIED (((((6))))))  
Introduction by Graham Gillespie

South Korea, 2001  
Director: Kwak Kyung-taek  
Cast: Yoo Oh-seong, Jang Dong-kun,  
Seo Tae-hwa, Jung Woon-taek,  
Kim Bo-kyung  
115 mins / Cert. 18 / Eng Subs

Four friends. Two Rivalries. Only one choice. Joon-suk, Dong-su, Sang-taek and Joong-ho have been friends since they were little boys. As teenage boys, they fight together, fall for the same girl and form rivalries that will haunt them for the rest of their lives. Joon-suk is the leader of the gang and he looks after Sang-taek, the timid bookworm. Dong-su is the brooding rebel and Joong-ho is the clown. A few years later, Joong-ho and Sang-taek enter college and eventually lose touch with Joon-suk and Dong-su. Now in his twenties, Sang-taek reunites with the drug addicted Joon-suk and hears that Dong-su is in jail. Years elapse again and now Joon-suk has inherited his father's organization while Dong-su has become his biggest rival.

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## Jang Jin

It's a paradox: Jang Jin is known to pretty well everyone in Korea (he's the country's leading playwright and theatre director, not to mention a TV show-runner, talent-show judge and so on), but hardly known outside Korea, even to hardcore fans of Korean movies. He sees himself as a mainstream entertainer and has launched the careers of at least five top stars. Watch his films, though, and you find an *auteur*-director who uses humour and social satire to tackle quite serious subjects. His first big hit *Guns and Talks*, for example, presents a gang of hitmen as user-friendly providers of a social service and wittily subverts their macho sense of themselves – though the climactic murder during a performance of *Hamlet* also revels in Jang's sense of theatre. Subsequent films lay into such meaty topics as religious faith, go-getting materialism and hypocrisy in the mass media, not to mention the prospect of Dr Alzheimer knocking at the door. But he's right: his films are never less than hugely entertaining.

Tony Rayns




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### Guns & Talk

13 August, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

South Korea, 2001  
Director: Jang Jin  
Cast: Shin Hyun-jun, Jung Jin-young,  
Shin Ha-kyun, Jung Jae-young, Won Bin  
121 mins / Cert. 15/ Eng Subs

Toxic fumes from an air conditioner kill a man. A bullet pierces through a man's brain before he even gets to turn the ignition. A man picks up a phone, and a three-story building explodes. In the middle of all this chaos, four men walk out of the building without a scratch - they are the culprits of these heinous crimes. The foursome are Sang-yun, Jung-wu, Jae-young and Ha-yun, professional assassins for hire. Sang-yun the cool-headed leader, Jung-wu the explosives specialist, Jae-young the unmatched sniper, and Ha-yun the computer wiz. After they meet their clients and discuss the time, place and method by which they want their targets to be eliminated, they sign a formal contract. Once the deal is made, they carry out their mission and finish it like a typical day at work. But one day whilst completing a big job, they leave a trail behind. With Pros-

ecutor Cho hot on their trail, Sang-yun meets a client and is offered a dangerous

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### Someone Special

27 August, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

AMPLIFIED ((((((7))))))  
Introduction by Tony Rayns

South Korea, 2004  
Director: Jang Jin  
Cast: Lee Na-young, Jung Jae-young,  
Jang Young-nam, Oh Seung-hyeon,  
Jeong Gyoo-soo  
107 mins / Cert. 15 / Eng Subs



Dong Chi-seong used to be a popular pitcher but is now in the minor league playing as an outfielder. Suddenly he loses his girlfriend and then hears from his doctor that he only has three months left. Time will heal a heartbreak they say, but Chi-seong doesn't have time. With a shattered heart he goes to his favorite bar where he gets drunk and opens his eyes to find himself in a motel room. The bartender tells Chi-seong that he hadn't made any mistakes while drunk, and that she had brought him to the motel 'folded in a paper bag.' The next day on his way back from practice, he hears a story on the radio, and it sounds familiar. His story was coming out of the radio, written by someone calling herself 'princess Pilgi.'

## Lee Chang-dong

Winner of the Best Director prize in Venice Film Festival, Lee Changdong came to film-making later than most of his contemporaries. He was a teacher and an acclaimed novelist before he wrote his first film-script for Park Kwangsu, and it was the experience of working on Park's film *To the Starry Island* that emboldened him to start directing his own scripts. He hasn't been prolific, but all five features he's made have made a big impact at home and abroad. *Green Fish*, his debut, looks at Korea's ultra-rapid economic development and the rise of organised crime. *Peppermint Candy*, his follow-up, looks back over the dashed hopes of his generation and pinpoints the dark forces in Korean society which can turn a good man bad. His subsequent films – *Oasis*, *Secret Sunshine* and *Poetry* – have maintained his focus on 'difficult' social issues, often to wrenching effect. But underlying his sometimes harrowing dramas there is always a warm humanity.

Tony Rayns

### Green Fish

10 September, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

South Korea, 1997  
Director: Lee Chang-dong  
Cast: Han Seok-kyu, Shim Hye-jin,  
Moon Sung-keun  
114 mins / Cert. 18/ Eng Subs



Mak-Dong finishes his military service and is on the way home, when he helps Mi-Ae, who is being harassed. As a result, he misses his train. Mak-Dong arrives home with her rosy scarf in his hand. Nobody welcomes Mak-Dong home except his big brother with polio. Mak-Dong wishes he managed a good restaurant so that all the family members could live together. So he goes to Seoul searching for work and goes to the nightclub where Mi-Ae sings, to return her scarf. Mi-Ae is the mistress of the gangster Bae Tae-Gon. She finds a job for Mak-Dong through Tae-Gon. Mak-Dong begins to work in the parking lot and falls into a life of violence.



### Peppermint Candy

24 September, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

AMPLIFIED ((((((8))))))  
Introduction by Dr. Anton Bittel

South Korea, 1999  
Director: Lee Chang-dong  
Cast: Sul kyoung-gu, Moon So-ri,  
Kim Yeo-jin  
129 mins / Cert. 18 / Eng Subs

Yong-ho is a crazy forty year-old man who shows up unexpectedly at the twentieth reunion of former factory workers. The film goes on a time travel as seven past episodes of Young-ho's personal life reveal a link to twenty years of social and economic changes in Korea.

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## Ryoo Seung-wan

“A director is a person who works with the heart of an artist, the brain of a capitalist and the hands and feet of a labourer.” Ryoo Seung-wan’s smart dictum sums up the appeal of his terrific movies: thoughtful, provocative, action-packed and very, very emotive. He first won attention as a director of independent short films, and had the excellent idea in 2000 of collecting/reworking several of them into his debut feature *Die Bad*, a portrait of gang-fighting kids which redefined the wrong side of the tracks. The film was so successful that it launched his career in the film industry, where he has specialised in macho action genres: thrillers, martial-arts adventures, even a boxing movie about a fading, punchdrunk champion and a rising star. Ryoo himself, though, belies all the macho stereotypes. He writes interesting characters for women, has a magical eye for fantasy and gives his thrillers a sharp, politically-aware edge.

Tony Rayns

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### Die Bad

8 October , 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

AMPLIFIED (((((9))))))  
Introduction by Dr Nikki J.Y.Lee

South Korea, 2000  
Director: Ryoo Seung-wan  
Cast: Ryoo Seung-wan,  
Park Sung-bin, Ryoo Seung-bum,  
Bae Jung-sik, Kim Su-hyeon  
96 mins / Cert. 18 Eng Subs



Suk-whan and Sung-bin, both teenagers, rumble with Hyun-soo’s group at a pool hall. Sung-bin accidentally kills Hyun-soo after trying to stop the fight. After 7 years in prison, Sung-bin arrives home only to find out that nobody welcomes him back. Furthermore, he is haunted by the ghost of Hyun-soo. Meanwhile, Suk-whan, who actually ignited the fatal fight, has become a cop, and he tries to stay away from Sung-bin.

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### No Blood No Tears

22 October, 7pm  
Korean Cultural Centre UK

South Korea, 2002  
Director: Ryoo Seung-wan  
Cast: Jeon Do-youn, Lee Hye-young,  
Jung Jae-young, Ryoo Seung-bum,  
Shin Koo  
116 mins / Cert. 18 / Eng Subs

Gyung-sun drives a cab on the night shift and meets every kind of scum there is. She used to be a professional safecracker, but now she stumbles through the day clinging to the sole hope that someday she’ll be reunited with her daughter. One day she meets a girl named Soo-jin, who is the spitting image of herself back when she had it made. Soo-jin lives with her vicious boyfriend, Bulldog, who never leaves her alone and beats her, especially when he gets drunk. Together they decide to do something about their dire circumstances. To live for tomorrow, they fight the world for a day.



## Korean Cinema Echoes

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**A series of monthly screening events taking place in venues away from the Korean Cultural Centre UK.**

# KOREAN

**The Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) has successfully presented 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*, the KCCUK is proud to present its film programmes to various universities in London and beyond.**

**Free admission, booking essential. Open to the public & students**

# CINEMA

## Royal College of Art

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Govy Lecture Theatre  
Dyson Building, Battersea SW11 4AN

### Secret Sunshine

13 October, 6:30pm

South Korea, 2007  
Director: Lee Chang-dong  
Cast: Jeon Do-youn, Song Kang-ho,  
Jo Young-jin, Kim Young-jae,  
Seon Jeong-yeop  
141 mins / Cert. 12 / Eng Subs

After losing her husband, a woman relocates to a small-town called Miryang for a new start. When tragedy strikes, one local man stands by her through all of her struggles and tries to offer her hope.

### The Guests of the Last Train

8 December, 6:30pm

South Korea, 1967  
Director: Yu Hyun-mok  
Cast: Lee Soon-jae, Moon Hee,  
Seong Hun, Nam Jeong-im,  
Kim Seong-ok  
104 mins / Cert. 15 / Eng Subs

*The Guests of the Last Train* revolves around a tormented young man and his circle of friends. Director Yu weaves an intricate portrait of loss and redemption through the lives and relationships of individuals struggling to find their place in society.

## Sheffield-Hallam University

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The Void Film Theatre  
Level 1, Owen Building, City Campus  
Howard Street, Sheffield S1 1WBN

### Epitaph

21 October, 6:30pm

South Korea, 2007  
Director: Jeong Sik, Jung Bum-sik  
Cast: Kim Tae-woo, Kim Bo-kyung, Jin Goo, Lee Dong-kyu, Ko Joo-yeon  
98 mins / Cert. 15 / Eng Subs

"In a modern hospital in 1941, doctors witness weird events and learn that DEATH is the sole healer."

In 1979, Dr. PARK receives an old photo album from his youth, taken in 1941 when mysterious things befell him and his colleagues. PARK was bound by his parents to marry a girl whom he never met, but fell in love with a dead woman who happened to be his arranged marriage. Meanwhile, a little girl who was apparently the only survivor of a car accident is haunted by ghosts every night. After two doctors involved in these two stories return to their hospital from Tokyo, a series of serial murders occur around them.

### My Sassy Girl

25 November, 6:30pm

SOAS University of London, Room B111

South Korea, 2001  
Director: Kwak Jae-yong  
Cast: Cha Tae-hyun, Jun Ji-hyun,  
Kim In-moon, Song Ok-sook, Han Jin-hui  
122 mins / Cert. 15 / Eng Subs

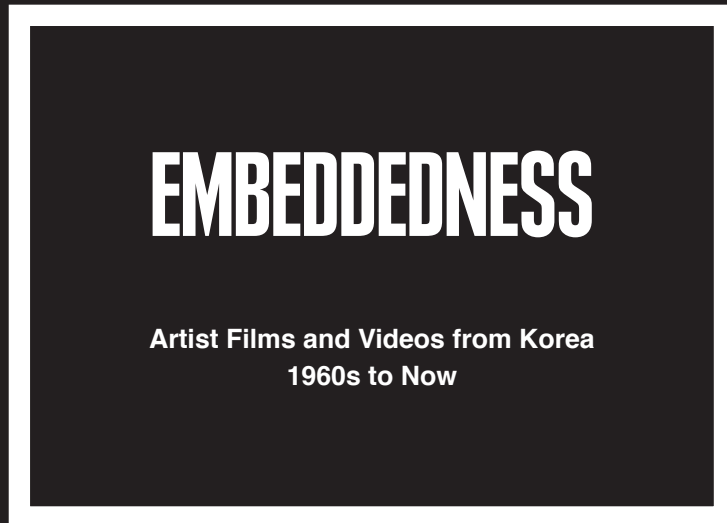
A cute, extremely drunk young woman stands in a subway car. She begins to throw up all over an elderly man wearing a toupee. She then

turns to an unsuspecting young man and calls 'Honey!' This is the beginning of a truly bizarre and funny relationship between the two. She is trying to get over a former boyfriend. This is the only beginning of his troubles, from this day onward, Kyun-woo is beaten, threatened and constantly bossed around by this beautiful but menacing woman. She rescues him from drowning, while not hesitating to push him into a lake just out of curiosity. She touches him deeply even by saving him from being held hostage. On her birthday, he plans a night for two. Despite all he has been through, he begins to find that beneath the tough exterior she is very vulnerable and so he inadvertently falls for her. Just when he begins to believe that things will work out, she begins to withdraw from him. In a manner befitting her, she ends their relationship by making a time capsule. In this capsule, they have enclosed a letter to each other to be opened when they dig it up two years from then.

# ECHOES



18–19 September  
Tate Modern Starr Auditorium



**The first survey in the UK of Korean artists' films and videos attempts to unwrap the particularity of experimental film and artist moving-image making over five decades from 1960s until now. The series focus on the ways in which artists in South Korea have addressed the intrinsic conditions of cinema – namely duration and the collective viewing experience – and the changing social and political context that have defined the ways artists have been able to work. These screenings will attempt to map the continuities across various generations and the crucial role of artists organisations from the pioneering group AG and work of founding member Ku-lim Kim in the 1960s to the ongoing activities of the EXiS festival that have supported artists practice with film and video in Korea.**

Curated by Hangjun Lee (EXiS), with Hyun Jin Cho (KCCUK) and George Clark (Tate Modern). Organised in collaboration with the Korean Cultural Centre UK, EXiS and supported by LUX. Tate Film is supported by LUMA foundation

## Pioneers: From AG to Kaidu

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**Fri 18 Sep, 19.00–21.00**

The opening programme focuses on pioneering works from 1960s and 1970s including Ku-lim Kim's *The Meaning of 1/24 Second* 1969, considered the first experimental film work from Korea and Ik-tae Lee's *Between Morning and Evening* 1970, the first Korean independent film. Working under restrictive political conditions, state censorship and with limited access to equipment or resources, artists either had to self-organise – such as the AG (avant-garde) group founded in 1969 or work within the academy – such as women's filmmaker group *Kaidu* founded at the Ewha Womans University in the 1970s.

## Ecstatic Visions

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**Sat 19 Sep, 16.00–18.00**

This programme features key works that show the opening up of artists' film production in Korea following the democratic movements of the 1980s and 90s. Artists featured here arrived at experimental film from a number of different trajectories – as a form of rebellion against conventional film-making or having returned to Korea from studying overseas bringing a new awareness of international art and theory. The 1990s saw the founding of organisations such as the Korean Independent Film Association and the 1<sup>st</sup> Experimental Film Festival in 1994 held under the title *Ecstatic Visions: The Aesthetic of New Media Film*.

## Artists' Films Since 2000

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**Sat 19 Sep, 19.00–21.00**

This screening celebrates works produced by contemporary Korean artists within a wider global context, featuring films by the generation who came of age during the social and political opening up of Korea and have enjoyed unprecedented opportunities, cultural mobility and technological access. These films reflect on the original concern of early experimental films, yet they are produced and screened within the various new media exhibition platforms of the contemporary Korean and international art world.



**Korean Film Nights 2015**  
**10 Years, 10 Directors**

[www.koreanfilm.co.uk](http://www.koreanfilm.co.uk)  
[www.kccuk.org.uk](http://www.kccuk.org.uk)

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