

ASHAMED

Written and Directed by KIM Soo-hyun

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6F Image Venture Bldg., 532-11 Shinsa-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul 135-888 Korea T: +822 796 2426 F: +822 796 2429 sales@mline-distribution.com
www.mline-distribution.com

INFORMATION

A NR. Lee's Entertainment PRODUCTION

SUPPORTED BY KOFIC

WRITER& DIRECTOR

KIM Soo-hyun

PRODUCER

LEE Kyung-hee

CINEMATOGRAPHY

KIM Jin-eu

SOUND

Sonicboom Sound

PRODUCTION DESIGN

LEE Sin-hye

MUSIC OST COMPOSER

SIM Hyun-jeong

EDITING

LEE Yeon-Jin

CAST

YOON Ji-woo

KIM Hyo-jin

KANG Ji-woo

KIM kkobbi

JUNG Ji-woo

KIM Sang-hyun

Hee-jin

SEO Hyun-jin

Technical Specifications

Length

129 min

Originally shot on

HD CAM

Screen Ratio

1.85: 1

Sound

Dolby SRD

Production Year

2010

SYNOPSIS

Three Women Talk of Love!

JUNG Ji-woo is an art professor making preparations for an art exhibit. One day after class, she sees a certain nude sketch done by Hee-jin, one of her rebellious students. Ji-woo becomes enraptured by the woman in her drawing, a woman named YOON Ji-woo, and hires her as a nude model for her exhibition. The three women soon take a trip to the beach in order to shoot video footage for the exhibition. Fate brings together these three remarkably different women to hear the story of Ji-woo's past love over a few drinks on the beach.



Two Women Meet Love!

Sick of her tedious life, YOON Ji-woo plots a fake-suicide one night. With an unexpected twist of fate, she meets KANG Ji-woo, a girl coasting through her days as a pickpocket. As a pair of handcuffs binds them together, their love story begins. They begin living together on a carefree whim, but their relationship begins to crumble under the weight of KANG Ji-woo's depressing ways and YOON Ji-woo's growing expectations.



DIRECTOR



KIM Soo-hyun

Graduated from the department of Theater and Film at Dongguk University, Kim started his film career as an assistant director and writer of <Bad Movie>(1997) which was one of the most controversial Korean films in 90's directed by JANG Sun-woo.

His first feature film <So Cute>(2004) was invited to the 9th Pusan International Film Festival for the New Currents section and in 2005, he won Best Debut Film Award with <So Cute> at PaekSang Arts Awards.

<Ashamed> is his second feature film in seven years, and was selected for the competition section at Pusan International Film Festival in 2010.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Sometimes life is like a comedy.

If you lay back and think about it, life seems to be a series of happenings.

You could just think of everything as the joy of living, but it is hard for a shallow person like me. Every now and then, just to hold on, whimsically, I fall in love but always fail to avoid the pain after that.

Every time, you try so hard to pursue a 'relationship' and 'interaction' but in the end, you are left alone with an unsolved problem of 'yourself'.

The problem is you not knowing yourself. If you are sure about yourself, everything will go well.

It sounds like a cliché, but the movie ***Ashamed*** developed from this thought.

I cannot remember exactly why I chose homosexual love but, at first, I thought there must be something special in it. That is why I decided to stick to the subject.

However, I had a problem finding it.

I had a strong belief that homosexual love is different from that of 'me' and most of 'us' who are heterosexual, and that belief made me think their love would be special.

Their love is a little bit different, of course, but there is no denying that it, too, should be beautiful and happy. I may be shallow and foolish, but I wish I can share their loneliness.

I wish I can help them overcome the harsh reality.

I wish we can be mature and be happy together, with many people as possible.

CHARACTER & CAST

KIM Hyo-jin as YOON Ji-woo



*"It was probably me
who dreamt of a special kind of love..."*

KIM Hyo-jin has become an established actress since her first sensational appearance in a television commercial over ten years ago. With her characteristic charm, the character of YOON Ji-woo is brought to life on screen as the woman you cannot help but love.

Selected Filmography

2009 FIVE SENSES OF EROS
2004 EVERYBODY HAS SECRETS

KIM Kkobbi as KANG Ji-woo



*"Love is probably
just wanting to fall in love."*

KIM Kkobbi's performance will have you convinced that she was born to become an actress. She truly becomes the role of KANG Ji-woo with her indifferent, yet exotic charm. This mysterious air she exudes will have you curious at first, but soon completely in love--even if you are a woman.

Selected Filmography

2010 BE MY GUEST
2008 BREATHLESS
2006 THE GHOST THEATER
2005 THIS CHARMING GIRL

Commentary

Director KIM Soo-hyun's latest film, *Ashamed*, is a story about three women named Ji-woo resonating with one another. The film brings a new approach in presenting the sentiment of love through the language and bodies of women.

Did they truly fall in love?

Did they tell the truth?

Ashamed travels between reality and fiction as it strokes the wounds and memories of love.

While his first film <So Cute>(2004) was a story of a father, his sons and the woman between them, *Ashamed* tells us about the pain and reconciliation among a group of women. KIM's narrative is very subtle and unique. He transforms familiar emotions into a new kind of experience, proving his sensitivity rarely seen in Korean cinema.

- LEE Sang-yong, programmer of Pusan International Film Festival

When you study the sentiment of love, you cannot avoid one emotion. Shame is what starts and ends every love. You feel ashamed when you admire someone, when others know about your love, when the love ends. KIM Soo-hyun's *Ashamed* shows what love really is by studying it from various angles.

As if complementing the last seven years, KIM's latest movie intensely depicts the lingering emotions of women. The thoughts chase after memory and dig up the past, and then, become a fantasy. KIM's style of reality and magical realism used in his last movie fits together with the unique camerawork of this movie. As a result, the boundary collapses, the rules lose their meanings, and the explanation becomes discursive.

Hence, the lesbian love scene near the end of the movie where the characters call themselves as 'altruistic ego' cannot fully describe the energy of this movie. Rather than seeing with rash judgment, you should try to sympathize with the feelings of the characters in *Ashamed*. Fortunately, KIM Hyo-jin and KIM Kkobbi's acting is great enough to guide you.

- LEE Hwa-jeong, a Korean movie journalist