



CAFÉ NOIR

DIRECTED BY JUNG Sung-il

DCP, 197 min, Color & B&W, 1.85:1, Dolby SRD, 2009

SHIN Ha-gyun, MOON Jeong-hee, KIM Hye-na, JUNG Yu-mi

DIRECTED BY JUNG Sung-il **A** Polaris **PRODUCTION**

PRODUCER KIM Jong-won **LINE PRODUCER** KIM Doo-heon

CINEMATOGRAPHY KIM Jun-young **LIGHTING** CHA Sang-kyun, WON Jong-baek

PRODUCTION DESIGN JO Sang-gyeong **MUSIC** LEE Ji-yeon **RECORDING** LEE Seung-chul **EDITING** MOON In-dae

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Director's Note

/ walk and walk the streets of Seoul. The buildings torn down. Erected anew.
Simulacra in the name of 'restoration.'
False history. Fake modernity.
Political gestures unfurled in front of them, like a live theater.
The season of politics here is winter.

/ had to make this film during a cold winter.
The wind blows from the right.
The riot police lined up in the streets.
Random interrogation of pedestrians.
Protests approaching suicides.
Some were burned to death during a demonstration.
The former president killed himself.
I wanted to capture that Seoul, gagged and bound.
Was it Jean-Luc Godard who said, make your cinema political, instead of making a political film?
I, along with my camera, my crew and cast, wandered around in Seoul.
The movie's 'dead time' is the real time of Korea, the time in which our despair dwells.

Goethe, Frankfurt 1774. Dostoevsky, St. Petersburg 1848. Seoul, 2009.
Dead times.
No more deaths.



About Director

A legendary Korean film critic makes a debut feature!

JUNG Sung-il has been known as the most famous critic in past twenty years in Korea. In 1978 when he was in college, he joined a film club titled 'East West Film Study Group' at Goethe Institut in Seoul. His activity in the club made him to start working as a film critic and editor in chief of <KINO>, a monthly film magazine in Korea.

His writings combined well of aggressiveness, aesthetic taste, and literary sense. The unique angle of his works triggered the born of critic culture in the Korean film community and allowed the rapid development of the critic culture from the early 1990s to early 2000s. A lot of film critic followed JUNG's pioneering achievement. Also, JUNG worked actively as a program director and organizing committee member for various film festivals to introduce renowned foreign films to the Korean audience and vice versa. Current success of director HONG Sang-soo and KIM Ki-duk as world famous directors would not be possible without JUNG's discovery and passionate support. As an adjunct professor, he educated future film scholars and critics at Korean Film Academy and Korea National University of Arts.

Now JUNG starts a new challenge as a director. Moving himself from a top-notch critic to a debuting filmmaker, JUNG can be regarded as a Korean version of Francois Roland Truffaut.



Born in Seoul, 1959

B.A. Mass Communication, SungKyeonKwan University

Editor in Chief, KINO

Program Director, Jeonju International Film Festival

Adjunct Professor, Korean Film Academy

Adjunct Professor, Korea National University of Arts

Chair of Organizing Committee, Cinema Digital Seoul Film Festival

Publications

<Speaking of director IM Kwon-taek>

<On Director KIM Ki-duk>

Moderator

Hou Hsiao-hsien at the Pusan International Film Festival in 2005

Hou Hsiao-hsien at the Seoul Film Collection in 2006

Jia Zhangke at the Korean Film Academy in 2000 and in 2007

HONG Sang-soo at the Korean Film Academy in 2005

About Movie

Movies in the movie, director's hidden messages!

Director JUNG, as a long-time critic, has been exposed to and influenced by hundreds of films. In particular, he pays his homage to directors such as PARK Chan-wook, BONG Joon-ho, HONG Sang-soo, and KIM Ki-duk. His homage can be found in main characters' action and dialogue and direct film quotes. Locating hidden films in the film will be another exciting part for spectators to enjoy this film.



2008-2009, cruising through the city of Seoul!

Shot in the Seoul metropolis!

40 mystic locations in Seoul!

All the shoots were done in Seoul to preserve the present picture of the gigantic metropolis during the 2008-2009. Not only Seoul's places of interest including Namsan, Cheonggye Stream, Han River, and the City Hall, but also every corner of the city including beautiful back streets and eerie alleys. The production team looked every nook and corner to secure better sites for the shoot, e.g., to locate a character's house, the team visited 140 houses in the residential area of Sung-Buk-Dong; actors walked back and forth tens of times along the restored Cheonggye stream until early morning. To celebrate New Year Eve, the city of Seoul sounds a gong at the Bell Tower (Jong-gak) on December 31. The production team went to film the ceremony and was able to record a precious historical event in 2008.

CAFÉ NOIR shows *uncanny* images of Seoul – one we have already in our head AND unfamiliar images of the city.

Synopsis

A musical variation of Goethe's <The Sorrows of Young Werther> or Dostoevsky's <White Nights>

On Christmas Eve in Seoul. *A forecast of heavy snowfall.*
Young-soo, who is a music teacher at an elementary school, falls in love with Mee-yeon who is his student's mother. This extramarital love affair cannot continue because her husband is back from staying abroad for a long time. The Story Begins Here.

As if murmuring, Mee-yeon keeps repeating "Like this, our relationship cannot go on like this..." Her murmuring continues over again and again. Maybe she is doing a love spell ... or an act of despair hoping to extend their separation. Young-soo cannot leave her while he is being around her life. Allah ... there is another woman who has a same name with Mee-yeon. This different Mee-yeon has been wandering around Young-soo as if he does to the Mee-yeon. Like an orbit of satellite, their relationships are following fateful paths they cannot encounter each other.

Has the time arrived to untangle this fateful longing? One day, Young-soo receives a birthday invitation card from his student – Mee-yeon's daughter. He has decided to attend the party but determined as if he can save Mee-yeon.

Young-soo attends the party with a gigantic hammer but his determination cannot be executed. In a full of despair, he jumps into Han River to suicide. The Story Does Not End Here Though. After all the troubles, he survives and meets a fortuneteller who tells him that his destiny with Mee-yeon has not ended. Young-soo runs to Cheonggye stream to wait for Mee-yeon hoping to see her in the middle of the deadly cold winter. At one moment, a girl whose name is Sun-hwa shows up in front of Young-soo. Sun-hwa is waiting for her ex-boy friend who abandoned her. Like a ghost, Sun-hwa appears in front of Young-soo and disappeared in seconds. Sun-hwa talks tediously about her love story in a café. Why isn't her ex-boy friend coming back as he promised her to meet one year later? Is she abandoned like Young-soo? Young-soo finds himself being attracted to her for some reason. Listening to her story, Young-soo offers her a favor to find her ex-boy friend and pass her letter to him. But Young-soo has no intention to pass the letter to him at all. Sun-hwa, who believed in Young-soo's promise, gives up finally and asks him to go somewhere with her. Can Young-soo start a new relationship? Isn't Mee-yeon coming? Why hasn't Sun-hwa's ex-boy friend come back? Who is the one who receives a gift on Christmas?

A long winter night lives in a dream. A deep sleep cannot wake. *There is a forecast of heavy snowfall.*

Character & Cast

SHIN Ha-gyun as Young-soo, young Werther in a deep love



Young-soo, who is a music teacher at an elementary school, has a strong belief in love and innocent spirit. He falls in deep love. He loves Mee-yeon who is a mother of Jung-yoon – his student. Young-soo plans to kill Mee-yeon's husband who tortures Mee-yeon at home. His plan fails though. Mee-yeon leave Young-soo eventually but he cannot leave her.

SHIN Ha-gyun, one of representative South Korean actor, visited Cannes with PARK Chan-wook's THIRST in the spring of 2009, now Venice with this film in the fall of 2009. He debuted with THE HAPPENINGS in 1998. He gained national reputation with his role as an innocent North Korean soldier in JOINT SECURITY AREA(2000). He continues to build his fame with SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE, SAVE THE GREEN PLANET, and THE DEVIL'S GAME among many others.

Filmography

2009 THIRST
2008 THE DEVIL'S GAME
2006 NO MERCY FOR THE RUDE
2005 WELCOME TO DONGMAKGOL, SYMPATHY FOR LADY VENGEANCE, MURDER TAKE ONE
2004 MY BROTHER, HAIR
2003 SAVE THE GREEN PLANET
2002 SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE
2001 GUNS & TALKS
2000 THE FOUL KING, JOINT SECURITY AREA

Awards

2003 Leading role - Male, Pusan International Film Festival Critics' Award
2002 Male acting, Music video, The Golden Disk
2002 New actor, Director's Cut
2000 Supporting actor, Choonsa Film Festival
2000 Supporting actor, Blue Dragon Film Award

MOON Jeong-hee as Mee-yeon, born with a hopeless love in her fate



Mee-yeon is so introvert and fragile. She cannot resist her husband's brutal violence. She struggles to protect her family as a loyal wife and good mother. Young-soo is the one who she can rely on but hopeless.

A renowned actress, MOON Jeong-hee is full of artistic talents who can work in both musicals and films. She appeared musicals such as GREECE and ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW. Since 2006, MOON started acting for television dramas such as ALONE IN LOVE and MY SWEET SEOUL.

Filmography

2006 LES FORMIDABLE
2005 RUNNING WILD

KIM Hye-na as Another Mee-yeon, who cannot be loved



Mee-yeon falls in awful one-sided love. She loves her colleague – Young-soo and puts all her efforts but rejected. She has nothing to do but watching him.

KIM Hye-na debuted with FLOWER ISLAND in 2001 and continues her acting career by playing roles in DON'T LOOK BACK (2006) and THE TWINS among many in 2005.

Selected Filmography

2009 YOGA

2008 VIVA! LOVE

2006 DON'T LOOK BACK

2003 INTO THE MIRROR

Award

2002 New Actress Award, Pusan International Film Festival

JUNG Yu-mi as Sun-hwa, who is a hope and despair for Young-Soo



Sun-hwa operates a motel with her grandmother. She is outgoing enough to mingle with strangers and full of energy. She falls in love with a writer who stayed in her motel and waits for him since he promised her that he will come back one year later. Knowing that he doesn't come back, she falls in love with Young-soo who has similar painful experience.

JUNG Yu-mi has a very unique character as an actress. She has been active particularly during the past two years. This actress has appeared in various short films and features including A MILLION, CHAW and LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL in 2009.

Filmography

2009 A MILLION

2009 CHAW

2009 LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL

2006 FAMILY TIES

Award

2006 New Actress, Baeksang Art Award

2005 New Actress, Film Critic Award

Staff

Producer *KIM Jong-won*

2007 BEYOND THE YEARS Producer

Cinematographer *KIM Jun-young*

M.F.A. London Film School

2008 ANTIQUE, SCANDAL MAKERS

2007 LIVE A GOOD LIFE

2005 MURDER TAKE ONE

And many others.

Art Direction and Costume *JO Sang-gyeong*

B.A. Korea National University of Arts

2008 MODERN BOY

2006 THE HOST, TAZZA: THE HIGH ROLLERS

2005 SYMPATHY FOR LADY VENGEANCE

And many others.

Sound Mixing and Sync Recording *LEE Seung-chul*

Korean Film Academy

2009 TAKE OFF

2008 A MAN WHO WAS SUPERMAN

2007 CROSSING, MY NEW PARTNER

And many others.

Editing *MOON In-dae*

2009 MY GIRLFRIEND IS AN AGENT

2007 FOREVER THE MOMENT

2006 ICE BAR

And many others.