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| **Yu, Hyun-mok** |
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| Yu Hyun-mok belonged to the first generation of post-liberation filmmakers in South Korea, and is known for films inspired by Italian neorealism that unsparingly depicted postwar social problems. His 1961 film *Obalt’an* (*Aimless Bullet*) is regarded as one of the great Korean films of the era. The film was made during a brief relaxation of censorship following the April Revolution and the resignation of president Syngman Rhee in 1960. Allegorizing Korean society, it portrays a frustrated patriarch whose meagre salary cannot support his dysfunctional family. It famously makes the protagonist’s decaying tooth a metaphor for festering social ills. |
| Yu Hyun-mok belonged to the first generation of post-liberation filmmakers in South Korea, and is known for films inspired by Italian neorealism that unsparingly depicted postwar social problems. His 1961 film *Obalt’an* (*Aimless Bullet*) is regarded as one of the great Korean films of the era. The film was made during a brief relaxation of censorship following the April Revolution and the resignation of president Syngman Rhee in 1960. Allegorizing Korean society, it portrays a frustrated patriarch whose meagre salary cannot support his dysfunctional family. It famously makes the protagonist’s decaying tooth a metaphor for festering social ills. After Park Chung-hee seized power in 1961, *Aimless Bullet* was suppressed. The regime instituted a film policy aimed at controlling film as propaganda in the service of its economic growth and national security agendas. When Yu later publicly objected to political censorship under an anti-communism law, obscenity charges were brought against his 1965 film *Ch’unmong* (*Empty Dream*), a remake of a controversial Japanese film from 1964. In 1968, Yu remade Na Woon-gyu’s legendary anti-colonialist allegory *Arirang*. Many of his films realistically portray social upheavals caused by industrialization and urbanization. Yu was also a professor at Dongguk University, where he taught a new generation of filmmakers. Selected Works *Aimless Bullet* (*Obalt’an*, 1961)  *The Empty Dream* (*Ch’unmong*, 1965)  *The Guests of the Last Train* (*Makch'a ro on sonnimdŭl*, 1967)  *Arirang* (1968)  *School Excursion* (*Suhak yŏhaeng*, 1969) |
| Further reading:  (Cho)  (Kim)  (Lee)  (Lee and Lee)  (KoreanFilm) |