KIM, Soo-yong/KIM, Su-yong (September 23, 1929-- )

Trained as a filmmaker during the Korean War, Kim Soo-yong debuted in 1958 amid the South Korean film industry’s postwar recovery and became one of the representative Korean filmmakers of the 1960s. Under the film policies of Park Chung-hee’s military government, the film industry suffered from censorship and quotas. The literary film emerged as an important genre signifying quality and artistic merit. Kim’s 1965 *Kaenmaŭl* (*Seaside Village*) marked him as a leading director of literary adaptations, which account for half his prolific oeuvre of over one hundred films. Kim also worked in popular genres, including comedy, melodrama, youth films, and anti-communist films, but is remembered for films that display realist, non-paternalistic perspectives on postwar society. His 1963 film *Hyŏlmaek* (*Kinship*) depicted the generational divide among North Korean defectors living in poverty on the fringes of society in the industrializing South. *Seaside Village* provocatively took on the sexuality of widows in a fishing community and contained lesbian innuendo. Several of his films also demonstrated a formal modernism. The 1967 *An'gae* (*Mist*), regarded as one of his highest achievements, employs experimental montage and a temporally complex flashback structure. In later years, he has been credited with helping ease film censorship in South Korea.

**Selected Works:**

*A Henpecked Husband* (*Kongchŏga*, 1958)

*Kinship* (*Hyŏlmaek*, 1963)

*The Seaside Village* (*Kaenmaŭl*, 1965)

*Mist* (*An'gae*, 1967)

*Night Journey* (*Yahaeng*, 1977)

**Further reading:**

Cho, Y.; Kim, Y.; Park, J. (eds.) (2002) *Kim Soo-Yong: An Aesthete Bridging Tradition and Modernism*. Pusan: Pusan International Film Festival.

Mun, Gwan-gyu (2009) *Korean Film Directors: Lee Man-hee*. Seoul: Seoul Selection.

Park, Seung Hyun (2007) “Korean Cinema after Liberation: Production, Industry, and Regulatory Trends” in Gateward, Frances (ed.) *Seoul Searching: Culture and Identity in Contemporary Korean Cinema*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Paratextual material:

Korean Film Archive You Tube Channel, Kim Soo-yong Playlist:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL28d5JImIlH4Jn7PZuP2qWTenpbEVpsHr

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