



focus

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an exposition of contemporary Korean paintings in Chennai



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TVS

 **HYUNDAI** NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

the screen

This quarter, the mood is retro with a focus on the maestros of the 1960's - **Shin Sang-ok, Yoo Hyeon-mok and Kim Soo Yong** - who carved a niche for themselves in the annals of Korean Cinema with their mastery of form, their lyrical storytelling and their remarkable ability to deftly transform powerful literature into riveting cinema.

Mother and a Guest,
사랑방손님과어머니, 1961
Directed by Shin Sang-ok

26 April 2013



Mother and a Guest, is a beautifully understated film by Shin Sang-ok, recognized as one of the masters of Korean cinema. In this remarkably sophisticated film, a widow, in order to support herself and her young daughter, rents a room to a painter from the city and soon finds herself torn between her growing affection for the man and the constraints of rural society. It was a time when well-brought-up women could not talk to men outside of the family, when widows were condemned to a lifetime of solitude, and remained a "possession" of her mother-in-law. Yet within this framework an impossible love story develops between a widow and her artist lodger Mr Han, aided and abetted by the 6-year-old daughter Ok-hui (born a month after her father's death), whose innocent efforts at match-making do not always have the intended results. There is palpable tension about whether a relationship is possible, in the end duty calls the guest away to Seoul. As the mother-in-law has indicated that she will give the heroine her freedom, we are left with

some hope that the guest may ultimately return from Seoul. The sound track is all Chopin, and the widow, is no mean piano-player herself- having not played the piano since before her husband's death, her recollection of Chopin's mazurkas and preludes is nothing short of remarkable. Adapted from Joo Yo-seob's short story of the same title, *Mother and a Guest* is a representative example of the Korean literary film. Through Ok-hui's innocent and childlike perspective, the movie portrays the deep, furtive love between a man and a woman with touching lyricism. In adapting Joo Yo-seob's short story for the big screen, director Shin Sang-ok inserted characters and incidents that are absent from the original, yet managed to expand its imagery and sentiment without altering the simple tale. The result is a feature film that feels like a short story. The movie takes particular care in presenting the love between Ok-hui's mother and Mr. Han

obliquely through Ok-hui's gaze, to the extent that there are few if any moments when the two share the same screen or exchange direct conversation. *Mother and a Guest* does not so much follow a plot as flow on the current of atmospheres and emotions. There are no notable incidents, nor can one trace a clear synopsis. Nonetheless, the film never loses its cinematic suspense or density a fact that testifies to the extraordinary dexterity of director Shin Sang-ok in calibrating emotions.

Born in 1926, **Shin Sang-ok** is recognized as one of the masters of Korean cinema. After graduating from Tokyo Art School,

he debuted as a director with *The Evil Night* in 1952 and went on to direct more than 70 films in five decades. Highly-acclaimed retrospectives of his work were screened at the 6th Pusan International Film Festival and at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Shin was awarded the 1st Daejong Film Award for Best Director for *Mother and a Guest*, the 1st Baeksang Art Award for Best Director for *Deaf Samryong-I* and the 11th Asia-Pacific Film Festival's Best Director Award for *Red Muffler*.

The Guests of the Last Train, 막차로온손님, 1967 Directed by Yoo Hyeon-mok

24 May 2013



Yoo Hyeon-mok, described by some as the most intellectual filmmaker of Korea's Golden Age, adapted *The Guests of the Last Train* from a noted short story by Hong Seong-won. As the title obliquely suggests, this film concentrates on a group of people who have trouble adjusting to mainstream society. From a woman running away from her previous life, to a man with a terminal disease, to a pop artist misunderstood by his contemporaries, the film looks on with sympathy and compassionate humour on a set of people who, for whatever reason, just do not fit in.

Director Yoo presents his group of characters in an objective fashion, without focusing too closely on any one person. The characters are linked together in various ways, with their relationships all affected in some way by issues of money. An accomplished filmmaker, Yoo is also very careful about his mise-en-scene, with inanimate objects often giving us clues about the character of the heroes. Each scene is carefully composed with regard to colour as well, resulting in understated but at times striking visuals. The most outstanding stylistic aspects of this film are its dialectical montages and the use of sound.

This film features two of the most popular actresses of the era. The part of Bo-young, a woman who moves in with a stranger and gradually falls in love with him, is played by Moon Hee, a beautiful and much sought-after actress who formed a member of the famous "troika" of young actresses who debuted in the mid-1960s. Nam Jung-im, another member of the troika, takes the role of Se-jung and the final

member of the troika Yoon Jung-hee, also features in this film. In an interview, the director stated, "I thought it rather interesting to present a theme characterized by a repeated process of loss and the restoration of humanity through each of the three main characters. They are people who are one step behind others in society; they are the passengers who hurry gasping onto the last train."

Yoo Hyeon-mok (July 2, 1925 – June 28, 2009) was one of the most famous directors of Korea's Golden Age of cinema. Born in Sariwon, North Hwanghae, Korea (North Korea today), he made his film debut in 1956 with *Gyocharo* (Crossroads). His 1961 film *Obaltan* has repeatedly been voted the best Korean film of all time in local critics' polls for its empathetic approach and rich characterization.

His dedication to the intellectual side of film and interest in using film to deal with social and political issues led to difficulties both with box-office-oriented producers and with Korea's military government during the 1960's and 1970's. Korean critics have said his directing style is "in the tradition of the Italian Neorealists," yet "the terms 'modernist' or 'expressionistic' [are] just as applicable to his works."

Besides directing films, Yoo Hyeon-mok taught film and made a significant contribution to Korean animation by producing Kim Cheong-gi's 1976 animated film, *Robot Taekwon V*. A retrospective of Yoo Hyeon-mok's remarkable career was held at the 4th Pusan International Film Festival in Korea in 1999.

Mist,
안개, 1967
Directed by Kim Soo Yong

28 June 2013



An atmospheric and finely-crafted work by a talented filmmaker, *Mist* has taken its place as one of the highlights of 1960s Korean cinema. Based on a 1964 novel by Kim Seung-ok titled *Trip to Mujin*, Kim Soo-yong's film tells the story of a middle-class office worker in Seoul named Gi-joon who takes a trip to his rural hometown Mujin. As he revisits the place of his youth, familiar locations and people trigger flashbacks of his troubled past. At the same time, he meets a beautiful young schoolteacher In-suk, who yearns to escape from her confined life in Mujin. As the two grow closer, Gi-joon also feels a yearning for escape from his wife, whom he married for money, and from the dreariness of modern life. However, he receives a telegram from his wife telling him to return to Seoul immediately as he has been promoted. Gi-joon sets off from Mujin without saying a word to In-suk.

A resonant and intimate portrait of its young heroes, *Mist* stands for its aesthetic achievement. Kim Soo Yong experiments with sound and montage to give the film a self-consciously modernist feel. The story remains within Gi-joon's perspective, but the flashbacks and structure of the plot have a stream-of-consciousness element to it as well. As the story progresses, the past and present selves of Gi-joon start to carry out a dialogue and he starts to look at his life again from a new perspective.

Mist is widely regarded as landmark film in the history of Korean modernist cinema. It was so successful in adapting the lexicon of European modernist filmmaking to Korean sensibilities that it earned director Kim Soo-yong the nickname of "the Antonioni of Korea." *Mist* reflects the weariness and psychological division that the process of modernization has inflicted on male subjects. It is based on Kim Seung-ok's *A Journey to Mujin*, which was recognized as a "revolution in sensibility" in Korean literary history. The movie contrasts protagonist Gi-joon's "journey" by way of two antithetical settings: the opposition between Seoul and Mujin is mapped onto the binaries of city / country, development / underdevelopment, modern / pre-modern, and present / past. Further, this binary opposition is embodied by Gi-joon's wife, the daughter of a bourgeois who gave Gi-joon the

opportunity for success and the poor music teacher Ha In-suk, whom Gi-joon meets in Mujin. Gi-joon, who has achieved success in Seoul, gets a chance for self-reflection when he travels to his hometown of Mujin. There, he meets characters who can be seen as his alter-egos including In-suk, who longs to go to Seoul, and his friend Cho, who longs for success. The film exposes the self-repression and psychological crisis that the male subjects had to experience in order to incorporate themselves into modern society. It aptly uses various techniques of modernist filmmaking to achieve this purpose: a narrative that departs from causal or linear progression, flashbacks that constantly invoke the past into the present, long shots that emphasize spaces rather than characters, and the clash between sounds and images, to name a few.

Kim Soo Yong was born in Anseong, Gyeonggi-do, in 1929. He graduated from Seoul National University of Education and made his directorial debut with the black and white film, *A Henpecked Husband* (1958). Kim Soo-yong is not a director that can be easily classified or categorized. During the 60s and 70s when he was most active, he experimented with formality and adopted novels and plays, receiving acclaim for these 'Literature Films' which have since been recognized as some of the greatest films in Korean cinematic history. In *The Seashore Village* (1965) and *Flame in the Valley* (1967), he explored themes of human ambition and society. And through *Mist* (1967), *Night Journey* (1977), and *A Splendid Outing* (1977), he displayed his modernist side by breaking existing notions of genre and attempting formal experimentation. He retired as an act of protest when his film, *Jung-kwang's Nonsense* (1986), was censored in 10 different places. He made a comeback with *The Apocalypse of Love* (1995) and *Scent of Love* (1999), but has not directed any films since.



Chennai Chamber Biennale

28 June to 7 July in Chennai.

The Chennai Chamber Biennale is the first in a series if bi-annual, large-scale exhibitions of contemporary Korean paintings, presented by K-Art, Pusan and InKo Centre in Chennai.

** For further information, please contact InKo Centre- 044-24261224.



Newspicks



Spring flowers, festivals woo tourists around Korea

Yellow, pink, red, or white, Korea is tinted in the vivid colors of spring. Spring flowers like azaleas and forsythias, known as the herald of spring in Korea, slowly began to bloom in the southern part of the country after a long, cold winter. Regional governments are busy preparing for festivals to welcome the spring flowers at scenic locations all across the peninsula.



Forsythias (Photo courtesy Yonhap News).



Ume Flowers (Photo courtesy Yonhap News).



Azaleas (Photo courtesy Yonhap News).



Cornelian Cherry (Photo courtesy Yonhap News)



Cherry Blossoms (Photo courtesy Yonhap News)



Rape Flowers (Photo courtesy Yonhap News)



Dog's Tooth Violet Flowers (Photos courtesy of the Korea National Arboretum)



Adonis Flower (Photos courtesy of the Korea National Arboretum)

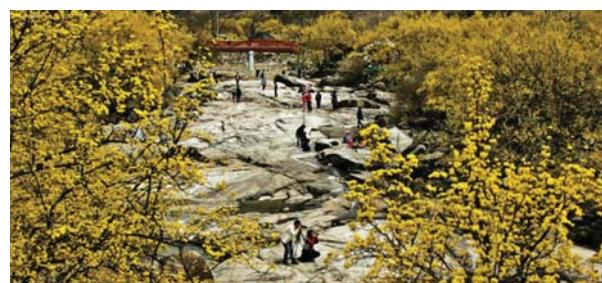


Raddeana Flowers (Photos courtesy of the Korea National Arboretum)

In Jeollanam-do (South Jeolla Province), the Gwangyang International Maehwa Festival will be held to herald the onset of spring. The city of Gwangyang will be covered with *maehwa* (also known as plum or apricot flower) during the nine-day festival. At the festival, visitors can learn about the fruit of *maehwa* which is called *maesil*, also known as plum or apricot. Koreans consider *maesil* an important food ingredient and use them in a variety of foods ranging from pickles, kimchi, and vinegar to jam, juice, and alcohol. Children and families can enjoy various programmes, which include concerts, *Nanta!* (a non-verbal percussion musical) performance, a marathon, a bicycle race, a photo exhibition, a cooking contest and local specialty tasting events.



Visitors walk along the trail at the Gwangyang International Maehwa Festival (Photo courtesy Korail Tourism Development).



People enjoy the scenery around Gurye covered with cornelian cherry flowers (Photo courtesy Gurye County).

At Uiseong in Gyeongsangbuk-do (North Gyeongsang Province) or Gurye in Jeollanam-do (South Jeolla Province), festivals will be held to celebrate cornelian cherry flowers. In Uiseong, visitors can fully enjoy the scents of spring in the night walk program which will be held for ten days on the festival's flower road. Other programs will include a mountaineering contest and local specialty tasting events with cornelian cherries. The annual festival in Gurye which marks its 14th



The bridge on Yeojwacheon in Jinhae is a famous spot
(Photo courtesy Changwon City).

year attracted an average of about 800,000 tourists over three days last year.

On April 1, the Jinhae Gunhang Cherry Blossom Festival, the largest cherry blossom festival in Korea, will be held for ten days in Jinhae District in Changwon City, Gyeongsangnam-do (South Gyeongsang Province). Gyeonghwa Station has been selected by CNN as one of the "50 beautiful places to visit in Korea."



Korail operates a special train tourism package for Jinhae Gunhang Cherry Blossom Festival (Photo courtesy Korail Tourism Development).

In April, Jeju Island will be bustling with both overseas tourists and domestic travellers for the Seogwipo Rape Flower International Walking Festival on April 5-7. Festival visitors can enjoy both the scenic beauty of the island decorated with rape flowers and the beach and learn about its history while walking around Mount Sanbang on courses 8, 9, and 10 of the island's famous Olle trails.



Tourists enjoy the scenery of Jeju Island while walking along the Olle trail at the Seogwipo Rape Flower International Walking Festival
(Photo courtesy Seogwipo City).



People walk along Yunjungno for Hangang Yeouido Spring Flower Festival in Seoul (Photo courtesy Yeongdeungpo District).

April will be the peak season for flowers in Seoul and Gyeonggi-do (Gyeonggi Province) as forsythias are expected to bloom by late March and early April, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration. The state meteorological institute predicts that spring flowers will reach peak bloom in mid-April. Yeouido, one of the most famous cherry blossom spots in Seoul, will host this year's Hangang Yeouido Spring Flower Festival from April 12 to 18.

Universities located all across Seoul are also good places to see the spring flowers. One of the most famous spots is Kyunghee University in Dongdaemun District. The Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) listed this university as one of "best spring-time destinations" in its "Travel Highlights" guide released online in 2011.



The campus of Kyunghee University in Seoul is decorated with spring flowers (Photo courtesy Kyunghee University).



Spring flowers blossom in Namsan Park in Seoul (Photo courtesy Yongsan District Office, Seoul).



The Garden of Morning Calm shows off the scenic beauty of spring flowers (Photo courtesy The Garden of Morning Calm).

The Gyeonggi-do area surrounding the capital also has many gardens for enjoying spring flowers. One of them is the Garden of Morning Calm located in Gapyeong. Adonis and crocus come into bloom in this garden, which plans to host a spring flower festival in mid-April, according to garden management staff. Another popular garden is the Korea National Arboretum, also known as Gwangneung Forest, located in Pocheon where forsythias, azaleas and cornelian cherry flowers will come into bloom in early April.

President Park Geun-hye, Korea's first female president

Park Geun-hye is the eleventh and current President of South Korea. She is the first woman to be elected as President in South Korea.

The administrative vision of President Park Geun-hye's new government is "A new era of hope and happiness."

The five Administrative Goals of the government are "a jobs-centered creative economy," "tailored employment and welfare," "creativity-oriented education and cultural enrichment," "a safe and united society" and "strong security measures for sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula."

The Park Geun-hye administration plans to create a trustworthy, clean, and capable government through carrying out these goals, related strategies, and tasks.



Daehangno, a hub of culture and youth

At Daehangno, as-yet-undiscovered young talents are often spotted dancing, singing, and performing.

Daehangno is the street stretching from the crossroad of Jongno District to Hyehwa-dong Rotary. It is also known as a street of culture and youth, where lots of up-and-coming, talented artists gather to show off their artistic chops.

The name Daehangno originated from Seoul National University (SNU) which has since moved south of the river and is now replaced with Marronnier Park.

Located near exit 2 of Hyehwa Station, the park, named after the three marronnier trees at SNU, serves as a centerpiece of street performances, where outdoor stages are occupied by youths dancing and singing. There are about 130 small theaters dotted around the park, where diverse genres of art performances take place.



Daehangno is well-known as a street of culture and youth, where many up-and-coming youths show off their dancing and singing skills. A group of young people perform with traditional percussion instruments including kkwaenggwari (small flat gong) and janggu (Korean-style drum). (Photo courtesy Yonhap News)



A young man performs a stunning roller-skating feat by jumping over a group of people. (Photo courtesy Yonhap News)

Recently, some theaters have started offering subtitle services to attract foreign theater-goers. A case in point is Arts Factory Show showing at Marronnier Theater. The show offers subtitles in three languages (English, Japanese, and Chinese) shown on screens on both sides of the stage, which helps break down language barriers facing foreign audiences.



Art Factory Show at the Marronnie Theater offers subtitles in English, Japanese, and Chinese for foreign audiences. (Photo courtesy Vine Production)



Performing arts group Gongmyoung brings the sounds of nature to audiences using traditional Korean music instruments. (Photo courtesy Gongmyoung)

The show depicts a heroine with a physical disability and a limp who overcomes all the ordeals facing her and starts a new life full of hopes.

Gongmyoung's performance inspired by Korea's beautiful islands, the sea, is enchanting. The relaxing atmosphere, made possible by the sounds of traditional Korean musical instruments including a *yageum* (zither), *daegeum* (large bamboo transverse flute), *janggu* (traditional drum), and *taepyeongso* (double reed wind instrument) are combined with Gongmyoung's sentiments. Gongmyoung is a globally acclaimed performing arts group which reinterprets traditional Korean instruments in a modern way. This show

titled *With Sea* will run from March 29 to May 19 at the Daehangno Arts Theater.

For those who love sounds of acoustic guitars, *Where the Wind Comes from* is hugely entertaining. The acoustic musical features songs by the late Kim Kwang-seok who was one of the most popular singers in the '90s. Every song played on the acoustic guitar will take the audience back to the nostalgic melodies of this well-loved singer.



"This musical is the best choice even for foreigners, as the sentiments of each song played at the show will surely strike a chord with everyone, no matter where they come from," explained manager Kwon Mi-gang of production company LP Story.

The musical will be presented up to May 19 at the Nemo Theater.

the screen

26 April 2013

Mother and a Guest

사랑방손님과어머니

Directed by Shin Sang-ok

24 May 2013

The Guests of the Last Train

막차로온손님들

Directed by Yoo Hyeon-mok

28 June 2013

Mist

안개

Directed by Kim Soo Yong

LANGUAGE

BASIC KOREAN	Apr	01 Mon	03 Wed	08 Mon	10 Wed	15 Mon	17 Wed	22 Mon	24 Wed	29 Mon
	May	01 Wed	06 Mon	08 Wed	13 Mon	15 Wed	20 Mon	22 Wed	27 Mon	29 Wed
	Jun	03 Mon	05 Wed	10 Mon	12 Wed	17 Mon	19 Wed	24 Mon	26 Wed	

BEGINNERS KOREAN	Apr	01 Mon	03 Wed	08 Mon	10 Wed	15 Mon	17 Wed	22 Mon	24 Wed	29 Mon
	May	02 Thu	07 Tue	09 Thu	14 Tue	16 Thu	21 Tue	23 Thu	28 Tue	30 Thu
	Jun	04 Tue	06 Thu	11 Tue	13 Thu	18 Tue	20 Thu	25 Tue	27 Thu	

PRE-INTER MEDIATE KOREAN	Apr	05 Fri	06 Sat	12 Fri	13 Sat	17 Wed	19 Fri	20 Sat	26 Fri	27 Sat
	May	03 Fri	04 Sat	10 Fri	11 Sat	17 Fri	18 Sat	24 Fri	25 Sat	31 Fri
	Jun	04 Tue	06 Thu	11 Tue	13 Thu	18 Tue	20 Thu	25 Tue	27 Thu	

BUSINESS PURPOSE KOREAN	Apr	02 Tue	04 Thu	09 Tue	11 Thu	16 Tue	18 Thu	23 Tue	25 Thu	30 Tue
	May	02 Thu	07 Tue	09 Thu	14 Tue	16 Thu	21 Tue	23 Thu	28 Tue	30 Thu
	Jun	04 Tue	06 Thu	11 Tue	13 Thu	18 Tue	20 Thu	25 Tue	27 Thu	

YOGA

SOCIAL PURPOSES BEGINNER LEVEL ENGLISH	Apr	01 Mon	03 Wed	05 Fri	08 Mon	10 Wed	12 Fri	15 Mon	17 Wed	19 Fri	22 Mon	24 Wed	26 Fri	29 Mon
	May	01 Wed	03 Fri	06 Mon	08 Wed	10 Fri	13 Mon	15 Wed	17 Fri	20 Mon	22 Wed	24 Fri	27 Mon	29 Wed
	Jun	03 Mon	05 Wed	07 Fri	10 Mon	12 Wed	14 Fri	17 Mon	19 Wed	21 Fri	24 Mon	26 Wed	28 Fri	

CALLIGRAPHY

SPARRING	Apr	02 Tue	04 Thu	06 Sat	09 Tue	11 Thu	13 Sat	16 Tue	18 Thu	21 Sat	23 Tue	25 Thu	28 Sat	30 Tue
	May	02 Thu	04 Sat	07 Tue	09 Thu	11 Sat	14 Tue	16 Thu	18 Sat	21 Tue	23 Thu	25 Sat	28 Tue	30 Thu
	Jun	04 Thu	06 Sat	08 Tue	11 Tue	13 Thu	15 Sat	18 Tue	20 Thu	22 Sat	25 Tue	27 Thu	29 Sat	

TAE KWON DO

TEEN & ADULTS CLASS I & II CHILDREN LOWER & HIGHER BELT	Apr	02 Tue	04 Thu	09 Tue	11 Thu	16 Tue	18 Thu	23 Tue	25 Thu	30 Tue
	May	02 Thu	07 Tue	09 Thu	14 Tue	16 Thu	21 Tue	23 Thu	28 Tue	30 Thu
	Jun	04 Tue	06 Thu	11 Tue	13 Thu	18 Tue	20 Thu	25 Tue	27 Thu	

SPARRING	Apr	05 Fri	12 Fri	19 Fri	26 Fri
	May	03 Fri	10 Fri	17 Fri	24 Fri
	Jun	07 Fri	14 Fri	21 Fri	28 Fri

EVENT

June

28 June to 7 July

The Chennai Chamber Biennale:
an exposition of contemporary
Korean paintings in Chennai.

