



**BEAR ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
PRIME ENTERTAINMENT CO., LTD**
PRESENT

BEYOND THE YEARS

DIRECTED BY
IM KWON TAEK

WRITTEN BY
**YI CHUNG JUN
IM KWON TAEK**

PRODUCED BY
KINO2 PICTURES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
**CENTURION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT CORPORATION
KOREAN FILM COUNCIL (KOFIC)**

STARRING
**OH JUNG HAE
JO JAE HYUN**

KOREA / 106' / 35MM / 1.85:1 / DOLBY SRD / COLOUR

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SYNOPSIS

Yoo-bong, a traditional singer tormented by his lack of fame, teaches his daughter Song-hwa to sing and his stepson Dong-ho to play the traditional Korean drum. Together, the trio travel endlessly. Yoo-bong is a harsh master, obsessed with perfecting the performance of his young pupils. Exhausted and unable to stand this punishing regime, Dong-ho runs away, abandoning both music and the stepsister he secretly loves.

Many years pass, Now grown, Dong-ho and Song-hwa both realize the longing they have always felt for each other. In a small tavern in Sunhak, the village where he left Song-hwa, Dong-ho learns that his love is now blind, and her father dead.

Dong-ho finds Song-hwa. But their reunion is short-lived. Succumbing to the temptations of an actress Dan-shim, Dong-ho relinquishes Song-hwa once again.

Stricken, Song-hwa confesses her passionate love in song, and departs. Dong-ho pursues her and finds himself back at the tavern in Sunhak, where a secret awaits him.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have never made a movie about love, nor have I considered it. Every time with a new movie, it's been a challenge to get myself reborn from the previous ones.

While working on SOPYONJE, the dreamlike tone of the short novel THE WANDERER OF SEONHAK-DONG inspired hope that I could turn it into a movie dealing with a touching love story between brother and sister, sublimated in *pansori* (Korean throat singing). I feel a great pressure of expectations - my own and those of many others - for my 100th film. I only hope that the movie will capture what I have felt and gone through in my lifetime

- Im Kwon Taek

CAST

Song-hwa Oh Jung Hae
Dong-ho Jo Jae Hyun

CREW

DIRECTED BY Im Kwon Taek
SCREENPLAY Yi Chung Jun
Im Kwon Taek
DP Jung Il Sung
EDITOR Park Soon Duk
MUSIC Ryo Kunihiko
SET DESIGNER Park So Hui
SOUND EDITOR Steve R. Seo
COSTUME DESIGNER Lee Hae Ryun
SPECIAL EFFECTS DEMOLITION
PRODUCER Kim Jong Won
CO-PRODUCER Lee Hee Won
PRODUCTION KINO2 PICTURES CORP.
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JO JAE-HYUN AS DONG-HO

DONG-HO

A man who studies the drum - the instrument he hates most - in order to be able to accompany his beloved Song-hwa's singing. For him, this is the best way, the only way, to prove his love for her. Dong-ho is forced to leave his beloved when the punishing training grows unbearable, but he can never forget her. His love for Song-hwa undiminished by the years, he resolves to find her again.

JO JAE-HYUN

When the film was being financed, star Jo Jae-hyun announced his commitment to playing even a minor part, having long wished to work with legendary director Im Kwon Taek. This commitment secured him the lead in the director's 100th film. The actor turned down all other roles in 2006, living as Dong-ho and dedicating the whole year to BEYOND THE YEARS, a film that required a shoot covering all four seasons. Director Im has remarked that the actor's embodiment of near-animal wildness and deep yearning perfectly reflected the terrible hardships and suffering of Dong-ho's life. Jo Jae-hyun demonstrated the impressive drum skills learned under master Kim Cheong Man - widely acknowledged as South Korea's finest drummer - at the 'Night of BEYOND THE YEARS' at the Pusan International Film Festival in 2006.

FILMOGRAPHY

2006 ROMANCE - *Moon Seung-wook*
HANBANDO - *Kang Woo-suk*
2003 SWORD IN THE MOON - *Kim Ui-seok*
2001 BAD GUY - *Kim Ki-duk*
ADDRESS UNKNOWN - *Kim Ki-duk*
2000 THE ISLE - *Kim Ki-duk*
INTERVIEW - *Hyuk Byun*
1998 GIRLS' NIGHT OUT - *Im Sang-soo*
1997 WILD ANIMALS - *Kim Ki-duk*
1996 CROCODILE - *Kim Ki-duk*
1995 ETERNAL EMPIRE - *Park Chong-won*

OH JUNG HAE AS SONG-HWA

SONG-HWA

An artist with a passionate, overwhelming drive to master the art of singing, and a woman torn by a painful love. Although not brother and sister, Dong-ho and Song-hwa are forced to live as if they were, and Song-hwa has never been able to express her feelings for Dong-ho. A woman of gentle beauty but steely spirit who overcomes the pain of blindness and the incredible rigours of her artistic training.

OH JUNG HAE

Oh Jung Hae, who made her acting debut in Im Kwon Taek's SOPYONJE (a film that set the record of 1 million admissions in Korea), is reunited with both the director and the role of Song-hwa in BEYOND THE YEARS. The last disciple of master Kim So Hee - invaluable cultural asset and expert in *pansori* (a traditional Korean form of narrative song) - she left her hometown Mokpo and lived as a Korean national musician after studying under master Kim's intensely disciplined regime in Seoul. She had no ambition to act, and no training, but Im Kwon Taek's tutelage resulted in a truly stunning embodiment of the blind Song-hwa in his 1993 film SOPYONJE. Her remarkable *chang* (traditional Korean throat singing) performance at the 'Night of BEYOND THE YEARS' at the Pusan International Film Festival in 2006, accompanied by Jo Jae-hyun's drum and Ryo Kunihiko's piano, proved that her astonishing talent and spectacular beauty remained undiminished by the years. Song-hwa is a unique artist whose singing captures the essence of love, longing and regret.

FILMOGRAPHY

1996 FESTIVAL - *Im Kwon Taek*
1994 TAEBAK MOUNTAINS - *Im Kwon Taek*
1993 SOPYONJE - *Im Kwon Taek*

IM KWON TAEK DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER

Im Kwon Taek was born in Jangseong, Jeollanam-do (a southern province of Korea) on May 2, 1936. He grew up in the city of Gwangju, where he graduated from senior high school. During the Korean War, his family suffered considerable hardships and losses, and Im moved in search of work, first to Pusan, and then to Seoul in 1955. Here he met director Jeong Chang-hwa and started work as a production assistant on Jeong's *THE STORY OF JANGHWA & HONGRYUN* (1956). With the director's support, Im completed his first feature *FAREWELL TO DUMAN RIVER* in 1962.

Im worked prolifically as a director in various popular genres until the slump experienced by Korean cinema in the late 1970s. During this period, which followed two decades of rapid growth, Im Kwon Taek's career blossomed with the success of his first dramatic feature films, poignant and humanistic social dramas that would become the source of his international reputation. Films such as 1978's *GENEALOGY*, *THE HIDDEN HERO* (1979), *PURSUIT OF DEATH* (1980) and *MANDALA* (1981) were widely championed by critics both at home and internationally. True international fame came with 1986's *SURROGATE WOMAN*, *COME COME UPWARD* (1989) and *SOPYONJE* (1993), movies that consolidated Im Kwon Taek's position as Korea's most widely recognized and acclaimed director. His *CHUNHYANG* (2000) was the first Korean film to screen In Competition in Cannes.

Im Kwon Taek has won numerous international awards, including Best Director at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival for *STROKES OF FIRE* (aka *CHIHWASEON*), and was the recipient of an honorary Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2005.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2004	LOW LIFE
2002	STROKES OF FIRE aka CHIHWASEON
2000	CHUNHYANG
1997	CHANG
1996	FESTIVAL
1994	TAEBAK MOUNTAINS
1993	SOPYONJE
1992	SON OF A GENERAL 3
1991	FLY HIGH RUN FAR SON OF A GENERAL 2
1990	SON OF A GENERAL 1
1989	COME COME COME UPWARD
1987	ADADA
1988	DIARY OF KING YONSAN
1987	THE SURROGATE WOMAN
1986	GILSODUM
1981	MANDALA

JUNG IL SUNG DP

A long-time collaborator of director Im Kwon Taek, DP Jung Il Sung retains an overwhelming passion for the art of cinema. Since his cinematographic debut in 1957 with Cho Geung Ha's FAREWELL SORROW, he has worked with many great directors, including Kim Gi Young (HWANYEO, CHUNGNYEO), Ha Gil Jong (PARADISE OF THE FOOL), Yoo Hyun Mok (SON OF A MAN) and Lee Man Hui (MANCHU), and created many masterpieces.

His work with Im began in the late 1970s when he was fighting rectal cancer. Im visited him and asked: "Please recover fast because I have something to do with you." Miraculously, although he had been diagnosed as terminal, Jung did recover and soon returned to filming, collaborating with Im on 1981's MANDALA. The two men continued to work together in the 1990s, notably on the record-breaking SON OF A GENERAL and SOPYONJE. In 2002, they unveiled STROKES OF FIRE (aka CHIHWASEON), which won the Best Director Award at Cannes.

Partners for over 20 years, their collaboration has been remarkable for its absence of conflict, Jung possessing the uncanny ability to create scenes exactly as director Im envisages them, after only a few words of discussion. Never straying from his personal credo that every image of an object or landscape must portray the heart and greatness of man, Jung has won seven awards at the Daejongsang Film Festival. Now nearing 80, he still directs his staff with great authority and relishes operating hand-held cameras.

JOO BYUNG DO ART DIRECTOR

For director Im, Joo Byung Doo miraculously recreated the gloomy streets of Jongno (STROKES OF FIRE aka CHIHWASEON) and downtown 1960s Myeongdong (LOW LIFE). In BEYOND THE YEARS, he has captured the unique beauty of Korea using the Korean Peninsula as his canvas. Im remarked of the streets Joo created for STROKES OF FIRE: "It makes me cry just to walk on them."

RYO KUNIHICO COMPOSER

BEYOND THE YEARS marks the first collaboration between masterful composer Ryo Kunihiko and director Im Kwon Taek. A Korean-Japanese pianist well known for his work on animation, documentary and feature films, Kunihiko's music was introduced to Im by Oh Jung Hae, at a time when the director was looking for a new musical director to replace Kim Soo Chul. Im has spoken of Kunihiko's "Exquisitely modern music... that grasped my heart," and demonstrated his trust in the composer's talents by allowing him free rein to mix traditional Korean forms with more modern tonalities in his score for BEYOND THE YEARS.

Kunihiko's music utilizes a wide range of instruments, including piano, drum, bass guitar, Taepyeongso, Gayageum, Kkwaenggwari, Irish whistle, and crumhorn, as well as sounds gathered by the composer from Jangheung and Namdo. The score for BEYOND THE YEARS was performed by the London Symphony Orchestra and recorded at the world-famous Abbey Road Studios. Kunihiko's music, beyond all limits of genre, perfectly illustrates the uniquely beautiful imagery of Im Kwon Taek's 100th film.

PRIME ENTERTAINMENT

Prime Entertainment is a vertically-integrated entertainment company with operations in film and TV investment, production, distribution, exhibition, talent management and international sales. The company is devoted to producing and distributing the most innovative films with mainstream and international appeal. Prime Entertainment is part of Prime Group which owns and operates a valuable portfolio of real estate development and constructions operations, IT companies, venture capital corp., shopping malls with multiplex theaters. Prime Entertainment acquired production companies LJ Film (the producer of Kim Ki-duk's four films including SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER AND SPRING and BAD GUY) and Corea Entertainment in 2006. Under its umbrella, it owns and operates major talent management companies Namu Actors and Byeol-moa Entertainment.