



## MEDIA RELEASE

# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES KOREA ON THE VERGE: SOCIAL FAULTLINES IN KOREAN CINEMA

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Film Festival today announces a new program of contemporary Korean cinema – **Korea on the Verge: Social Faultlines in Korean Cinema**. Five Korean films will be presented by the Festival.

“Korean cinema remains in many ways the liveliest in East Asia, but the program has gone a little off-mainstream in our selection for Korea on the Verge,” said **guest programmer Tony Rayns**. “These edgy, combative films by fearless indie filmmakers don’t paper over the cracks in Korean society, but expand them into social faultlines!”

Rayns is a London-based filmmaker and critic known for his expertise in East Asian cinema having written for the underground publication *Cinema Rising*, and the *Monthly Film Bulletin* from its 1970 issue until its demise in 1991. He has also written for *Sight & Sound* since the 1970s.

Through this specially curated selection of films, audiences will get a snapshot of some of Korea’s most exciting indie filmmakers. The five important stories explore political scandals, social injustices, sexual deviances and re-examined traditions.

***Alice in Earnestland*** (Best Korean Feature, Jeonju 2015), is this decade’s answer to Korea’s blackest comedies, a one woman versus the system political satire that is often truly scary. ***Non Fiction Diary***, Jung Yoon-suk’s prize-winning documentary-style film essay, is an investigation of freedom and social control, starting with the capture of Korea’s notorious serial killers, the Jijon Gang, in 1994.

***A Fish***, Park Hong-min’s superbly shot (in homemade 3D, even the subtitles are in 3D!) first feature film, is a neo-noir mystery involving murder, shamanism, a violent private eye and an increasingly deranged teacher. ***Love and...*** from Chinese-Korean director Zhang Lu is a four-chapter conundrum featuring three top Korean stars: Park Hae-il, Ahn Sung-ki, Moon So-ri.

***Stateless Things*** from Kim Kyung-mook compares two ways of being ‘stateless’ when an illegal immigrant from North Korea meets a sexual outlaw.

The program is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia-Korea Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### SFF Hub Talks and Panels at Town Hall

- Vivid Ideas and Sydney Film Festival present a series of talks at the SFF Hub at Town Hall including renowned film critic and programmer Tony Rayns, curator of the Festival’s **Korea on the Verge: Social Faultlines in Korean Cinema** program, who will interpret the Korean indie cinema scene on Wednesday 15 June at 8pm.

### SFF Korea On The Verge: Social Faultlines in Korean Cinema films:

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- ***ALICE IN EARNESTLAND*** South Korea | 2015 | 90 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere  
*Director, Screenwriter: Ahn Gooc-jin | Producers: Lee Ji-seung, Park Chan-ok | Cast: Lee Jeong-hyun, Lee Hae-young, Seo Young-hwa | World Sales: CJ Entertainment*
- ***A FISH*** South Korea | 2011 | 98 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere  
*Director, Screenwriter: Park Hong-min | Producer: Choi Sung-won | Cast: Lee Jang-hoon, Kim Sun-bin, Choi So-eun | World Sales: M-Lin*
- ***LOVE AND...*** South Korea | 2015 | 70 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere  
*Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Zhang Lu | Cast: Park Hae-il, Ahn Sung-ki, Moon So-ri | World Sales: Contents Panda*
- ***NON FICTION DIARY*** South Korea | 2013 | 93 mins | In Korean with English subtitles  
*Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Jung Yoon-suk | World Sales: M-Line*
- ***STATELESS THINGS*** South Korea | 2011 | 117 mins | In Korean with English subtitles  
*Director, Screenwriter: Kim Kyung-mook | Producer: Park Jin-weon | Cast: Kim Sae-byuk, Paul Lee, Yeom Hyun-joon | World Sales: Mirovision*

Sydney Film Festival runs 8 – 19 June 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.

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\*\*\*Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)

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### ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 8 June** to **Sunday 19 June 2016**, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more. Each year the Festival's programming team curates 12 days of cinema sourced from world-famous film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the Berlinale; as well as Australia's finest productions.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected honour that awards a \$60,000 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners are: *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden

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Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen.

The Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit: [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au).

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

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