

	FINECUT

### HEAD OFFICE

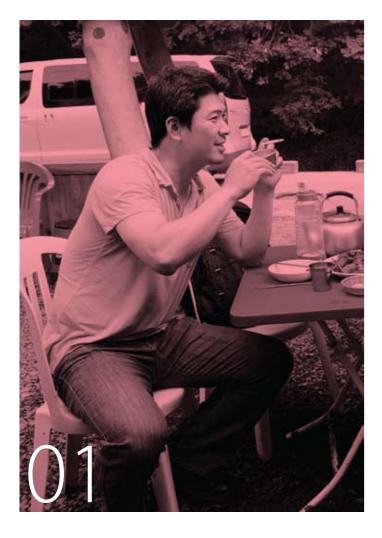
# INTERNATIONAL & FRENCH PUBLICITY LE PUBLIC SYSTEME CINEMA

### CANNES CONTACT

Riviera E9/F12 T: +33 (0)4 92 99 33 03 C: +33 (0)6 07 25 82 62

Sales: Young-joo SUH, CEO (yjsuh@finecut.co.kr) Festival: Jiyoon LIM (jiyoon@finecut.co.kr) C: +33 (0)6 78 96 06 48 4F Incline BD, 891-37, Daechi-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 135-280, Korea T: +822 569 8777 / F: +822 569 9466 cineinfo@finecut.co.kr www.finecut.co.kr 13, rue d'Antibes, 4F, 06400 Cannes T: +33 (0)4 93 39 82 48/80 97 / F: +33 (0)4 93 39 70 88 www.lepublicsystemecinema.fr

Céline PETIT (cpetit@lepublicsystemecinema.fr) / C: +33 (0)6 62 04 21 96 Hédi ZARDI (hzardi@lepublicsystemecinema.fr) / C: +33 (0)6 64 46 10 11 Clément RÉBILLAT (crebillat@lepublicsystemecinema.fr) / C: +33 (0)6 19 96 81 23



### Main Credit a JEONWONSA Film Co. production

Written & Directed by HONG Sangsoo

Starring KIM Sangkyung, YU Junsang, MOON Sori

Executive Producer HONG Sangsoo
Producer KIM Kyounghee
Cinematography PARK Hongyeol

Lighting Director YI Yuiheang

Editor HAHM Sungwon

Music JEONG Yongjin

Recording SONG Yeajin

Sound KIM Mir

World Sales FINECUT

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### **Tech Info**

Format 35 mm
Aspect Ratio 1.85:1

Sound Dolby SRD

Running Time 116 min.

Number of Reels 6

Length 10,672 ft

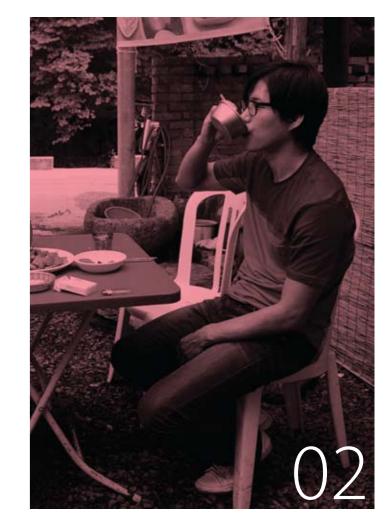
# **Synopsis**

Filmmaker Jo Munkyung plans to leave Seoul to live in Canada. So days before his departure, he meets his close friend BANG Jungshik who is a film critic, at a nearby mountain to drink 'makgeolli' a Korean traditional alcoholic beverage made from rice. After a few rounds, they find out that coincidentally, they have both been to the same small seaside town, Tongyeong recently. They decide to reveal their accounts of the trip over drinks, under the condition that they only stick to pleasant memories.

**Munkyung's story:** he was in Tongyeong to visit his mother before he leaves the country. During his stay, he met a cultural tour guide Seongok by chance. He was attracted to her, but she already had a boyfriend who is a poet and an ex-marine. But Munkyung managed to catch him cheating on her and finally won her heart.

Jungshik's story: he was in Tongyeong on a tryst with his secret lover who is a flight attendant. During his trip, he has a great time with his young poet friend who is now based in Tongyeong and the young poet's girlfriend. They are in fact the same couple that Munkyung had encountered. He also got to meet many interesting people through the young poet.

Not realizing that they were in the same place, at the same time, and with the same people, the two men's reminicence of a hot summer unfolds like a catalogue of memories.



# **Director** HONG Sangsoo

### Biography

HONG Sangsoo made the astounding debut with his first feature film THE DAY A PIG FELL INTO THE WELL in 1996. Since then, through the 9 films that he wrote and directed, HONG has consistently enjoyed using a complex and highly ordered architecture under a seemingly random surface created by spontaneous circumstances in depicting the characters in his films. Renowned for his unique cinematographic language and unprecedented esthetics in filmmaking, HONG Sangsoo is considered as one of the most established auteurs in contemporary Korean cinema.



### Selected Filmography

### 2009 LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL

- 62nd Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight
- 35th Toronto International Film Festival Contemporary World Cinema

#### 2008 NIGHT AND DAY

- 58th Berlin International Film Festival Competition
- 46th New York Film Festival

### 2006 WOMAN ON THE BEACH

- 57th Berlin International Film Festival Panorama
- 44th New York Film Festival

### 2005 A TALE OF CINEMA

- 58th Cannes Film Festival Competition
- 43rd New York Film Festival

### 2004 WOMAN IS THE FUTURE OF MAN

- 57th Cannes Film Festival Competition
- 42rd New York Film Festival

### **Character & Cast**

### JO Munkyun

A film director, Munkyung heads to Tongyeong before leaving to Canada to me his mother who is running a globefish restaurant by herself. When he accident meets a culture tour guide Seongok, he chases after her to captivate her heart.



### KIM Sangkyung as JO Munkyung

Selected Filmography

2007 MAY 18 (dir. KIM Jihoon

2005 A TALE OF CINEMA (dir. HONG Sangsoc

2003 MEMORIES OF MURDER (dir. BONG Joonho)

2002 TURNING GATE (dir. HONG Sangsoo

### WANG Seongo

Seongok is working as a culture tour guide in Tongyeong and meets Munkyung who visits his mother to the town. Munkyung tries to attract her continually but she ignores his interest since she has a boyfriend who is not only a young and handsome poem but also a former marine. However, when she discovers her boyfriend's cheating, she decides to go out with Munkyung.



### MOON Sori as WANG Seongok

Selected Filmography

2008 FOREVER THE MOMENT (dir. YIM Soonrye

2006 FAMILY TIES (dir. KIM Taeyong

2003 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE (dir. IM Sangso

2002 OASIS (dir. LEE Changdon

### **BANG Jungshik**

married man Jungshik goes on a trip to Tongyeong with his lover, Yeonj During their stay, they hang around with Jungshik's friend Jeongho, a poet livin Tongyeong, his girlfriend Seongok and Jeonghwa who likes the poet.



#### J Junsang as BANG Jungshik

Selected Filmograph

2009 LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL (dir. HONG Sangso

007 WIDE AWAKE (dir. LEE Kyumar

### Review

**by HUR Moonyoung** (Film critic, Director of Busan Cinematheque)

One summer, two friends 'Munkyung' and 'Jungshik' each travel to Tongyeong, a small town in Korea. Not crossing each other at the place, they encounter a couple of ladies there and the two men returning to Seoul recollect their memories of their summer journey over drinks. HAHAHA, the 10th feature film by HONG Sangsoo shares the motives of his past works; man's travels, accidental encounters with unknown women and courtship. But it reveals a more colorful texture than his past works, full of warm sentiments and vitality. Undrawn by any abstract order or concept but endlessly advancing into a world of contingency and mystery created by specific emotions and matters, HONG has united a new combination of aesthetics and ethics by engaging a difficult question of responsibility and choice in this film.

HONG's characters now go further than being captivated by desires or anxieties and attempt to take on the responsibilities of their lives' journeys. Munkyung asks the woman he courts to marry him and Jungshik who is a married man tries the best he can for his lover who accompanies him. Of course fate does not grant them favors for taking on the responsibilities. Figuratively speaking fate is a painting without a frame and personal decision is merely a smear. One of the interesting points about HAHAHA is that it captures the relationship between personal decision and fate with a form of reminiscences and narratives.

The storyline of the film looks as though it's composed of two men's crossed flashbacks, but in the actual narrative, the incidents out of two men's perspectives for significant ties. For instance, the new apartment bought by Munkyung's mother falls into the hands of his rival in love, outside Munkyung's eyes and decision. His decision to take on responsibility becomes a blank gesture, and the reminiscence pushes forward with its own force, leaving out the principal of the reminiscence. The black at white stilled images of the principal of the reminiscence making the recollection is not just a metrical technique. Surprisingly, the most touching moments in this film at when they make those empty decisions, in other words when the unexpectedness and naivety leaves behind a smear.

If HAHAHA is selected as HONG's major film, it won't be just for its delicate structure or intellect, as the film is the finest among his works. Its beauty is not something liminor chords sang from a world the continues without its principals, but more closer to the vitality from personal determination of someone taking on responsibility lightering porcelain chips glittering within the darkness of the world. HAHAHA is fluid and harmonious like excellent music, but unlike music, is vibrant through the energy of specific matters.

# **Production Company**

### JEONWONSA Film Co.

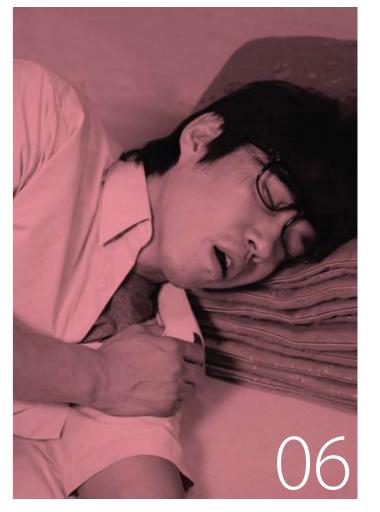
JEONWONSA Film Co. is founded on 25th June, 2004 by director HONG Sangsoo for making his film continually in stable circumstance. It is moving on constantly to find the most efficient production system which can be blended with his originality. A TALE OF CINEMA is the first feature of the company. Recently JEONWONSA Film Co. produced LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL selected to 62nd Cannes Film Festival in 2009 and is about to continually make HONG Sangsoo's new films.

### Filmography

2009 LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL (dir. HONG Sangsoo)

2005 A TALE OF CINEMA (dir. HONG Sangsoo)





## **World Sales Company**

#### **FINECUT**

FINECUT is a film company specialized in international sales and marketing, production, financing and acquisition of high-end films. FINECUT was set up in January 2008 by Youngjoo SUH who was the founder and backbone of making Cineclick Asia as one of the leading film companies in the Asia's creative industries successfully representing numerous films. With her vast knowledge and experience, based upon her dedication to acclaimed and emerging film directors, producers and distributors worldwide, she plans to position FINECUT as a market leader in the film industry.

Over the years at Cineclick Asia, Youngjoo SUH has represented many of the best known Korean films such as LEE Changdong's OASIS, PARK Chan-wook's OLD BOY, KIM Ki-duk's 7 titles including SAMARITAN GIRL, 3-IRON, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER ... AND SPRING, and BONG Joon-ho's THE HOST.

She has also represented not only Korean films but also a wide variety of international films such as TUYA'S MARRIAGE(China), EXODUS(Hong Kong), OPIUN WAR(Afghanistan), LION'S DEN(Argentina) and CARANCHO(Argentina).

Well-known as a pioneer of introducing Korean films overseas, she has successfully made numerous remake deals for Korean films with Dream Works, Universal Studio, Warner Brothers and Miramax. SUH's producing credits include films such as 3-IRON, BREATH, OPIUM WAR, LION'S DEN and CARANCHO. After its launch, FINECUT has enjoyed a successful year. The Korean film THE CHASER, which was invited to the official selection of the 61st Cannes Film Festival, was the biggest buzz in Korea for year 2008 winning both commercial success and critical acclaim. THE CHASER has been sold to numerous territories including a deal with Warner Brothers for its remake rights.

Another success was with LION'S DEN by the director Pablo TRAPERO which SUH was a producer on. The film was in competition of the official selection at the 61st Cannes Film Festival and was the winner of 5 awards including the Elcine First Prize for Best Film at the Lima Latin American Film Festival. The film was the official contender from Argentina for the 81st Oscars.

FINECUT had also executive produced and represented the first official Korean-French co-production film A BRAND NEW LIFE under the treaty between the two countries. Ounie LECOMTE, the film was invited to the official selection at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival and has been travelling worldwide since then.

In year 2010, alongside its sales and production activities for diverse spectrum of film titles, FINECUT is currently developing numerous international projects in its development pipeline with film directors from various countries.