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OLDBOY

"A brilliant
masterpiece."
- Aint It Cool News

바하
커피숍

가브

조이
LIFE 5
COLLECTIVE



TARTAN FILMS PRESENTS A SHOWEAST PRODUCTION "OLDBOY" A CHANWOOK PARK FILM STARRING MIN-SIK CHOI, H-TAE YOO, HYE-JUNG GANG
SCREENPLAY BY JO-YOON HWANG, JOON-HYUNG IM, CHANWOOK PARK DIRECTED BY CHANWOOK PARK
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GARON TSUCHIYA & NOBUAKI MINEGISHI PRODUCED BY YOUNG-JOON JI
EDITED BY SUD LIM
CINEMATOGRAPHER JUNG-HOON JUNG
CASTING DIRECTOR DONG-JOO KIM
UN-RATED
TARTAN FILMS



South Korean Season

Eden Court Cinema
February 18th 2020
at 7:15.

Review by Chris Warm, Roger Ebert.
Words by Andy Richards & Lucinda Lewis

Interview sourced by Lucinda Lewis. Film Notes compiled by Lucinda Lewis.

Oldboy *Oldeuboi (original title)*

2003, South Korea, Colour, Drama, Running time: 120 mins, Rating: 18

Cast: Min-sik Choi, Ji-Tae Yoo, Hye-jeong Kang
Directed By: Park Chan-wook

"Oldboy still stands up as a modern revenge masterpiece, full of extreme violence and brutal shocks but with heart and a story that draws you in and keeps you invested with every twist and turn." - Chris Ward

Oldboy follows the story of Oh Dae-su, its protagonist and victim. Introduced as an ordinary white-collar businessman, missing his daughter's birthday after a night of drinking lands him at the police station. Shortly after being bailed out, he disappears without a trace, imprisoned for 15 years and then suddenly released with no explanation as to why, left with five days to find the answer. His captivity brings a desire for revenge which turns out to be equal to that of his captor, who is just as violent and spiteful, but infinitely more sadistic.

No definitive judgement is cast on whether or not Dae-su is a good man. And so, we the audience join him in viewing his metamorphosis.



This isn't to say that *Oldboy* is a cold movie; if anything it's highly emotive at every turn. A lot of care is put into creating Dae-su, as he changes into a beastly yet captivating agent of vengeance, then into someone who might actually have the hope of becoming a better human being. Oh Dae-su's battle of endurance will leave you speechless.



Based upon a Japanese manga series, written by Garon Tsuchiya and illustrated by Nobuaki Minegishi. It was a substantial domestic and international hit, winning the Grand Prix at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, with film critic Roger Ebert stating that *Oldboy* is a "powerful film not because of what it depicts, but because of the depths of the human heart which it

strips bare". It has been listed among the best world films of the 2000s in several publications.



Oldboy, the second in acclaimed directors Park Chan-wooks vengeance trilogy, comes out top as being his most notorious in the series. The films are not narratively connected and were dubbed a trilogy by international critics because of their thematic links and emotional character portrayals. Park hadn't originally set out to make them so, but their organic thematic connections drew them together almost by accident. All sharing the exploration of the futility of retribution. Each of the films in the trilogy is constructed as a kind of contemporary Jacobean tragedy, in which violence, madness and death consumes the feuding antagonists.

Park went on to direct cult films such as *I'm a Cyborg but that's Okay*, the English language film *Stoker* starring Nicole Kidman and Mia Wasikowska and most recently *The Handmaiden*. Which grossed over \$37 million worldwide and won the BAFTA Award for Best Film Not in the English Language in 2017.



On the topic of directing thrillers Park Chan-wook explains how although the genre of his films may change one thing does not.

"All of the characters in my films, they share one commonality. It doesn't matter whether they are good or bad whether they are smart or stupid, these characters all take responsibility for their own behavior. I'm much the same."

Park has a unique approach to filmmaking, reinforcing the idea that he is a modern day auteur.

Fundamentally, the key element of his style is the emphasis on narrative, story and characters, as opposed to an emphasis on the technical components of filmmaking. He's forged a canon of films whose narratives are original, intricate and challenging. Each character (even the secondary characters) have been carefully constructed to have their own personalities, thoughts, issues, and goals, almost becoming autonomous within the films.

Oldboy has acted as a gateway into world cinema for many, known as one of the originals of the 'Asian Extreme' genre.

Exceeding its cult status, and including many of South Korean cinemas most iconic scenes, *Oldboy*, which was released almost two decades ago still holds up to the shock and awe of any cinemagoer today.

Our next screening..... I Vitelloni



Eden Court Cinema
Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at
7.15pm

Five young men linger in a post adolescent limbo while spending the lira doled out by their indulgent families on drink, women, and nights at the pool hall. Fellini's semiautobiographical masterpiece was the inspiration for Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets*.



www.facebook.com/infffa

Inverness Film Fans (InFiFa) meet fortnightly at Eden Court Cinema for screenings and post film discussions. For more info and to join is free, go to:

www.invernessfilmfans.org