

"ONE OF THE GREATEST MONSTER MOVIES EVER MADE!"

- Logan Hill, NEW YORK MAGAZINE



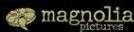
THE HOST

Starring SONG Kang-won, BYUN Hee-bong, PARK Hyeon, BAE Do-an, KO A-jung | Presented by Cinequest Film, Showbox | Magnolia, Inc. | A Cinequest Film production | Producer CHOI Yong-jae | Executive Producers CHOI Yong-jae, KIM Woo-yeon | Co-Executive Producers, BONG Tae-sung, CHUNG Ju-ha, Co-Producer JIM Young-heon | VFX Supervisor Kevin Rafferty | Visual Effects and Animation by The Displacement | Cinematographer KIM Hyung-poo | Original Story BONG Joon-ho | Screenplay BONG Joon-ho, HAHA Joon-won, BAEK Gyeon | Directed by BONG Joon-ho



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South Korean Season

Eden Court Cinema
January 7th 2020 at
7:15.

Review by Roger
Ebert. Words by
Mark Kermode &
Lucinda Lewis

Interview sourced by
Lucinda Lewis Film
note compiled by
Lucinda Lewis

The Host Gwoemul (original title)

2006, South Korea, Colour, Drama, Running time: 120 mins, Rating: 15

Cast: Kang-ho Song, Hee-Bong Byun, Hae-il Park.
Directed By: Bong Joon -Ho

A horror thriller, a political satire, a dysfunctional family comedy, and a touching melodrama, Bong Joon-ho's "The Host" is also one helluva monster movie. It's the recombinant offspring of all those science-fiction pictures of the 1950s and '60s in which exposure to atomic radiation (often referred to as both "atomic" and "radiation") or hazardous chemicals (sometimes also radioactive) results in something very large and inhospitable: "Them!" (giant ants), "Tarantula" (giant spider), "Matango: Attack of the Mushroom People" (giant fungi), "The Amazing Colossal Man" (giant bald guy), "The Giant Behemoth" (giant behemoth -- both giant *and* a behemoth, but more precisely a radioactive

ocean-dwelling Godzilla clone), "Frankenstein Conquers the World" (giant Frankenstein's monster atomically regenerated from the beating heart of the original monster after the A-bomb is dropped on Hiroshima), and so on.



At the movies centre is the Park family, a clan no less eccentric than the Hoovers of "Little Miss Sunshine." Patriarch Park Hee-Bong (Byun Hee-Bong) runs a snack stand down by the river with his dim-bulb son Kang-Du (Song Kang-Ho). His other son is a chronically unemployed no-goodnik, Nam-Il (Park Hae-Il), from whom he is estranged. But if the boys in the brood are underachievers, the girls are something else: Their sister Nam-Joo (Bae Doo-Na) is an acclaimed archery champion, and Kang-Du's daughter Hyun-Seo (Ko A-Sung), an adorable plaid-skirted schoolgirl, is the apple of everyone's eye.



The Host is marked as Bong's step up the scale and the Korean film industry as a whole. After the success of his earlier directing works, *Barking Dogs Never Bite* and *Memories of Murder*, the Host set new box office records as one of South Korea's highest grossing films to date, selling over 13 million tickets on its initial release.



Like in the 1954 Japanese monster movie 'Godzilla', 'The Host' was inspired by a real-life news story. The event of a U.S. Military facility located in the centre of Seoul in 2000. Where a U.S. Military civilian employee named Mr. McFarland was ordered to dispose of formaldehyde by dumping it into the sewer system that led to the Han River, despite the objection of a South Korean subordinate. The government attempted to prosecute Mr. McFarland in court, but the U.S. Military refused to hand Mr. McFarland to the South Korean legal system. Later, a South Korean judge convicted Mr. McFarland in absentia. The public was enraged at the government's inability to enforce its law on its own soil.

In 2005, nearly five years after the original incident, Mr. McFarland was finally found guilty in a court in his presence. However, he never served the prison sentence, and there have been no sightings of a mutant creature in the Han River - yet!



As well as this *The Host* was also inspired on part by Boon's own childhood fascination of none other than Nessie, and to the admiration

for M Night Shyamalan's alien invasion oddity 'Signs'. Truly making this a genre-defying treat! 'Actually, my film is a kidnap movie' Bong explained. 'about a family trying to get their daughter back from a kidnapper, who just happens to be a monster.'



The Host is the first in our South Korean season, which we hope will introduce you to the often genre defying, and complex cinematic curiosities the country has to offer!

Our next screening.....**The Wailing**



Eden Court Cinema
Tuesday 21st
January 2020

When a mysterious sickness causes a spate of horrifically brutal murders in a remote village, the media blames poisonous mushrooms. But detective Jong-Goo (Do Wan Kwak), whose young daughter appears afflicted has cause to suspect an elderly stranger (Jun Kunimura) recently arrived from Japan...



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www.invernessfilmfans.org