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THE
BEAST

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EEN FILM VAN JEONG-HO LEE



Thriller - 2019 - Zuid Korea - 130 minuten

VOD releasedatum: 4 juni 2020

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THE BEAST

EEN FILM VAN JEONG-HO LEE

SYNOPSIS

THE BEAST is een mysterieuze cop-thriller van de Koreaanse regisseur Jeong-Ho Lee (BROKEN, BESTSELLER).

Wanneer het zwaar verminkte lichaam van een meisje wordt teruggevonden, worden detectives Han-su en Min-tae samen op de zaak gezet. De rechercheurs staan aan het hoofd van twee rivaliserende politieteams en zijn beiden in de running voor een belangrijke promotie. De samenwerking verloopt dan ook moeizaam, zeker wanneer Han-su een verdachte oppakt die door Min-tae wordt vrijgepleit. Het wantrouwen groeit en de zaak wordt steeds mysterieuzer. Want wie is hier eigenlijk het beest?

De Koreaanse topcast bestaat uit Sung-min Lee (THE SPY GONE NORTH), Seong-Bong Ahn (THE HANDMAIDEN, PARASITE), Chea-myung You (STRANGER), en Daniel Choi (TRAFFICKERS).



JEONG-HO LEE

DIRECTOR

Director Jeong-Ho Lee made his directorial debut with 2010's BESTSELLER and received a lot of critical acclaim. He went on to adapt Japanese author Keigo Higashino's novel BROKEN into a feature film in 2014, which depicted a character's complicated psyche and societal problems in a stylish manner with traits that highlight thriller genre.

He's back after 5 long years, remaking a seminal French thriller 36 QUAI DES ORFEVRES (2005) about a detective who must hide a murder and his rival detective who is on the verge of uncovering his colleague's dark truth.

"Thriller is a genre that can veer into human nature. Pay special attention to how these two characters' emotions change," said director Lee, promising to deliver a suspenseful film from the 'thriller specialist'. "I needed to approach it as a purely genre film, and the lights, production design, photography and everything behind the scenes worked to support that idea," said director Lee.

Speaking about remaking the French thriller, he said, "I wanted to keep the sentiment of the original but focused on creating a new story." "THE BEAST is intense and thrilling and leaves very long lasting impression. The thrill comes from the clash between 2 rival detectives. It's the highest praise for the original source material," said Gaumont representative.

As this was actor Lee Sung-min's third collaboration with the director, he said, "It's like director Lee's hard hitting fast ball from the bottom of his heart. It's a very uncommon film."

FILMOGRAPHY

2019 THE BEAST
2014 BROKEN
2010 BESTSELLER

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Tensions

Tension between 2 veteran detectives, suspense between a drug dealer and a cop, THE BEAST contains unbelievable tension that can't be felt in any other crime thrillers. The filmmakers use everything in their disposal to elevate the tension, including usage of diverse mise-en-scene. Whenever the characters are cornered, a lot of passionate red and cold blue lights were used to fill the screen.

Lighting

From THE OUTLAWS to THE TRUTH BENEATH, gaffer CHOI Jong-ha said "The lighting on this film was very exaggerated. High temperature colors were used on Han-su and Choon-bae, while low temperature lights were used on Min-tae to create 3-dimensional characters." Use of these colors also created a dream-like visuals, increasing its secretive nature of the film. By utilizing this genre's weighty atmosphere and striking visuals by matching characters within it, the film creates tensions between 2 detectives, which equates to more entertainment value to the audience.

Co-production

THE BEAST brings together 2 top international production studios, including Korea's Studio&NEW, which produced period blockbuster THE GREAT BATTLE (5.4 million admissions) and Gaumont, which is famous for producing LEON and THE FIFTH ELEMENT. More importantly, Gaumont produced THE BEAST's original source film called 36 QUAI DES ORFEVRES (2005). The French film received a lot of praise for having a tightly written story and was a box office hit.

Gaumont is in charge of distributing THE BEAST in Europe and North America, thereby helping to spread the film all over the world. "THE BEAST is intense and thrilling and leaves very long lasting impression. The thrill comes from the clash between 2 rival detectives. It's the highest praise for the original source material," said Gaumont representative.

In addition, the filmmakers have worked on some of the best films of late, including THE OUTLAWS, THE TRUTH BENEATH, and THE WITCH. DP JU Sung-lim said, "THE BEAST has its own attractiveness and the mood that is quite peculiar. I wanted to capture that closely so I paid more attention to selection of lenses and finding interesting angles. I wanted people to be sucked into the scene."

Other notable filmmakers who collaborated with director LEE were production designer HONG Joo-hee, gaffer CHOI Jong-ha, composer Mowg. All of them contributed to creating tension with details and architecting the mise-en-scene.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Locations

1. Incheon mud flat

The film kicks off on the mud flat where the film's first murder victim is discovered. This is also where muddy ambitions of two lead characters are introduced. Not only that, cold wind and other characteristics are seen on the screen, creating a weighty tone and manner for the film, which highlights complicated relationships between characters. DP JU Sung-lim said, "There is a peculiar atmosphere only Incheon exudes. I worked hard to capture the essence of the mud flat."

2. Daegu Changsin Apartment

The apartment complex where the suspects and other gangs are located should be noted. It's the location where the film's massive action sequence takes place between multiple gangs and police institutions. "I needed an old apartment complex so that ambitions of these characters peak. After a long search period, we found this place in Daegu and were able to visualize what I was imagining in the beginning," said director LEE.

3. Hwingsung Forest

There are many scenes in THE BEAST that uses fog to great effect. In the forest, smoke and fog were so thick that they helped create a dream-like atmosphere, where the audience can't be sure if certain events took place or not. It also feels as though the forest is a keeper of secrets, where anything can and will happen. This was the perfect setting for the diabolical climax between Han-su and Choon-bae.

Mise-en-scene

"Because the film is weighty at its core, we opted to go extreme on the surface," said director LEE when talking about lighting and music. Production designer HONG Joo-hee, who worked on THE TRUTH BENEATH and THE WHISTLEBLOWER, said, "Using fog and distant view, I wanted to accentuate the city landscape, and wanted each characters' instinctual sides to be melted into the space they exist."

DP JU, who worked on THE OUTLAWS, wanted to capture mise-en-scene with a variety of light colors and spaces, he chose to shoot the film with anamorphic lenses, which create a unique look and feel in blue tone. "Wanting to express the film in a classical way, I chose to shoot with anamorphic lenses which were used when Cinemascope was first introduced," said DP JU.

Composer Mowg, who worked on THE WITCH, THE OUTLAWS, THE KING and other notable Korean films, put his effort into creating a harmony with mise-en-scene and traits of the genre. "I chose to go with music that feel dry, which can't be used easily in other films," to accentuate weighty and chilly atmosphere.

Action

For the action sequences, DP JU Sung-lim, who is well versed in action filming since he has worked on THE OUTLAWS, focused on making action as least artificial as possible. He went with shaky handheld camera style for the massive apartment raid, a fight between multiple gangs and police officers. Not only that, the staff and cast members discussed endlessly to create such large scale fight.

Just as important as physical action is emotional action, which explores psyche of characters with pent up emotions. Ace detective Han-su receives vital tip that leads to finding the killer, but he had to cover up a murder to do so. His emotional instability is translated into physical reactions, such as shaky hands. The tension between he and Min-tae is the source of incredible suspense in the film. "When it came to expressing these characters, I had my camera move in a step closer and was very persistent in depicting their emotions," said DP JU. "It got so tense on the set during filming one of the scenes that it was impossible to breathe," said actor LEE Sung-min.

ABOUT THE CAST

THE BEAST's cast includes some of the most important actors in terms of their acting skills and body of work.

Headlined by LEE Sung-min, who works with all types of genres and has earned numerous awards, including a Blue Dragon Award's Best Actor Award for THE SPY GONE NORTH. He turns into ace detective Han-su, who will stop at nothing to solve his case. THE BEAST marks his third collaboration with director LEE Jeong-ho after BESTSELLER and BROKEN. "Han-su is someone who constantly steps over the explosive emotional boundaries, and LEE Sung-min's interpretation of that was astounding. He knew what I wanted even without saying anything," said director LEE. "I acted with my instincts without any calculations," said actor LEE Sung-min.

YOU Chea-myung plays the ying to LEE Sung-min's yang in THE BEAST. YOU has carved out a name for himself on TV screen over the years. "My character may look cold on the outside, but his ambition fuels him, this was the focal point I thought of when acting," said YOU. "I was surprised to find an actor like YOU in Korea. I was stunned by his strong and detail-oriented performance," said director LEE.

Meanwhile, JEON Hye-jin plays a drug dealer with a tip that could turn the tide of Han-su's case. She's also someone who forces Han-su to make difficult decisions, so JEON is tasked with a tough character. She wanted to create a character who has never been seen in Korea, so she worked hard to create a unique mannerism and appearance as well. "I'm sure that only JEON was able to pull this character off," said director LEE.

Lastly, young actor Daniel CHOI is someone who endlessly challenges himself to widen his acting spectrum and is called the dark horse of Korean cinema. He challenged himself to act and speak like a detective.



ABOUT THE CAST

LEE SUNG-MIN (HAN-SU)

As the team leader of homicide team 1 of Incheon Central Police, Han-su is tasked with finding the killer of Korea's murder of the century. While investigating the case, he finds out that one of his informants, a drug dealer named Choon-bae, knows where the killer is hiding. But to get to the killer, he's forced to cover up Choon-bae's revenge killing.

Having reached the top of his game on theater productions, seasoned actor LEE Sung-min moved onto TV roles and landed several popular and notable TV dramas before finally making his big splash on the big screen. He received much love from his role as manager Oh Sang-sik in 2013's mega TV hit INCOMPLETE LIFE, who made his employees living hell. His appearance in acclaimed SECRET SUNSHINE also left lasting impression on general audiences' minds. He also received numerous accolades for his performance in THE SPY GONE NORTH and solidified his name as an acting powerhouse. Only LEE was able to pull off a character as sophisticated and divided as THE BEAST's Han-su, who has to act quickly on his feet.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2019 Hit-and-Run Squad, The Drug King
2018 The Spy Gone North, What a Man Wants
2017 The Sheriff In Town
2016 A Violent Prosecutor, SORI: Voice From The Heart, Memory (TV)
2015 The Piper, Splendid Politics (TV)
2014 Big Match, Venus Talk, Broken, Kundo
2013 The Attorney, A Wonderful Moment, Incomplete Life (TV)
2012 Howling, Golden Time (TV), Just Ordinary Love Story (TV)
2011 Officer of The Year, Can You Hear My Heart (TV), My Princess (TV)
2010 Troubleshooter, The Unjust
2008 Go Go 70s, The Good The Bad And The Weird, The Great King Sejong (TV)
2007 Secret Sunshine

YOU CHEA-MYUNG (MIN-TAE)

Homicide team 2's captain Min-tae is by-the-book cop, whose priority is to uphold the law and never cut any corners. When he finds out that Han-su may have broken a law while investigating a case, he uses this leverage to secure a promotion.

As an actor who knows no boundary when it comes to roles on TV and the big screen, YOU is known to tackle tough characters and leave the audience breathless. In THE BEAST, he transforms into Min-tae, whose friendly competition with Han-su turns deadly.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2019 Confession (TV)
2018 The Drug King, Youngju, Fengshui, Golden Slumber
2018 The Smile Has Left Your Eyes (TV), Life (TV)
2017 Forest of Secrets (TV), Prison Playbook (TV), Strong Woman Do Bong Soon (TV)
2016 Jealousy Incarnate (TV)
2015 Reply 1988 (TV)

ABOUT THE CAST

JEON HYE-JIN (CHOON-BAE)

Just a week before her release from prison, Choon-bae requests a furlough. As soon as she's out in the real world, she goes after the man who locked her up. But to avoid becoming a prime suspect for the murder, she uses Han-su as her alibi and trades a crucial tip for the murder he's been investigating.

After winning the Best Supporting Actress Award at 36th Blue Dragon Awards for her role in THE THRONE, actress JEON Hye-jin has been applauded for her performance ever since. She went onto star in high profile roles in THE TERROR, LIVE, THE MERCILESS, and HIT-AND-RUN SQUAD, thereby constantly transforming herself. BEAST is proving to be no different as she's almost unrecognizable under heavy make-up and piercings.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2019 Hit-and-Run Squad
2018 Misty (TV)
2017 RV: Resurrected Victims, The Poet and the Boy, The Merciless
2016 SORI: The Voice From the Heart
2015 The Throne
2013 The Terror, Live
2008 Romance Hunter (TV)
2004 I'm Sorry, I Love You (TV)

DANIEL CHOI (JONG-CHAN)

Jong-chan will follow his boss Han-su to the edge of hell if he has to. But he also makes the perfect partner to Han-su, complimenting him perfectly. As a man of loyalty, he helps Han-su with the investigation of a gruesome murder.

Actor Daniel CHOI first gained a lot of attention by starring in mega popular TV sitcom HIGH KICK THROUGH THE ROOF as an adorable doctor. He went onto star in a variety of genres from action, romance, melodrama and thrillers in order to widen his acting spectrum. As a way to keep challenging himself, he plays an overtly enthusiastic detective in THE BEAST alongside LEE Sung-min, who brings out a detective's mannerism as naturally as possible.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2018 The Ghost Detective (TV)
2017 Jugglers (TV)
2015 Untouchable Lawmen, The Chronicles of Evil
2014 Big Man (TV)
2013 AM 11:00, Expect to Date (TV), School 2013 (TV)
2012 Traffickers, Cyrano Agency
2009 High Kick Through the Roof (TV)
2008 The World That They Live In (TV)

CAST

Jeong Han Soo LEE SUNG MIN
Han Min Tae YOU CHEA MYUNG
Choon Bae JEON HYE JIN
Jong Chan DANIEL CHOI



CREW

Directed by LEE JEONG-HO
Written by LEE JEONG-HO, JUNG UI-MOK
Cinematography JU SUNG-LIM
Editing SHIN MIN-KYUNG
Lighting CHOI JONG-HA
Production design HONG JOO-HEE
Costume YOON JEONG-HEE
Sound supervisor KIM CHANG-SUB
Music MOWG
Sound recording KANG JOO-SUK
Hari & make-up PARK SUN
Special make-up HWANG HYO-KYUN, KWAK TAE-YONG
Visual effects PARK YO-SEOP
Action choreography KIM JUN-SUNG
C.G. CHANG ICK-JEA
D.I. PARK JIN-YOUNG

Executive producer KIM WOO-TAEK
Producer JANG KYUNG-IK
Co-producers JUNG JI-HOON, BAIK KYUNG-SOOK

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