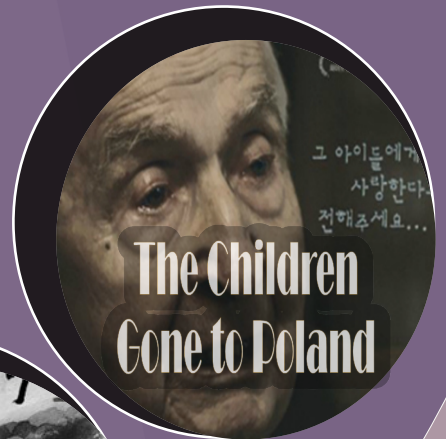


# Korean Cinema

with Hyangjin Lee 20

13.-15.02.20 23



KOREAN  
STUDIES  
FREIE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERLIN

# Korean Cinema

with Hyangjin Lee 2023

---

The 2nd Korean Cinema with Hyangjin Lee explores transboundary narratives of women portraying family separation and displacement in division films. Division film is a unique genre of Korean cinema identifying the historical and political complexities of storytelling. The end of World War II concluded 35 years of Japanese forced occupation in 1945 and turned Korea into a testing ground of Cold War ideology and political power. Since then, not only have military and ideological conflicts between the two Koreas deepened but also the suffering of people confined by their respective borders has never ended: they continue to this day. Following the 1st Korean Cinema with Hyangjin Lee which introduced enhanced international collaboration of North Korean films and examined their unique historicity, this year's film screening and talk sessions aim to form trans-border solidarity and cultural empathy of global audiences of Korean cinema. Each film screening will be followed by a post-screening talk with the director of the film.

# Program

---

Venue: Freie University Berlin, Institute of Korean Studies,  
Otto-von-Simson-Str. 11, 14195 Berlin

## Day 1. - Monday, 13 February 2023

- 11:00 – 13:07 Screening 1. Spirit's Homecoming (2016, Cho Jung-rae, SK)
- 13:10 – 14:10 Intermission
- 14:10 – 16:10 Screening 2. The Singer (2020, Cho Jung-rae, SK, NK)
- 16:30 – 17:30 Post-Screening Talk with Director Cho Jung-rae & Director Park Yong-i (Cinematography)

## Day 2. - Tuesday, 14 February 2023

- 11:00 – 11:40 Screening 1. The Children on the Edge (Save NK, SK, CN)
- 11:40 - 13:00 Lunch Break
- 13:00 – 14:25 Screening 2. The Children Gone to Poland (2018, Chu Sang Mee, SK, POL)
- 14:30 – 15:30 Post-Screening Talk with Director Chu Sang Mee (online)

## Day 3. - Wednesday, 15 February 2023

- 10:00-11:30 Talk by Prof. Dr. LEE Hyangjin
- 11:00-13:00 Round Table <Korean Cinema in Berlin> - Cho Sung-hyung, Jung Sang-jin, Kim Dong-ho, Lee Eun-Jeung, Lee Hyangjin (Moderator)  
(Closed Meeting)



# Day 1

## Spirit's Homecoming



### Screening Time:

Monday, 13 February  
11:00 – 13:07

### Director: Cho Jung-rae

### Synopsis:

The movie “*Spirit's Homecoming*” is set during the Japanese occupation of Korea in 1943. The movie tells the story of 14-year old Jung-min and 16-year old Young-hee. Jung Min's family is poor due to frequent warfare but live happily and peacefully.

Because Young-hee's parents died during the war, Young-hee has to take care of her younger brothers. One day, Japanese soldiers kidnap the two girls in order to use them as 'Comfort Women'. Jung-min and Young-hee plan to escape because of the constant sexual assault and beatings. However, while Young-hee succeeds, Jung-min is killed by the Japanese soldiers.

# Director Cho Jung-rae



**CHO Jung-rae** debuted as a filmmaker of short movies in 2000 with <Boil>. He later entered television, specifically acting as a producer for public broadcaster KBS, while also contributing to concerts and festivals. His feature film debut came in 2012 with <Duresori : Voice of the East>. In it, two teenagers join the choir during their final year at the National High School of the Traditional Arts. Versed in traditional music they initially take exception to their teacher's radical tendencies to Western music stylings into the class but eventually warm to his technique. Shot documentary style with non-professional actors, <Duresori> was based on a true story. CHO's next work was the baseball documentary <WONDERS> (2014), which was released in 2015. The film shows the hardships of an independent baseball team that tries to make it to the big league. Also in 2015, CHO started working on the historical drama <Spirits' Homecoming> (2015), which dealt with the ever-sensitive issue of forced prostitution by the Japanese Army during World War II. The film found a strong resonance among the Korean population when it was released in 2014, attracting 3.6 million viewers, and earned CHO the Grand Bell Film Award for Best New Director. He later released the follow-up documentary <Spirits' Homecoming, Unfinished Story> (2017) that featured interviews with some of the last remaining survivors.

# Day 1

## The Singer

### Screening Time:

Monday, 13 February  
14:10 – 16:10

### Director: Cho Jung-rae

### Synopsis:

The song unites people The voice changes the world In the 10th year of King Youngjo, Joseon Dynasty goes through a dire phase of looting and human trafficking. A street singer, Hak-gyu (Lee Bong-geun) travels all over Joseon in search for his kidnapped wife, Gan-nan (Lee Yu-ri) with a drummer Dae-bong (Park Chul-min) and a secretive poor nobleman (Kim Dong-wan). One by one, the band of entertainers led by the singer is filled with excitement as the Eight Provinces of Joseon's traveling theater begins. Filled with joy and sorrow, they bring a show together. In the era of corruption, the song of people starts to resonate to change the world.



# Day 2

## The Children on the Edge

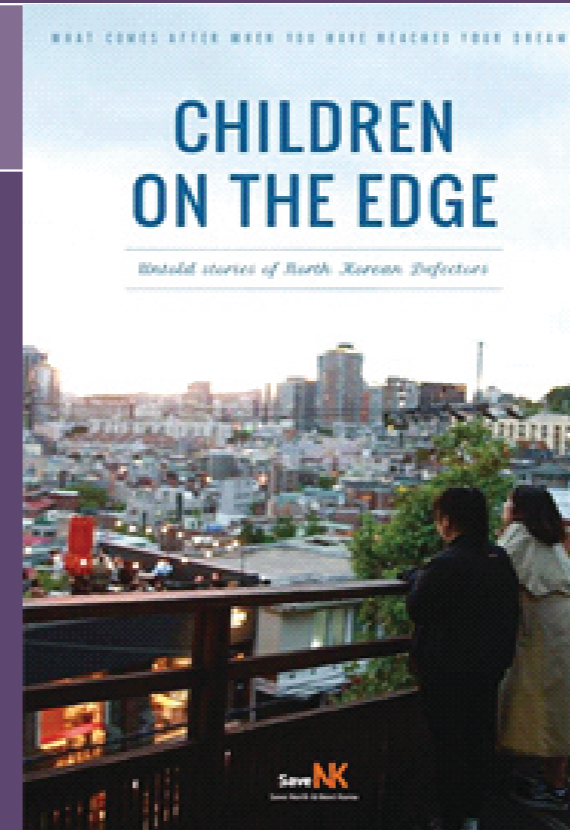
### Screening Time:

Tuesday, 14 February  
11:00 – 11:40

### Director: Son Moon-Gyeong

### Synopsis:

Since 1996, many North Korean women have been sold to other countries, including China. The number of children these women gave birth to is also increasing, so as the number of children who enter South Korea. These children are experiencing extreme identity issues as they grow up in South Korea or elsewhere. Yuna and Yerim, whose mother was a North Korean defector, were also born in China and spent their entire childhoods in South Korea. The movie follows the journey of Yuna and Yerim and presents their growth and development in this extraordinary situation.





# Day 2

## *The Children Gone to Poland*

### Screening Time:

Tuesday, 14 February

13:00 – 14:25

**Director:** Choo Sang Mee

### Synopsis:

*The Children Gone to Poland* is a documentary film based on the true story of 1,500 Korean War orphans sent to Poland in 1951 and Polish teachers.

Director Choo Sang Mee and Lee Song, a North Korean defector girl, the two women from the South and the North, travel together to follow the teachers' record of raising the children from abroad like their own children. Lee Song, who accompanied Director Choo in the film, is a teenager who defected from North Korea by risking her life. *The Children Gone to Poland* sheds a light on the dark history that is not well known in Korean society, crossing time and space from the past to the present, and from the Korean Peninsula to Poland.



# Director Choo Sang Mee



Actress-director Choo Sang Mee's *Green Room* (2010) screened in competition at the Jeonju International Film Festival, and *A Woman Under the Influence* (2013) was invited to BIFF. Her acting credits include *The Contact* and *On the Occasion of Remembering the Turning Gate*, and she sat on the juries at Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival and Seoul International Women's Film Festival.

# Day 3

## Talk by Prof. Dr. Lee Hyangjin

10:00-11:30 Talk by Prof. Dr. LEE Hyangjin

11:00-13:00 Round Table <Korean Cinema in Berlin> - Cho Sung-hyung, Jung Sang-jin, Kim Dong-ho, Lee Eun-Jeung, Lee Hyangjin (Moderator) (Closed Meeting)



**Hyangjin Lee** is a Professor at the College of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University in Tokyo. Previously, she taught at the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield and was the 2014 Kim Koo Visiting Professor of Korean Studies at Harvard University.

She currently serves on the advisory board of the Pyongchang International Peace Film Festival and as a Program Adviser of the Showroom Cinema in the UK. She previously served as Executive Director of the UK Korean Film Festival. Professor Lee is currently serving as a Global Faculty member at the Korea Europe Center, Freie University Berlin.

# Korean Cinema with Hyangjin Lee 2023

Scan to download the program



Organized by



KOREAN  
STUDIES  
FREIE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERLIN

Otto-v.-Simson-Straße 11, 14195 Berlin