

SONG  
KANG-HO

LEE  
BYUNG-HUN

JEON  
DO-YEON

KIM  
NAM-GIL

YIM  
SI-WAN

KIM  
SO-JIN

PARK  
HAE-JOON



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YOUR

SEAT



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OUT OF COMPETITION  
2021 OFFICIAL SELECTION

# EMERGENCY DECLARATION

A HAN JAE-RIM FILM

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A HAN JAE-RIM FILM

## INTERNATIONAL SALES

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## INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY IN CANNES

**LE PUBLIC SYSTÈME CINÉMA**

ALEXIS DELAGE-TORIEL

CAROLINE AYMAR

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SOUTH KOREA | 2.35:1 | 5.1 | 147min



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR & PRODUCTION CREW

*Emergency Declaration* is a film that began development and preproduction in 2019, opened shooting in 2020 during the pandemic, and will receive its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in summer 2021. There is a spoiler contained within this work that is very closely related to the current situation facing all of the world. We intend to provide as little information as possible to viewers who are waiting for this film, so as to maximize their enjoyment and immersion in the story.

Therefore we would like to humbly request that all who see this film during its world premiere please refrain from revealing any important details about the plot, the climax and the film's ending.

It is our hope that in this unprecedented crisis which has brought such difficulties and troubles to the entire world, *Emergency Declaration* may provide some hope and comfort to all who see it.

## EMERGENCY DECLARATION

If an aircraft faces a potential disaster, and the pilot determines that normal flight can no longer be maintained, an 'Emergency Declaration' is issued to call for an unconditional landing.

## LOGLINE

*Emergency Declaration* is a realistic airline disaster movie about a plane that faces a never-before-experienced crisis situation, leading the pilot to call for an unconditional emergency landing.

## SYNOPSIS

'Emergency Declaration': If an aircraft faces a potential disaster, and normal flight can no longer be maintained, the pilot calls for an unconditional landing.

Veteran chief police detective In-ho receives a tip about a man threatening a terrorist attack against a plane. While investigating, he discovers that the suspect has actually boarded flight no. KI501.

Despite his phobia of flying, Jae-hyuk decides to go to Hawaii for the sake of his daughter's health. At the airport, he is distracted by a strange man who hangs around, speaking to them in a menacing way.

Flight no. KI501 departs Incheon Airport for Hawaii, but soon afterwards a man dies for mysterious reasons. Fear and chaos spread quickly, not only inside the plane, but also on land.

Hearing this news, Transport Minister Sook-hee sets up a counterterrorism task force and calls an emergency meeting in order to find a way to land the airplane.



## ABOUT THE FILM #1

IN THE POST PANDEMIC ERA,  
AN OUTSTANDING GENRE FILM THAT PREDICTED EVERYTHING

*Emergency Declaration* is a realistic airline disaster movie about a plane that is struck by an unprecedented crisis and forced to call for an unconditional emergency landing. Director Han Jae-rim developed and prepared this film before the advent of COVID-19. Writing the screenplay in pre-pandemic times, all the actors described it as “a story that transcends imagination.” Ironically, however, in the aftermath of COVID-19 it has become a “chillingly realistic screenplay.”

The film *Emergency Declaration* begins when a suspicious man boards an airplane and soon afterwards, a passenger dies of unexplained causes. After being tormented by unexplained, painful symptoms and then quickly dying, the rest of the passengers in the plane are gripped by fear and panic. Unable to escape from a plane that has already taken off, not only the passengers but also the flight crew are unable to avoid the slowly impending disaster.

Among the passengers, a man named Jae-hyuk (Lee Byung-hun) who suffers from fear of flying seizes hold of his emotions in order to protect his daughter and to help solve the crisis. News reports appear about an unfolding disaster on a plane, leaving family members on the ground and the general public in shock. The veteran police detective In-ho (Song Kang-ho), who had to cancel his vacation with his wife and remain behind in Korea as she boarded the plane, desperately tries to find a solution to the crisis from the ground. The emotions of the innocent passengers on the plane who don't deserve to die and to try desperately to survive will echo the fear felt by people around the world after fighting for two years against COVID-19.

## ABOUT THE FILM #2

AN AIRLINE DISASTER FILM WITH A FULL YEAR OF  
PREPRODUCTION, COMMITTED TO REALISM!  
A WELL-MADE PROJECT THAT IS AMBITIOUS ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Ask the production crew of *Emergency Declaration*, and they will tell you, “We shot it according to the continuity book.” Director Han Jae-rim spent six months of the preproduction period finalizing decisions related to the production design, cinematography, lighting and VFX and putting them into the continuity book. The actors said it was a huge help to their performances to have a shooting guide that was so detailed it was something close to an animated film. With additional pre-visual animation sequences, the continuity provided a way to raise efficiency and reduce mistakes on the set while shooting in the COVID-19 era.

Director Han Jae-rim has drawn attention for presenting so many different spaces and characters in the sky and on the ground related to this single incident. His efforts to present spaces in realistic ways, and to move between the sky and the ground as if it were one single space are reflected in the lighting, art design, and cinematography. In the case of the aircraft which becomes a disaster scene, cooperation between the art and special effects teams was especially important. The art team constructed a set in an aircraft flown in from abroad. Art Director Lee Mok-won had know-how from working on the train set for *Train to Busan*, but the interior of a plane was something different. In particular, there were sequences in which the plane rotated 360°, with a real aircraft body and components used, and special accommodations made for the cast's safety. The special effects team used all their technical capabilities to allow for the high altitude plunge sequence and the sequence in which the plane flies with no power to be shot in the solid set designed by the art team. As for the lighting, to the greatest extent possible, real interior airplane lighting was used. Artificial and distorted lighting was avoided, and high-sensitivity shooting was used for the most realistic airline lighting. All the various teams on the crew worked together organically to create the most authentic look possible for *Emergency Declaration*, to give audiences a convincing, lifelike experience.



**DIRECTOR**  
**HAN JAE-RIM**

**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

I wrote this screenplay, completed casting, and prepared to start shooting in a world in which COVID-19 did not yet exist. I couldn't help but be shocked to see the events which I had imagined in my mind become reality. Disasters always strike when we least expect them. Those of us living in this era are already accustomed to the way in which people easily lose strength and become self-centered in the midst of a disaster or crisis. But despite the turmoil faced by humanity during this pandemic, the situation is slowly improving. I hope that this film can provide a small measure of comfort and hope to those who suffered in this tragedy, to those who bravely fought against it, and to all of us who at this moment are exhausted from dealing with the pandemic.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

From his debut film *Rules of Dating*, a fable about contemporary relations between men and women; to *The Show Must Go On*, about the uncommon life of a gangster who just wanted to be a common father and husband; to *The Face Reader*, a period film about physiognomy; to *The King*, an unvarnished portrait of people in power, Han Jae-rim has built his reputation as a director who combines commercial appeal with sophisticated filmmaking and storytelling.

There is an irony to Han Jae-rim's films in that very remarkable situations feel very realistic, and very realistic situations are presented in a way to make them feel remarkable. This is why audiences find his works fascinating. The backdrop to this is Director Han's detailed preparation which borders on perfectionism. Each line of dialogue and each description in the screenplay fits into his director's vision which comes through in the actors' performances and the drama on the screen.



FILMOGRAPHY	
2017	THE KING
2013	THE FACE READER
2007	THE SHOW MUST GO ON
2005	RULES OF DATING



## INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

**The idea of a movie about an unprecedented disaster on a plane is intriguing. What made you think to make this subject into a movie?**

I've often thought about making a movie in which, although the characters are important, the situation takes primary importance. When focusing on personal histories, viewers' interest in the story may depend on their own tastes and backgrounds, whereas a dramatic situation is something that all people can relate to in the same way. I thought that, old or young, male or female, all viewers would become caught up in a story centered around this sort of major incident.

**Have you ever felt a sort of horror in the enclosed space of an aircraft?**

I think an airplane is like a microcosm of the world at large. There is also the claustrophobia and sense of isolation that comes from being in an independent space. I thought that these things could make the emotions in a disaster situation even more extreme. Plus, the fact that I personally have a fear of flying helped me in developing this story.

**You did three drafts of the continuity. What led you to devote so much time to that process?**

Over the course of 3 to 4 months, we prepared the continuity in fine detail. Then, we followed it 100% while shooting. We aimed to perfectly depict each shot, cut, angle, emotion, prop and costume in the continuity. At the end of the process, the key staff and I felt like we had already shot a complete film. In this way, we had a precise guide to the emotions contained within each scene as well. On the set, this gave us more time to discuss the emotional content of each scene in detail.

**How did you prepare with such a large group of actors to produce realistic performances from each character?**

To be honest, in a film like *Emergency Declaration* the director has no choice but to rely on talented actors to express the horror and confusion of that situation. So we did a tremendous amount of preparation, carrying out five rounds of auditions to choose actors who could realize the image and acting tone of each passenger.

And not only the passengers, but all the characters in the control tower, emergency task force etc. were chosen by audition for their ability to deliver detailed, realistic performances. In this way I wanted to transmit to audiences the sense of being in a disaster.

**While preparing this airline disaster movie, what sort of consultations did you have with pilots and other specialists?**

Because our aim in making this film was to provide as realistic and convincing an experience as possible to the audience, we received advice from many areas. From the screenwriting stage and beyond, we consulted pilots and copilots as well as airline employees, detectives in charge of terrorism, the Air Force, profilers and more, and tried to use their advice to make the situations as realistic as possible. Since much of the film takes place inside of the airplane, we tried not to overlook any details regarding the make of the plane, its size, appearance, the look of the cockpit and so on.

**Why did you focus so much effort on the reality of the film?**

I wanted the audience to feel like they were watching something close to a documentary. Because my goal was not to make a rollercoaster sort of disaster movie, but to make the audience feel as if they were experiencing a real life disaster, it was important to focus on realistic details. From using a real plane as the set, to the ways in which camera placement, lighting and editing were planned, we wanted to make *Emergency Declaration* feel like something that had really happened.

**Please issue your last declaration to viewers who are waiting for this film.**

I tried to make this film as real as possible. I want viewers to watch this film and think, "It feels like reality. It seems like I am experiencing a real disaster. The tension is overwhelming." All of the crew and cast tried their hardest to make this possible.



## CHARACTER & CAST

*"Just hold out a bit longer,  
I'm working on a solution here."*

### SONG Kang-ho as In-ho

The veteran police detective working on his own to avert disaster

After canceling a trip to Hawaii with his wife because of work, In-ho reports to the station as usual. After coming across a hard to understand video message in English threatening a terrorist attack on a plane, he prays to himself that the suspect didn't board the same plane as his wife. However his worst fears come true, and with the plane already in the air, he devotes everything he has to solving the crisis so that the plane and his wife can return safely.

Actor Song Kang-ho, who was at the center of a historical moment for the Korean film industry has returned. In 2019, Song Kang-ho received worldwide attention when Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite* won the Palme d'Or at Cannes. In *Emergency Declaration*, he brings his great acting skills to the portrayal of the character who is praying for the safe return of his wife, while giving everything he has as a police detective to solve the crisis from the ground.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2019	PARASITE, THE KING'S LETTERS
2018	THE DRUG KING
2017	A TAXI DRIVER
2016	THE AGE OF SHADOWS
2015	THE THRONE
2013	THE ATTORNEY, THE FACE READER, SNOWPIERCER
2012	DAY TRIP, HOWLING
2011	HINDSIGHT
2010	SECRET REUNION





## CHARACTER & CAST

*“Is something going on here?”*

### LEE Byung-hun as Jae-hyuk

A passenger who boards the plane for the sake of his daughter's treatment

Despite his fear of flying, Jae-hyuk boards the plane with his daughter who suffers from a bad case of skin eczema. When he finds out that a suspicious looking man who was intimidating them at the airport has boarded the same plane, he becomes seized with anxiety and apprehension. As the situation on the plane evolves into a crisis, he begins to realize what he needs to do.

Having displayed his inspired acting ability in all genres, Lee Byung-hun this time takes on the role of a somewhat ordinary father. Having experienced a fear of flying himself, Lee used this experience to better express the emotions of Jae-hyuk in this moment of chaos on the plane. This character who shows fear and panic, but also a resolve to save the other passengers, is sure to leave a strong impression on viewers.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2020	THE MAN STANDING NEXT
2019	ASHFALL
2018	KEYS TO THE HEART
2017	THE FORTRESS, A SINGLE RIDER
2016	MASTER, THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN, MISCONDUCT
2015	INSIDE MEN, MEMORIES OF THE SWORD, TERMINATOR GENISYS
2013	RED 2, G.I. JOE: RETALIATION
2012	MASQUERADE
2010	THE INFLUENCE, I SAW THE DEVIL





## CHARACTER & CAST

*“Fellow citizens, please put your faith in the government  
as we try to resolve this crisis.”*

### JEON Do-yeon as Sook-hee

The Transport Minister who must work to protect the citizens

While preparing for a seminar, Transport Minister Sook-hee receives news of a plane disaster that defies imagination. She calls for a meeting to ensure the safety of a plane that is currently traveling between countries, and tries to pursue every solution possible from the ground. As she receives real-time reports of the terror unfolding on the plane, she feels a building sense of fear and despair which she has to keep hidden from others.

The Korean actress with the closest ties to the Cannes Film Festival has returned. In *Emergency Declaration*, actor Jeon Do-yeon plays a leader who must remain calm in the most chaotic situation possible. In particular, even as Sook-hee experiences her own sense of fear and despair, she works to resolve the situation and prevent the country from falling into panic.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2020	BEASTS CLAWING AT STRAWS
2019	ASHFALL, BIRTHDAY
2016	A MAN AND A WOMAN
2015	MEMORIES OF THE SWORD, THE SHAMELESS
2013	WAY BACK HOME
2011	COUNTDOWN
2010	THE HOUSEMAID





A man in a pilot's uniform is shown in profile, speaking into a microphone. He is in a cockpit, with a window showing a blue sky and clouds. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

## CHARACTER & CAST

*"I can no longer keep this plane in the air.  
Please open a runway for us."*

### **KIM Nam-gil** as **Hyun-soo**

The copilot who must land the plane safely at all costs

After preparing as usual to take on his responsibilities as copilot, a sudden death on the plane sends Hyun-soo going back and forth from the cockpit to the cabin, trying to resolve the crisis. Keeping in close contact with the crisis management center on the ground, he tries his best to keep the plane aloft, but with no solution in sight he finds himself having to make an 'emergency declaration'.

It's the same for all passengers and flight crew in *Emergency Declaration*, but for the copilot Hyun-soo as well, this is his first time facing such a situation. Kim Nam-gil gives a memorable performance as a copilot who must carry out his duties without giving unnecessary agitation to the passengers.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2020	THE CLOSET
2019	THE ODD FAMILY: ZOMBIE ON SALE
2017	MEMOIR OF A MURDERER, ONE DAY
2016	PANDORA
2015	THE SOUND OF A FLOWER, THE SHAMELESS
2014	THE PIRATES
2010	LOVERS VANISHED



## CHARACTER & CAST

*“Which flight will have the most people on it?”*

### **YIM Si-wan** as **Jin-seok**

The man who comes to the airport with no fixed destination

After loitering about Incheon International Airport and asking for a flight with the most number of passengers, Jin-seok is seen by Jae-hyuk's daughter as he is carrying out something in secret. Annoyed, he finds out Jae-hyuk's destination and buys a ticket for the same flight.

With his innocent looking face, Yim Si-wan gives an eye-opening performance in which he seems to be playing a game with the passengers. When he first started acting in this film, he had many questions. The director told him to “act in your usual way”, and Yim managed to bring his own style to this complicated character.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2017	THE MERCILESS
2017	ONE-LINE
2016	A MELODY TO REMEMBER
2013	ATTORNEY



## CHARACTER & CAST

*“We will keep watching over him. Don’t worry too much.”*

### **KIM So-jin** as **Hee-jin**

The head flight attendant

The head flight attendant Hee-jin was thinking to wrap up her career in the sky after this flight. During the flight to Hawaii, a man dies of unexplained causes, and she exerts all of her efforts to keep the passengers from panicking.

An actress receiving attention in the Korean film industry as a new face, Kim So-jin gives a highly convincing performance in *Emergency Declaration*, coming across just like a real flight attendant. In the midst of a crisis situation, she doesn’t lose her humanity even as people’s true natures are revealed.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2021	ESCAPE FROM MOGADISHU, SPRING SONG
2020	THE MAN STANDING NEXT
2019	ANOTHER CHILD
2018	THE DRUG KING, THE SPY GONE NORTH
2017	I CAN SPEAK, NEW TRIAL
2017	THE KING
2015	THE SOUND OF A FLOWER, THE CHOSEN: FORBIDDEN CAVE
2014	MY BRILLIANT LIFE , THE DIVINE MOVE, NO TEARS FOR THE DEAD
2013	THE TERROR, LIVE





## CHARACTER & CAST

*“What happened?  
Can you tell me the situation there?”*

### **PARK Hae-joon as Tae-su**

Chief of the presidential crisis management center

As the head of the presidential crisis management center, Tae-su must make the most realistic decisions to protect the nation during this unprecedented disaster. When forced to choose between the safety of the people in the plane, and the safety of the people on the ground, he begins to waver.

In *Emergency Declaration*, Park Hae-joon’s performance serves as the means by which the audience can ask themselves, “What would I do in the situation?” The image of Park Hae-joon trying to solve the dilemma of whether to save everyone in the face of a disaster, or whether to be realistic is one that will resonate in the time of COVID-19.

#### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2021	THE 8TH NIGHT
2019	BRING ME HOME, CHEER UP, MR. LEE, TUNE IN FOR LOVE, JO PIL-HO: THE DAWNING RAGE
2018	BELIEVER
2017	HEART BLACKENED, WARRIORS OF THE DAWN
2016	MISSING, FOURTH PLACE, UNFORGETTABLE
2015	THE ACCIDENTAL DETECTIVE
2014	GENOME HAZARD, SEE, BEETHOVEN
2013	HWAYI: A MONSTER BOY, PLUTO
2012	HELPLESS



## CREW

SHOWBOX presents  
a MAGNUM9 production in association with C-JES ENTERTAINMENT, CINEZOO(CO.,LTD)

Title	Emergency Declaration (Original Title: Bi-sang-seon-eon)
Director	HAN Jae-rim
Screenplay	HAN Jae-rim
Cast	SONG Kang-ho, LEE Byung-hun, JEON Do-yeon, KIM Nam-gil, YIM Si-wan, KIM So-jin, PARK Hae-joon
Producers	HAN Jae-rim with BACK Chang-ju, EUM Zoo-young
Executive Producer	KIM Do-soo
Directors of Photography	LEE Mo-gae, PARK Jong-chul
Production Design	LEE Mok-won
Editing	HAN Jae-rim, KIM Woo-hyun, LEE Kang-il
Music	LEE Byeong-woo
Sound	KIM Suk-won
World Sales	Showbox Corp.

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## TECH SPEC

Country	South Korea
Year	2021
Running time	147 minutes
Screen Ratio	2.35:1
Sound	5.1
Language	Korean



# **EMERGENCY DECLARATION**