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Manana

What do you see in life, darling?

a film by **HONG Sangsoo**

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Main Credit

a JEONWONSA Film Co. production

Written & Directed by	HONG Sangsoo
Starring	KIM Sangkyung, YU Junsang, MOON Sori
Executive Producer	HONG Sangsoo
Producer	KIM Kyounghee
Cinematography	PARK Hongyeol
Lighting Director	YI Yuiheang
Editor	HAHM Sungwon
Music	JEONG Yongjin
Recording	SONG Yeajin
Sound	KIM Mir
World Sales	FINECUT

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Tech Info

Format	35 mm
Aspect Ratio	1.85:1
Sound	Dolby SRD
Running Time	116 min.
Number of Reels	6
Length	10,672 ft

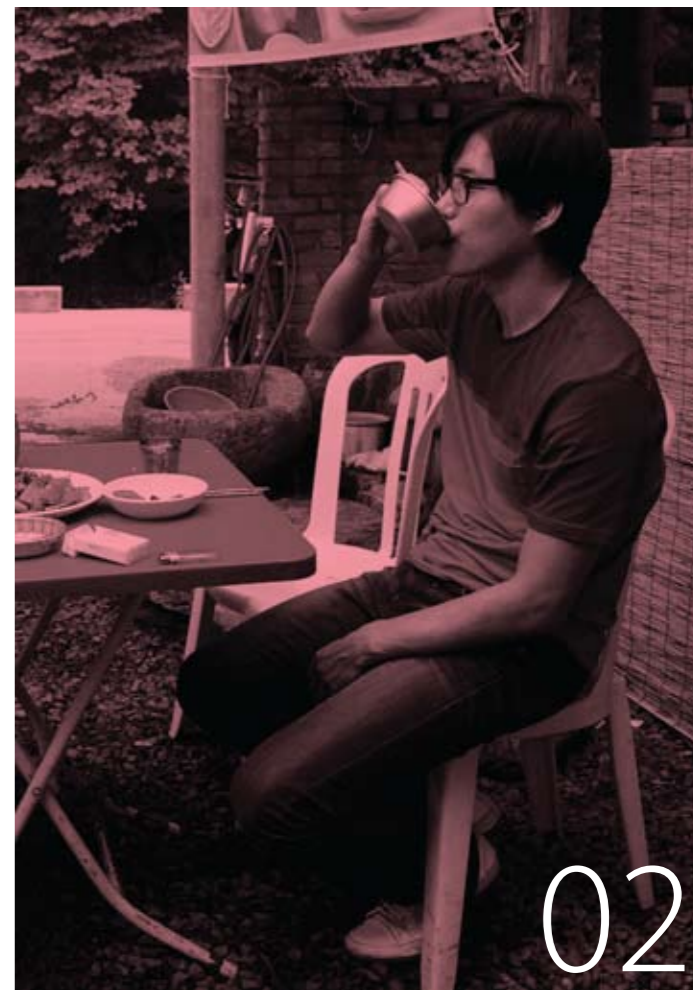
Synopsis

Filmmaker Jo Munkyoung plans to leave Seoul to live in Canada. So days before his departure, he meets his close friend BANG Jungshik who is a film critic, at a nearby mountain to drink 'makgeolli' a Korean traditional alcoholic beverage made from rice. After a few rounds, they find out that coincidentally, they have both been to the same small seaside town, Tongyeong recently. They decide to reveal their accounts of the trip over drinks, under the condition that they only stick to pleasant memories.

Munkyoung's story : he was in Tongyeong to visit his mother before he leaves the country. During his stay, he met a cultural tour guide Seongok by chance. He was attracted to her, but she already had a boyfriend who is a poet and an ex-marine. But Munkyoung managed to catch him cheating on her and finally won her heart.

Jungshik's story : he was in Tongyeong on a tryst with his secret lover who is a flight attendant. During his trip, he has a great time with his young poet friend who is now based in Tongyeong and the young poet's girlfriend. They are in fact the same couple that Munkyoung had encountered. He also got to meet many interesting people through the young poet.

Not realizing that they were in the same place, at the same time, and with the same people, the two men's reminiscence of a hot summer unfolds like a catalogue of memories.



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Director HONG Sangsoo

Biography

HONG Sangsoo made the astounding debut with his first feature film THE DAY A PIG FELL INTO THE WELL in 1996. Since then, through the 9 films that he wrote and directed, HONG has consistently enjoyed using a complex and highly ordered architecture under a seemingly random surface created by spontaneous circumstances in depicting the characters in his films. Renowned for his unique cinematographic language and unprecedented esthetics in filmmaking, HONG Sangsoo is considered as one of the most established auteurs in contemporary Korean cinema.



Selected Filmography

- 2009 **LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL**
- 62nd Cannes Film Festival – Directors' Fortnight
 - 35th Toronto International Film Festival - Contemporary World Cinema
- 2008 **NIGHT AND DAY**
- 58th Berlin International Film Festival – Competition
 - 46th New York Film Festival
- 2006 **WOMAN ON THE BEACH**
- 57th Berlin International Film Festival – Panorama
 - 44th New York Film Festival
- 2005 **A TALE OF CINEMA**
- 58th Cannes Film Festival – Competition
 - 43rd New York Film Festival
- 2004 **WOMAN IS THE FUTURE OF MAN**
- 57th Cannes Film Festival – Competition
 - 42nd New York Film Festival

Character & Cast

JO Munkyung

A film director, Munkyung heads to Tongyeong before leaving to Canada to meet his mother who is running a globefish restaurant by herself. When he accidentally meets a culture tour guide Seongok, he chases after her to captivate her heart.



KIM Sangkyung as JO Munkyung

Selected Filmography

- 2007 MAY 18 (dir. KIM Jihoon)
- 2005 A TALE OF CINEMA (dir. HONG Sangsoo)
- 2003 MEMORIES OF MURDER (dir. BONG Joonho)
- 2002 TURNING GATE (dir. HONG Sangsoo)

WANG Seongok

Seongok is working as a culture tour guide in Tongyeong and meets Munkyung who visits his mother to the town. Munkyung tries to attract her continually but she ignores his interest since she has a boyfriend who is not only a young and handsome poet but also a former marine. However, when she discovers her boyfriend's cheating, she decides to go out with Munkyung.



MOON Sori as WANG Seongok

Selected Filmography

- 2008 FOREVER THE MOMENT (dir. YIM Soonrye)
- 2006 FAMILY TIES (dir. KIM Taeyong)
- 2003 A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE (dir. IM Sangsoo)
- 2002 OASIS (dir. LEE Changdong)

BANG Jungshik

A married man Jungshik goes on a trip to Tongyeong with his lover, Yeonju. During their stay, they hang around with Jungshik's friend Jeongho, a poet living in Tongyeong, his girlfriend Seongok and Jeonghwa who likes the poet.



YU Junsang as BANG Jungshik

Selected Filmography

- 2009 LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL (dir. HONG Sangsoo)
- 2007 WIDE AWAKE (dir. LEE Kyuman)

Review

by **HUR Moonyoung** (Film critic, Director of Busan Cinematheque)

One summer, two friends 'Munkyung' and 'Jungshik' each travel to Tongyeong, a small town in Korea. Not crossing each other at the place, they encounter a couple of ladies there and the two men returning to Seoul recollect their memories of their summer journey over drinks. HAHAHA, the 10th feature film by HONG Sangsoo shares the motives of his past works; man's travels, accidental encounters with unknown women and courtship. But it reveals a more colorful texture than his past works, full of warm sentiments and vitality. Undrawn by any abstract order or concept but endlessly advancing into a world of contingency and mystery created by specific emotions and matters, HONG has united a new combination of aesthetics and ethics by engaging a difficult question of responsibility and choice in this film.

HONG's characters now go further than being captivated by desires or anxieties and attempt to take on the responsibilities of their lives' journeys. Munkyung asks the woman he courts to marry him and Jungshik who is a married man tries the best he can for his lover who accompanies him. Of course fate does not grant them favors for taking on the responsibilities. Figuratively speaking fate is a painting without a frame and personal decision is merely a smear. One of the interesting points about HAHAHA is that it captures the relationship between personal decision and fate with a form of reminiscences and narratives.

The storyline of the film looks as though it's composed of two men's crossed flashbacks, but in the actual narrative, the incidents out of two men's perspectives form significant ties. For instance, the new apartment bought by Munkyung's mother falls into the hands of his rival in love, outside Munkyung's eyes and decision. His decision to take on responsibility becomes a blank gesture, and the reminiscence pushes forward with its own force, leaving out the principal of the reminiscence. The black and white stilled images of the principal of the reminiscence making the recollection is not just a metrical technique. Surprisingly, the most touching moments in this film are when they make those empty decisions, in other words when the unexpectedness and naivety leaves behind a smear.

If HAHAHA is selected as HONG's major film, it won't be just for its delicate structure or intellect, as the film is the finest among his works. Its beauty is not something like minor chords sang from a world the continues without its principals, but more closer to the vitality from personal determination of someone taking on responsibility like glittering porcelain chips glittering within the darkness of the world. HAHAHA is fluid and harmonious like excellent music, but unlike music, is vibrant through the energies of specific matters.

Production Company

JEONWONSA Film Co.

JEONWONSA Film Co. is founded on 25th June, 2004 by director HONG Sangsoo for making his film continually in stable circumstance. It is moving on constantly to find the most efficient production system which can be blended with his originality. A TALE OF CINEMA is the first feature of the company. Recently JEONWONSA Film Co. produced LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL selected to 62nd Cannes Film Festival in 2009 and is about to continually make HONG Sangsoo's new films.

Filmography

2009 **LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL** (dir. HONG Sangsoo)

2005 **A TALE OF CINEMA** (dir. HONG Sangsoo)



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