

**A CINEMA OF AFFECT**  
**CONTEMPORARY KOREAN CINEMA**  
**Thursday- Friday, April 12-13, 2007**

**WHITNEY HUMANITIES CENTER**  
**53 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut**

**Sponsors:**

The Council on East Asian Studies  
**Yale University**  
Henry R. Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Avenue  
P.O. Box 208206  
New Haven, CT 06520-8206

Film Studies Program  
**Yale University**  
53 Wall Street, Rm. 216  
PO Box 208363  
New Haven, CT 06520-8363

**Organizers:**

**Jinhee Choi** (Postdoctorate / Visiting Assistant Professor, East Asian Studies, Yale University)  
**Seung-hoon Jeong** (Ph.D. Student, Film Studies & Comparative Literature, Yale University)

**General Statement:**

This conference focuses on a principal characteristic of contemporary Korean cinema: Korean cinema's reliance upon excessive affective responses from the viewer. According to some scholars, the emotional payoffs in classical Hollywood cinema are the byproducts of compelling, causally-tight storytelling. Contemporary Korean cinema seems to offer a counterexample. From the so-called 'Asian Extreme' cinema of Kim Ki-duk's sensationalist films to Park Chan-wook's **Vengeance** trilogy, from popular genre films to Korean TV miniseries dramas such as Winter Sonata, priority seems to be given to the maximizing of affective responses and the evoking of excessive emotions rather than to the telling of a coherent story. This panel aims to engage critically with the aesthetic significance of such a trend and examine some of the ways in which visceral, intense emotions are produced in contemporary Korean cinema. We hope to explore the following issues: the depiction of the extraordinary situations and circumstances in which characters find themselves; the interrelatedness of excessive violence, narrative twists and ruptures, and tonal shifts; and externalized character psychology as manifest in mise-en-scène.

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT [anne.letterman@yale.edu](mailto:anne.letterman@yale.edu) by 04/10/07.**

**ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT:**  
**<http://research.yale.edu/eastasianstudies/cinemaofaffect.pdf>**

**CLICK ON PRESENTERS' NAMES TO OPEN A PDF OF ABSTRACT**

## Conference Schedule and Participants

### Thursday, April 12, 2007

Whitney Humanities Center Auditorium

#### **7:00 PM - 9:30 PM      SCREENING OF KOREAN SHORT FILMS (DVD)**

Introduction and Q&A after the screening by **Julian Stringer** (University of Nottingham)

*From Morning to Evening* (Ik-tae Lee, 1970, 20 mins)

*Color of Korea* (Ok-hee Han, 1976, 7 mins 29 secs.)

*Another Room* (1979, Kong-hee Ree, 8 mins 48 secs.)

*Daydream* (Jeong-gook Lee, 1984, 19 mins)

*The Exhibition of Mr. Kant* (1987, Kim Tae-Yeong, 35 mins)

*A Black Christmas Eve* (Dae-hyun Kim, 1993, 14 mins)

*Promenade in the Rain* (Soo-rye Lim, 1994, 13 mins 30 secs.)

### Friday, April 13, 2007

Whitney Humanities Center Room 208

**12:30 - 1:30 PM      KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Julian Stringer** (University of Nottingham), "A Brief Look at Short Korean Film"

**1:30 – 1:40 PM      BREAK**

**1:40 - 3:30 PM      SYMPATHY FOR WHOM? MORAL MODULATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY KOREAN CINEMA AND DRAMA**

Introduction by **Jinhee Choi** (Yale University), "Sentimentality and the Cinema of the Extreme"

Moderated by **Seungja Choi** (East Asian Literature & Language, Yale University)

**Hyangjin Lee** (University of Sheffield), "Memory in *Winter Sonata*"

**Seung-hwan Shin** (University of Pittsburgh), "*Lady Vengeance*'s Surreal Trial: From Failure of Remembering to Remembering of Failure"

**Robert Cagle** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), "Crying, Laughing, Loving, Lying: The Melodramatic Mode in Popular South Korean Film"

**3:30 - 4:00 PM      COFFEE BREAK**

**4:00 - 5:45 PM      CRUELTY - YES, CRUELTY: THE KOREA EXTREME**

Moderated by **Jung-bong Choi** (Cinema Studies, New York University)

**Susie Kim** (Duke University), "Extreme to the Limit: Verging on the Noir City"

**Steve Choe** (University of California at Berkeley), "Affectual Silences: Toward the Outside in the Films of Kim Ki-duk"

**Jecheol Park** (University of Southern California), "Revengeful Fathers: the Vicissitudes of Affect in *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance* and *Samaria*"

**5:45 - 7:00 PM      RECEPTION**