

TIME

A KIM Ki-Duk Film

PRODUCTION NOTES

Publicity materials are available at: <http://www.timethemovie.net>

Running time: 97 minutes // Unrated

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

It is an instinctive desire to seek for novelties.

It is human to endure the passage of time.

It is specific to love to find novelties among repeated routines.

It is life to realize that nothing lasts forever in the passage of time.

Here are lovers who are crazy about each other.

But after their long relationship, it isn't love that has decayed, it is their throbbing hearts, their chemistry,

their passion and their yearning.

I am posing a question to them. Is an absurd one.

-KIM Ki-duk

ABOUT THE MOVIE

TIME is KIM Ki-duk's 13th feature and one that questions the most basic foundation of love and human nature. It deals with a woman in doubtful agony over her lover's love – can they love each other forever? Won't he get sick and tired of her looks as time goes by? The movie delicately describes the correlation between time and human relations, and the changes in the relationship itself. To explore the human's struggle against the passage of time, KIM makes his female character employ the most extreme method – changing her look and her own body through plastic surgery to continuously be loved by the man she adores.

SEONG Hyeon-ah (HONG Sang Soo's WOMAN IS THE FUTURE OF MAN) was cast for So-hee, the female lead. For SEONG's counterpart, KIM Ki-duk chose HA Jung-woo, who earned world-wide recognition for his role in the 2005 film, YOON Jong-bin's THE UNFORGIVEN. KIM also renewed his partnership with the Japanese production company HAPPINET PICTURES with whom he has worked since 2004, on 3-IRON and THE BOW.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

TIME is a searing examination of modern culture's obsession with youthful beauty and unattainable physical perfection. Attractive Seh-hee is having problems with her boyfriend, Ji-woo. After two years, their love has entered a period of weariness. Though faithful to his fiancée, Ji-woo eyes other women and, in bed, only seems to get excited at the thought of making love to other partners. Seh-hee can't cope with the crippling jealousy tainting her life and decides to dramatically change her looks - to become a new woman, with whom her boyfriend can fall in love all over again. She enters a plastic surgery clinic and then vanishes for six months - long enough for the scars to heal - leaving Ji-woo hurt and confused by her disappearance. Resurfacing as the new waitress at the coffee shop Ji-woo frequents, Seh-hee - now calling herself See-hee - tries to seduce him. But between them stands the specter of Ji-woo's lost girlfriend, with whom he is still very much in love. Jealousy once again creeps into the shaky existence Seh-hee has artificially crafted. KIM takes a fashionable issue to extremes in order to probe the dark, jealous core of a relationship gone wrong.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Seh-hee and Ji-woo are deeply in love with each other and have been going out for two years. But as time slowly passes on, Seh-hee becomes anxious. She is worried that Ji-woo will grow tired of her and becomes hysterical whenever Ji-woo pays the slightest bit of attention to another woman. One day, just as she had feared, Ji-woo can't make love to Seh-hee. It's only when she suggests he picture himself with another woman that Ji-woo is able to get aroused, making Seh-hee even more anxious and frustrated. She is also unhappy about always looking the same and not being able to give him a fresh impression every time they meet. Ji-woo also feels that Seh-hee's suggestion to think about another woman when making love is too extreme.

The next day, Seh-hee disappears. Ji-woo can't find her anywhere and her cell phone is disconnected. While Ji-woo agonizes over Seh-hee, she secretly goes to a plastic surgeon. Despite the doctor's discouragement to undergo surgery and his assurance that she is pretty enough, Seh-hee decides to completely change her look.

Ji-woo goes to the island where he had taken a romantic trip with Seh-hee and meets a woman wearing large sunglasses and a mask that covers up her face. Still, one can see she is attractive and has a glamorous appearance. Ji-woo starts talking to her at the island's sculpture park and she seems to enjoy his company. Yet when Ji-woo tries to follow her to get closer, she suddenly disappears.

Ji-woo meets several other women, but whenever he is about to get intimate with one of them, something interferes. Women are either warned off by someone or in one incident, a rock shatters a hotel room window where Ji-woo is about to have sex.

One day, Ji-woo talks to an attractive waitress at a café where he used to go with Seh-hee. Surprisingly he discovers that the name of the waitress is similar to Seh-hee. Her name is See-hee and he slowly falls for her. Ji-woo thanks See-hee for making him feel what he has never felt before. She asks him what he would do if Seh-hee returned and Ji-woo honestly answers that he doesn't know. A few days later, Ji-woo receives a letter from Seh-hee saying that she wants to come back to Ji-woo. After much contemplation, Ji-woo decides to break up with See-hee to go back to Seh-hee. See-hee violently protests, shouting and cursing, and Ji-woo leaves in disgust. After Ji-woo's departure, See-hee gradually smiles with strange satisfaction.

When Ji-woo goes to the café to meet Seh-hee, he finds See-hee wearing a mask made of a blown up photo of Seh-hee's pre-surgery face. Ji-woo can see See-hee's face through the gap between her face and the photo. Finally, the whole story becomes clear to him. The woman in the island and See-hee are the same: Seh-hee. She tells him she underwent surgery because she loves him very much. She wants to love him and be loved by him forever by changing her look and by appearing as a different woman. Offended and shocked, Ji-woo leaves her. See-hee follows him, but he disappears.

Ji-woo goes to the plastic surgeon who operated on Seh-hee to get surgery for himself. A few months later, the doctor hints to See-hee that Ji-woo will appear before her with a totally different look because Ji-woo loves her. From then on, whenever See-hee meets a guy, she wonders if it is Ji-woo. She keeps meeting men, and finally someone who resembles Ji-woo shows up. When the two make love, the man confesses that he is not Ji-woo. Desperate See-hee begins to go after any man. After chasing a man that may or may not be Ji-woo only to see him die before her eyes, she undergoes yet another surgery. This time, she no longer wants anybody to recognize her.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

KIM Ki-duk Biography

A unique, visionary voice within both South Korea's ongoing filmmaking resurgence and contemporary world cinema, 46 year-old acclaimed director KIM Ki-duk is a virtual autodidact. "I have been accustomed to a life quite different from other filmmakers," he says. Indeed, without benefit of a formal film school education, Mr. KIM has beaten his own path to a position of rapidly growing filmmaking eminence at home and abroad. After a customarily brief rural primary school education, he worked in factories until he was called for military service. During a five-year stretch in the South Korean Army, Mr. KIM developed a committed passion for painting. Upon completion of his military service, Mr. KIM moved to France, studied fine arts in Paris and sold his paintings on the streets in the south of France.

"One day," he says, "I woke to discover the world of cinema and jumped into it." After collecting awards and accolades for his screenplay, *A Painter and A Criminal Condemned to Death*, Mr. KIM made his directorial debut, *Crocodile* in 1996. Since then KIM Ki-duk has, at the impressive speed of one film a year, created a series of films characterized by both an unblinkingly perceptive view of human behavior and a powerfully lyrical visual imagination. His films also have reflected and addressed the intersection of Mr. KIM's varied life experience with many of the questions confronting modern South Korean and world society or, as he says, "the borderline where the painfully real and the hopefully imaginative meet."

1997's *Wild Animals* explores North and South Korean enmity and reconciliation through the volatile friendship of two Korean exiles living in Paris. *Birdcage Inn* (1999 Berlin International Film Festival, Panorama Selection) probes class schisms even on the very fringes of society. *The Isle* (2000 Venice Film Festival and winner of the 2001 Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Award) is an intoxicating and challenging contemporary love story set in a near-mythic locale. *Real Fiction* (2001 Moscow Film Festival) is an ambitious real-time, multi-format experiment and *Address Unknown* (2001 Venice and Toronto Film Festivals) takes an unusually intimate and non-judgmental look at the fifty-year US military presence in South Korea.

KIM Ki-duk's *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring*, a potent visualization of the passions inhabiting the human spirit, was released to great critical and audience acclaim in 2004. South Korea's official entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, it was selected at the Sundance, Toronto and Venice Film Festivals.

2004 saw KIM win no less than two Best Director Awards with his subsequent two films, *Samaritan Girl* (aka *Samaria*), which won the Best Director Award (Silver Bear Award) at the Berlin International Film Festival, and *3-IRON*, winner of the Best Director Award at the Venice International Film Festival and three other awards including Best Film from Fipresci. *3-IRON* was also selected for the Toronto International Film Festival 2004 and the 2005 Sundance Film Festival where it was shown in the prestigious Premieres section.

His next film was 2005's *THE BOW*, which was selected as the Opening of the Cannes International Film Festival's Un Certain Regard section. Since *TIME*, KIM has directed *BREATH* which was selected to be in competition at the 2007 Cannes International Film Festival.

Filmography

2007 BREATH

2007 Cannes Film Festival- in official competition.

2006 TIME

2006 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival- Opening Night Film.

2005 THE BOW

2005 Cannes Film Festival- Opening Film for Un Certain Regard Section.

2004 3-IRON

2005 Sundance Film Festival, Premieres section

2004 Venice International Film Festival (Official Competition) – Winner:

2004 Best Director Award FIPRESCI Best Film Award, Little Golden Lion, Signis Award (Honorable Mention).

2004 Valladolid Film Festival – Winner Golden Spike (Best Film)

2004 Toronto International Film Festival

2004 SAMARITAN GIRL (aka SAMARIA)

2004 Berlin Int'l Film Festival (Official Competition) - Silver Bear Award (Best Director Award)

2004 SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER...AND SPRING

2004 Academy Awards- Official Korean entry for Best Foreign Language Film

2004 Sundance Film Festival

2004 Venice International Film Festival

2003 Toronto International Film Festival

2003 Pusan International Film Festival

2003 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Winner City of Karlovy Vary

2003 Locarno International Film Festival, Winner, Junior Jury Prize; Winner, Don Quixote Prize; Winner, CICAÉ/ARTE Prize; Winner, Netpac Prize

2002 THE COAST GUARD

2003 Karlovy Vary Film Festival

2002 BAD GUY

2002 Berlin International Film Festival

2002 Helsinki International Film Festival

2001 ADDRESS UNKNOWN

2002 Venice International Film Festival

2002 Toronto International Film Festival

2000 REAL FICTION

2001 Moscow International Film Festival, Competition Selection

1999 THE ISLE

2000 Sundance Film Festival, World Cinema Award
2000 Venice International Film Festival
2000 Moscow International Film Festival, Special Jury Prize
2000 Rotterdam International Film Festival

1998 BIRDCAGE INN

1999 Berlin International Film Festival, Panorama Selection (Opening)
1999 Moscow International Film Festival, Special Panorama Selection
1999 Montreal World Film Festival

1997 WILD ANIMALS

1998 Vancouver International Film Festival

1996 CROCODILE

1995 Pusan International Film Festival

CAST

See-hee (SEONG Hyeon-ah)

FILMOGRAPHY

2006 TIME (Directed by KIM Ki-duk)

2005 LOVERS (Directed by KIM Tae-eun)
CHELLO (Directed by LEE Woo-cheol)

2004 WOMAN IS THE FUTURE OF MAN (Directed by HONG Sang-soo)
2004 Cannes Film Festival- Official Competition

2002 BOSS X FILE (Directed by KIM Sung-Duk)

1997 HALLELUJAH (Directed by SHIN Seung-Soo)

Ji-woo (HA Jung-woo)

FILMOGRAPHY

2007 BREATH (Directed by KIM Ki-duk)

2007 NEVER FOREVER (KIM Gina)

2006 TIME (Directed by KIM Ki-duk)

2006 THE FOX FAMILY (Directed by LEE Hyung-gon)

- 2005 THE UNFORGIVEN (Directed by YOON Jong-bin)
 2006 Cannes Film Festival – Un Certain Regard
 2006 Pusan Int'l Film Festival (PIFF)
 - Winner of the FIPRESCI Ward for Best New Asian Film
 -The NETPAC Award for Best Korean Feature
- 2005 SHE'S ON DUTY (Directed by PARK Kwang-choon)
- 2004 MR. GAM'S VICTORY (Directed by KIM Jong-hyun)
- 2003 MADELEINE (Directed by PARK Kwang-choon)

CAST LIST

See-hee	SEONG Hyeon-ah
Ji-woo	HA Jung-woo
Seh-hee	PARK Ji-yun
Doctor	KIM Sung-min
Man 1	SEO Ji-seok
Man 2	JUNG Hwan
Man 3	JUNG Kyeo-woon
Man 4	KANG Shin-chul
Yeon-hee	KIM Ji-hyun
Yoon-ah	KIM Bo-nah
Ji-woo's friend 1	IM Hyun-sung
Ji-woo's friend 2	CHOI Dang-seok
Café Owner	HONG Kyung-yun
Waitress 1	SEO Young-hwa
Waitress 2	AHN So-rim
Blinddate Girl 1	YOO Jeong
Blinddate Girl 2	NAH Soo-yoon
Blinddate Girl 3	LEE Sol
Motel Owner	SOH Jae-ik
Homeless	LEE Min
Bar Host	PARK Hyun-keong
Bar Waitress 1	KIM Yool-li
Bar Waitress 2	JUNG Young-mi
Bar Waitress 3	KIM Min-joo
Nurse 1	OH Yoo-jin
Nurse 2	JEON Sae-byul
Girl on the phone	JOO Eun-sil
Boy with soccer ball	AHN Kang-cheon
Girl delivering letter	PARK Jee-un
Min-soo	JANG Joon-young
Min-soo's Girlfirend	OH Seo-won
Man mistaken by See-hee	KIM Choong-il

Girlfriend of Man mistaken	JEON Se-hong
Kissing Man	HONG In-pyo
Kissing Woman	YOON Ji-seon
Truck Driver	CHO Seok-hyun
Jeep Driver	KIM Hyung-gyun
Girl 1 bumped Ji-woo's Car	KIM Hee-won
Girl 2 bumped Ji-woo's Car	SHIN Yoon-ah
Lovers in the Epilogue	CHOI Jin-hwan, BAIK Jae-yoon, KIM Won-shik, KIM Hee-won, BAIK Kwang-doo, PYO Young-joo
Guard	LEE Young-seok, SHIN Song-shik
Police	HAN Chang-ho, YOO Hyun-jin

CREW LIST

A KIM KI-DUK FILM PRODUCTION

Written and Directed by	KIM Ki-duk
Executive Producer	SUZUKI Michio
Producer	KIM Ki-duk
Co-producer	KANG Young-gu
Director of Photography	SUNG Jong-moo
Production Sound	JEUNG Hyun-soo
Music	NOH Hyung-woo
Art Direction	CHOI Keun-woo
Editing	KIM Ki-duk
Line Producer	SONG Myeong-chul
Assistant Director	JANG Hun
Costume	LEE Dah-yeon
Make-up	JANG Jin (Mask Make-up Production)
Dialogue Editor	KIM Ki-tak
FX Editor	KIM Yong-joo
Foley Editor	SONG Young-ho
Foley Mixer	KIM Eun-san
FX Sound Designer	KANG Sang-pil
Foley Artist	YANG Dae-ho, MOON Je-hong
Video Transfer	SOH Won-jong
Optical Transfer	JOO Hyun-seung
Dolby Consultant	KIM Kyung-taik
Optical Recording	JOO Hyun-seung
Editing Operator	WANG Ae-kyung, JANG Hoon
Negative Editor	LEE Soo-yon, NOH Eung-jung
Telecine	LEE Yong-jae (H.F.R)
CG	YOON Jae-hoon (N.I.G)
2D Artist	PARK Joo-hye, KWON Mi-jung
Digital Scanrecording	SONG Min
Development	H.I.T
Color Correction	HAN Jae-joon
Still Photography	CHO Won-jin, SONG Jung-seob (ST. THE BOX)

Making Film	KIM Seung-hwan
Making Film Editor	JEON Jae-hong
Mixing Engineer	YOON Sang-cheol
Recording Mixing Studio	ONO studio, Ye-eum studio
Music Editor	RYU Hyung-ok
String Artist	JAM String
Background Music in Café	NAM Gu-min, JANG Sung-woon, SHIN Jung-woo, HONG Dae-jin, KIM Jee-hwan
Medical Consultant	YOO Won-il, KIM Jee-hak (With Aesthetics), KIM Soon-gil (Soon-jung Aesthetics), KIM Hyung-dae (Ye-song Otorhinolaryngology)
Furniture Designer	KWAK Hyun-gon
Extras	Neo Casting (KIM Jae-yong, LEE Sung-ho)
Insurance	Hyundai Marine (AHN Yong-jin)
Ha Jung-woo's Agent	PARK Sung-hye, NA Byung-joon, LEE Sang-hoon (Sidus Hq)
SUNG Hyun-ah's Agent	KIM Hyun-sik
PARK Ji-yun's Agent	PARK Sung-joon, SONG Myung-jin
KIM Sung-min's Agent	JUNG Young-hoon
International Funding	KIM Do-hoon, SUH Youngjoo (Cineclick Asia)
International Sales	CHI Sang-eun, CHUNG Young-hong (Cineclick Asia)
International Marketing	KIM Yunjeong, PARK Ina (Cineclick Asia)
Karaoke Song	“Can't get over you” from Sanwoolim's 6th Album “Wait Just a Bit”