

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

Written, directed and edited by KIM Ki-duk

**OFFICIAL KOREAN ENTRY – 2004 ACADEMY AWARD
FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM**
2004 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
2003 TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
2003 VENICE 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

(South Korea, 2003, 103 minutes,
In Korean with English subtitles)

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ABOUT THE FILM

The exquisitely beautiful and very human drama ***Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring***, starring director KIM Ki-duk, is entirely set on and around a tree-lined lake where a tiny Buddhist monastery floats on a raft amidst a breath-taking landscape. The film is divided into five segments with each season representing a stage in a man's life. Under the vigilant eyes of Old Monk (wonderful veteran theatre actor OH Young-soo), Child Monk learns a hard lesson about the nature of sorrow when some of his childish games turn cruel. In the intensity and lushness of summer, the monk, now a young man, experiences the power of lust, a desire that will ultimately lead him, as an adult, to dark deeds. With winter, strikingly set on the ice and snow-covered lake, the man atones for his past actions, and spring starts the cycle anew... With an extraordinary attention to visual details, such as using a different animal (dog, rooster, cat, snake) as a motif for each section, writer/director/editor KIM Ki-duk has crafted a totally original yet universal story about the human spirit, moving from Innocence, through Love and Evil, to Enlightenment and finally Rebirth.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"I intended to portray the joy, anger, sorrow and pleasure of our lives through four seasons and through the life of a monk who lives in a temple on Jusan Pond surrounded only by nature."

-- KIM Ki-duk.

SYNOPSIS

SPRING

The wooden doors of a gated threshold open on a small monastery raft that floats upon the tranquil surface of a mountain pond. The hermitage's sole occupants are an Old Monk (OH Young-soo) and his boy protégé Child Monk (KIM Jong-ho). While exploring the world in and around their secluded idyll, Child Monk indulges in the capricious cruelties of boyhood. After tying stones to a fish, a frog, and a snake, Child Monk awakens to find himself fettered by a large stone Old Monk has bound to him. The old man calmly instructs the boy to release the animals, promising him that if any of the creatures die "you'll carry the stone in your heart for the rest of your life."

SUMMER

The doors open again on Boy Monk now aged 17 (SEO Jae-kyung) who meets a woman (KIM Jung-young) making a pilgrimage with her spiritually ill daughter (HAYeo-jin). "When she finds peace in her soul," Old Monk reassures the mother, "her body will return to health." The girl awakens desire in Boy Monk and the sensual flirtation between the two of them culminates in passionate lovemaking on pond-side rocks. After a furtive but tender tryst in the abbey's rowboat, the lovers are discovered by Old Monk. The girl, now healed, is sent back to her mother. Forsaking his monastery home, the infatuated Boy Monk follows her.

FALL

Long absent from the monastery, Young Adult Monk (KIM Young-Min), now a thirty year old fugitive, returns to the abbey raft still consumed by a jealous rage that has compelled him to commit a violent crime. When Young Adult Monk attempts penitence as cruel as his misdeed, Old Monk punishes him. The Old Monk instructs Young Adult Monk to carve Pranjaparpamita (Buddhist) sutras into the hermitage's deck in order to find peace in his heart. Two policemen arrive at the abbey to arrest Young Adult Monk but thanks to Old Monk, they let Young Adult Monk continue carving the sutras. Young Adult Monk collapses from exhaustion and the two policemen finish decorating the sutras before taking Young Adult Monk into custody. Alone again, Old Monk prepares a ritual funereal pyre for himself.

WINTER

The doors open on the now frozen pond and abandoned monastery. The now mature Adult Monk (played by director KIM Ki-duk) returns to train himself for the penultimate season in his spiritual journey-cycle. A veiled woman arrives bearing an infant that she leaves in Adult Monk's care. In a pilgrimage of contrition, Adult Monk drags a millstone to the summit of a mountain overlooking the pond. As he gazes down on the pond that buoys the monastery and the mountainsides that gently hold the pond like cupped hands, Adult Monk acknowledges the unending cycle of seasons and the accompanying ebb and flow of life's joys and sorrows

.....AND SPRING

The doors open once again on a beautiful spring day. Grown from a child to a man and from a novice to a master, Adult Monk has been reborn as teacher for his new protégé. Together, Adult Monk and his young pupil are to start the cycle anew.....

ABOUT THE SET

The hermitage that is the stage for ***Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring*** is an artificially constructed set made to float on top of Jusan Pond in North Kyungsang Province in Korea. Created about 200 years ago, Jusan Pond is an artificial lake in which the surrounding mountains are reflected in its waters. It retains the mystical aura of having trees more than hundreds of years old still growing within its water. After six months of negotiations with the Ministry of Environment LJ Film was able to obtain permission to build the set.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

A unique, visionary voice within both South Korea's ongoing filmmaking resurgence and contemporary world cinema, 43-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 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 behaviour 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."

Wild Animals (1997) 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, 2000 Rotterdam Film Festival, 2000 Moscow Film Festival Jury Prize and winner of the 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 Mr. KIM's homeland.

KIM Ki-duk's newest film, ***Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring***, is a potent visualization of the passions inhabiting the human spirit and the understanding and acceptance which form the very substance of our lives. Mr. KIM is currently working on his 10th feature, a revenge story entitled *Samarita*.

KIM KI DUK FILMOGRAPHY

The Coast Guard (2002)

2003 Karlovy Vary Film Festival

Bad Guy (2002)

2002 Berlin International Film Festival

2002 Helsinki International Film Festival

Address Unknown (2001)

2002 Venice International Film Festival

2002 Toronto International Film Festival

Real Fiction (2000)

2001 Moscow International Film Festival, Competition Selection

The Isle (1999)

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

Birdcage Inn (1998)

1999 Berlin International Film Festival, Panorama Selection (Opening)

1999 Moscow International Film Festival, Special Panorama Selection

1999 Montreal World Film Festival

Wild Animals (1997)

1998 Vancouver International Film Festival

Crocodile (1996)

Pusan International Film Festival.

CAST

Old Monk	OH Young-soo
Adult Monk	KIM Ki-duk
Young Adult Monk	KIM Young-min
Boy Monk	SEO Jae-kyung
The Girl	HA Yeo-jin
Child Monk	KIM Jong-ho
The Girl's Mother	KIM Jung-young
Detective Ji	JI Dae-han
Detective Choi	CHOI Min
The Baby's Mother	PARK Ji-a
The Baby	SONG Min-young

TECHNICAL CREDITS

Directed & written by	KIM Ki-duk
Producer	LEE Seung-jae
Executive Producer	Soma CHUNG
Co-executive Producers	CHOI Jae-won, BAEK Myung-sun
Assistant to Executive Producer	KIM Joo-hee
Associate Producer	KIM Sang-geun
Co-producers	KIM So-hee, Karl Baumgartner, Raimond Goebel
Cinematography	BAEK Dong-hyun
Lighting	HAN Gi-ub
Editing	KIM Ki-duk
Music	BARK Ji-woong
Recording	KU Bon-seung (CINEMA SOUND)
Make-up/ wardrobe	KIM Min-hee
Props	LEE Shin-ho
Line-producer	BAE Jeong-min
1st Assistant Director	JANG Chul-soo
Directing Crew	NOH Hong-jin, LEE Gyu-nim
Script supervisor	OH Song

Cinematography Crew:

LEE Kwang-soon, PARK Joon-chul, LEE Hyun-su, JIN Young-hwa, PARK Bo-geun, PARK Young-min, CHOI Hyung-sun, KANG Boo-kyung, KIM Dae-kyung, SHIM In-ho, SHIM Jae-won, SON Sang-hoon, KIM Sang-il, MOON Ki-yoon
Lighting Crew MOON Hyung-joon, KIM Jin-sung, SHIN Tae-sub, JIN Il-kyu, KIM In-kyun

Recording Crew	PARK Jong-gyu, SONG Min-geun, IM Jin-sung
Props Crew	LEE Young-soon
Wardrobe Crew	HAN Myung-sook, LEE Jin-sook, YOON Mi-ra (FANTA.MIX)
Make-up Crew	HYUN Kyung-sun, YOON Jae-kyun (FANTA.MIX)
Chief of Production Crew	SONG Jin-hwa
Production Crew	OK Jin-gon, KIM Sung-eun, LEE Jae-in, IM Hyung-tae
Production	
Accounting	KIM Kyung-hwan
Art Director	OH Sang-man
Set	HAN Sung-hoon (Korean Buddhist Arts Center)
Set Decoration	WON Ki-joo DANCHUNG/Color Painting MOON Kyung-tak, OH Jae-min
Camera Rental	SOME Rental, SINMYUNG Film
Special Make-up	KIM Sung-moon, JANG[!]
Special Effects	LEE Hee-kyung (Demolition)
Still Photographer	KIM Tae-hwan, LEE Sung-jin
Makings V-works	KIM Young-jin
On-site editing	LEE Sang-kyu, KIM In-wook, SEO In-ae
Sound Supervisor	KIM Moon-su
Poly artist	SON Kyu-sik
Avid Operator	JANG Chul-soo, LEE Do-hyun, OH Woon, LEE Jae-wook
Negative cutting	LEE Su-yeon, NOH Eun-kyun
Film Development	Hollywood Printing Lab Telecine Wide Vision
German Crew	
Postproduction	
Coordinator	Elena Trifonova
Postproduction Asst	Han Song Hillmann
Financial Supervisor	Rainer Tausner
Accountant	Ulrike Bojahr
Mixing Studio	Konken Studios, Hamburg
Re-recording Mixer	Stephan Konken
Laboratory	Atalantik Film Koperwerk, Hamburg Jens York Fischer
Color Timer	Mantred Hansen
Visual Effects	Roland Nothe
Film Stock	KODAK, Hamburg
Transport	Ledi Filmservice, Hamburg
Negative Insurance	DFG Hamburg, AON Jauch & Habner
Special Thanks to	Merleanne Bergmann, Eve Hubert

Financing Operation	LEE Eun-ju, HWANG Joo-hyun, MOON Jong-kyu, PARK Hami
International Operation	KIM Hee-yeon, EUN Hee-won
Domestic Distribution	LEE Dong-joo, MOON Bo-ra
International Sales	CINECLICK ASIA, Bavaria Film International
Accounting Operation	SHIN Eun-joo, YOON Ji-yoon, KIM Hye-sook, KIM Kyung-mi
Production Accounting	LEE Jung-bae, LEE Ji-hye
Production Support	Chung-song Provincial Office
Score	Chung-sun ARIRANG sung by KIM Young-im

Special Thanks to:

HAN Kyung-woo, CHOI Byung-chan, KIM Jin-young, PARK Chun-kyu, Chung-song Provincial Office, Mayor BAE Dae-yoon, Chung-woon Provincial Office, PARK Jun-kab, CHA Jum-kyunn, PARK Ik-hwan, YOO Hong-tak, PARK Jung-shik, BAE Yun-taek, Kyungsang Provincial Office, KWON Oh-sung, KIM Sang-woo, JINA Restaurant, PARK Hotel, Bowoon Hotel, Andong Hanwoochon, Shinchon Restaurant, Gojun Ship Builder SON Nak-gi, Seoul Zoo LEE Sang-won. The town where Jusan Pond and valleys are located, NABI NARA PARK Yoon, Daeyoung Aquarium Ji Hee-seon, Adventure Rest Centre KANG Sun-kyu, Yongmun Mountain Health Centre HAN Kyung-suk, Chunjang Temple Monk KANG Yun-moon

Location Support

Joowang National Park Office, Chung-song Provincial Office