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Public

Helsinki Cine Aasia 2017 Opening Film is Kim Ki-Duk's The Net

The only festival of contemporary Asian cinema in Finland, Helsinki Cine Aasia, brings the most talked-about Asian films to Helsinki from 16th to 19th March 2017! The festival offers a fresh take on Asian film culture and the most interesting, ferocious and delicate films of the moment from East and Southeast Asia. On its fifth anniversary, Helsinki Cine Aasia relocates to Korjaamo Kino. In addition to the modern Cultural Factory Korjaamo, some of the festival screenings over the weekend are held at the traditional Orion.

This year the opening film of the festival is [The Net](#) (2016) by South Korean director **Kim Ki-Duk**. This captivating drama cuts deep into the conflict between the two Koreas and the lives of the people who live in the midst of it all. The main character of the film, Nam Chul-woo (**Ryoo Seung-bu**), is a poor North Korean fisherman living close to the South Korean border. Nam's life takes a turn for the worse when one day, a net gets caught up in his boat's engine, breaking the engine and leaving him to drift into South Korean waters. With this image begins the story that will pull the viewer deep into the net; the net of conflict between the two Koreas. Nam endures interrogation, beatings, and worse in his attempt to return to his home and family – only to realise that his life will never be the same again.

Kim Ki-Duk is one of the most famous South Korean directors and screenwriters. He is best known for his subtle and beautiful motion picture *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ...and Spring* (2003) and the more conflicted film *The Isle* (2000) that gained notoriety for its gruesome scenes.

Unlike many other famed Asian directors, Kim Ki-Duk did not go to a film school but studied fine arts in Paris from 1990 to 1993. He has since learned film-making by doing. What is typical to Kim Ki-Duk's films is that each one of them is a surprise to the viewer – a unique piece of art that does not follow any rules of continuation – stylistically or by way of the subject matter – with his previous works. However, they all have moral overtones. Kim Ki-Duk's unique style is what has brought him international acclaim and made him one of the most prominent Asian directors of today.

*The Net will be shown at Korjaamo Kino on Thursday 16th of March. Other films to be screened at Helsinki Cine Aasia this year include **Sunao Katabuchi's** [In This Corner of the World](#), **Midi Z's** [The Road to Mandalay](#) and **Johnnie To's** [Three](#). Teasers from the programme will be announced once a week on the festival's [Facebook page](#) and the full festival programme will be published on the 28th of February on the festival's [website](#). Tickets can be purchased online from early March onwards or during the festival from the screening locations.*

[Read more about Helsinki Cine Aasia's history >>](#)

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