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SOUTH KOREAN DIRECTOR SHIN DONG-IL IS HELSINKI CINE AASIA'S THIS YEAR'S GUEST OF HONOUR



*How are YOU going to face your inner demons?
Shin Dong-il, about the film Come, Together*

The guest of honour of the fifth Helsinki Cine Aasia -festival – which kicks off next week – is South Korea's master of intimate drama, **Shin Dong-il**. With his films, Shin Dong-il challenges the viewer to self-reflect and to question the divide into us and them. This applies also to his latest directorial work, [Come, Together](#) (2016), which will be screened at Helsinki Cine Aasia. It portrays an ordinary nuclear family struggling to keep up with the increasing demands of competitive society and the climb up the social ladder. What is ultimately important in life, is what Shin Dong-il appears to ask with the film. In the end, this is the question that the members of the family who have already given their everything also have to ask themselves.

The films in Helsinki Cine Aasia's fifth anniversary programme also more broadly have as their theme social antagonisms and family relationships. Other films that deal with borders created either by nation states, societal norms or traditional gender roles, include, for example **Rithy Panh's** [Exile](#) (2016), a partly autobiographical portrayal of the Khmer Rouge regime and [Japanese Girls Never Die](#) (2016) by **Daigo Matsui** which offers a feminist view of sexism, the pressure to marry, and the pay gap between the sexes in Japan utilising the colourful language of pop culture.

BIO: SHIN DONG-IL

Shin Dong-il was born on 29th October, 1968, in Seoul, South Korea. He studied first German language and literature but switched soon to study film directing. Shin Dong-il's first full length feature, *Host and Guest* (2005), received a lot of attention at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Shin Dong-il dedicated *Host and Guest* to people who dream of a different world. The same thematic of a possible better world is present also in his other directorial works. Altogether Shin Dong-il has directed four full length feature films.

Shin Dong-il's films have been said to deal with human relationships in a peculiar way. Often their main characters represent different social classes or diagonally opposite social groups. Through conflicts between the characters, Shin Dong-il deals even with religious themes of salvation and atonement.



Shin Dong-il is a self-confessed fan of **Aki Kaurismäki's** black humour and pathos. In his film *My friend & his wife* (2006), the main character is shown watching Kaurismäki's film *Juha*.

Come, Together is screened at Helsinki Cine Aasia on both Saturday 18th March and Sunday 19th March at 7pm at Korjaamo's Kulmasali. Shin Dong-il will be present at both screenings to take questions from the audience. Media interviews should be arranged in advance through tiedotus@helsinkicineaasia.fi. Shin Dong-il will be in Helsinki for the entire duration of Helsinki Cine Aasia -festival from 16th to 19th March 2017.

The only festival of Asian cinema in Finland, Helsinki Cine Aasia, is organised already for the fifth time. 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. The festival will feature 18 films in total from 10 different East Asian and Southeast Asian countries. Helsinki Cine Aasia full 2017 programme is available at <http://helsinkicineaasia.fi/en/ohjelmisto/>. All films at Helsinki Cine Aasia will have subtitles in English.

Helsinki Cine Aasian is organised by the Asian Cinema Association of Finland. The festival is supported by the City of Helsinki Cultural Office, Arts Promotion Centre Finland, AVEK – The Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture, and the Japan Foundation. Our partners are Japan Airlines, Episodi, Korjaamo Kino, KAVI – The National Audiovisual Institute, Shopalike, Sushi Panda and Henkell & Co.

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