



**ECHOES IN TIME:  
KOREAN FILMS OF THE GOLDEN AGE AND NEW CINEMA**

# Save the Green Planet!

**Save the Green Planet! (Jigureul jikyeora!)**

*Director:* Jang Joon-hwan  
*Production Company:* Sidus Corporation  
*Presented by:* CJ Entertainment  
*Presented in association with:* Sidus Corporation, Discovery Venture Capital  
*Executive Producer:* Lee Kang-bok  
*Co-executive producers:* Tcha Seung-jai, Jung Hong-kyun  
*Producers:* Tcha Seung-jai, Noh Jong-yoon  
*Co-producer:* Kim Sun-ah  
*Line Producer:* Kim Dong-hwan  
*Production Supervisor:* Seok Dong-joon  
*Assistant Director:* Kim Jong-hoon  
*Script Supervisor:* Roh Doek  
*CASTING:* Jun Hong-joo, Kim Kyung-rok, Kim Sang-eun  
*Screenplay:* Jang Joon-hwan  
*Director of Photography:* Hwang Gyung-pyo  
*B Camera:* Cho Ki-young  
*Lighting Director:* Yoo Young-joung  
*CG Supervisor:* Jang Sung-ho  
*Matte Painting:* Yoo Ji-eun, Pyun Hyung-kyu  
*Special Effects:* Demolition  
*Special Effects Supervisor:* Jung Do-an  
*Special Effects Directors:* Kim Tae-eui, Yoo Young-il, Bang Sung-cheol  
*Editor:* Park Gok-ji  
*Location Editing:* Choi Chang-hwan, Cho Woon  
*Production Designers:* Jang Geun-young, Kim Gyung-hee  
*Art Director:* Lee Jeong-mi  
*Wardrobe Supervisors:* Jang Geun-young, Kim Gyung-hee  
*Key Make-up:* Lee Kyung-ja  
*Special Make-up Effects:* Shin Jae-ho  
*Music:* Lee Dong-joon  
*Music:* Michael Staudacher \*  
*Sound Design:* Lee In-gyu  
*Sound Recording:* Lee Ji-soo  
*Sound Re-recording:* Choi Tae-young  
*Sound Editors:* Kang Hye-young, Lee Jae-hyeok  
*Stunt Co-ordinators:* Kim Min-soo, Yoo Sang-seub, Action School  
*Cast:*  
Shin Ha-kyun (*Lee Byung Gu*)  
Baek Yoon-sik (*President Kang Man-Shik*)  
Hwang Jung-min (*Soonil*)  
Lee Jae-yong (*Detective Choo*)  
Lee Joo-hyun (*Detective Kim*)  
Ki Joo-bong (*Detective Inspector Lee*)  
Kim Dong-hyun (*Tae Shik*)  
Kim Kwang-shik (*Detective Seo*)  
Won Woong-jae (*Detective Jang*)  
Ye Soo-jung (*young/old Byung Gu's mother*)  
Jang Young-joo (*old Byung Gu's father*)  
Jung Bo-hoon (*Ji Won*)  
Son Jong-hwan (*Soonil's father*)  
Kim Jee-cheon (*man at hospital reception desk*)  
Lee In-hee (*woman at hospital reception desk*)  
Yoon Young (*nurse*)  
Oh Sang-moo (*driver*)  
Kang In-seon (*girl working in coffee shop*)  
Park Seung-woo (*detective 1*)  
Kim Hoon-ho (*detective 2*)  
Lee Dong-woon (*detective 3*)  
Jeon Hyun-tae (*detective in hallway*)  
Min Yoon-jae (*woman cop*)  
Kim Young-chan (*young Byung Gu*)  
Kim Roei-ha (*prison officer*)  
Son Jeon-hwan (*plant manager*)  
Lee Seung-chan (*teacher*)  
Lee Moo-yeon (*75th king*)

*The screening on Wednesday 30 October will include a Q&A with director Jang Joon-hwan*

This one-of-a-kind, completely insane film follows a disillusioned conspiracy theorist who believes that aliens have infiltrated society and plan to destroy Earth during the next lunar eclipse. He's convinced his old boss holds the key to stopping the aliens, so he and his devoted circus-performer girlfriend kidnap and torture the man for a confession. Blurring the line between reality and delusion, Jang Joon-hwan's extraordinary feature debut is a riot of humour and environmental concern.

**SPOILER WARNING** The following notes give away some of the plot.

Jang Joon-hwan comes from the generation that entered the Korean film industry after the political change of 1993; he studied at the Korean Academy of Film Arts, where his graduation project *2001: Imagine* was a portrait of a Korean slacker who comes to believe he's the reincarnation of John Lennon. He spent more than two years nurturing the script of *Save the Green Planet!* (his debut feature), investing it with an attention to detail and a range of reference rare in Korean cinema. The film did disappointing business on its release but quickly became a cult phenomenon: its fans launched an independent website and began showing up en masse at screenings, sometimes in costume.

Far from being unsure where it is going, *Save the Green Planet!* is a complex but entirely coherent lament for the fate of Jang's generation, born and raised in a Korea run like a military dictatorship in which violence was institutionalised in schools and borstals, in which political opposition and labour activism were crushed with extreme prejudice and in which civilians were slaughtered on the streets of Kwangju in a Korean anticipation of China's Tiananmen Square massacre. The most brilliant of Jang's many smart ideas is to frame this lament as a dark comedy. It takes its tone, colour and basic narrative drive from the Hollywood/Hong Kong action-adventures the protagonist remembers so fondly from his childhood – it even ends with a tacky apocalyptic fantasy straight out of his dying dreams – but it is not itself a conventional genre movie.

The film pulls off an extraordinary, Hitchcockian feat in seeking and maintaining empathy with a protagonist who turns out to be seriously damaged. Lee Byung Gu is introduced as a harmless fantasist, projecting alien conspiracy theories on to the hated figure of an immoral captain of industry. But when he kidnaps and tortures the man, this bumbling social inadequate is gradually shown to be a crystal-meth-fuelled serial killer who feeds corpses to his pet dog and keeps severed parts of his victims in specimen jars. A climactic montage reveals the lifetime of physical abuse that has made him the man he is, and incidentally shows that his first girlfriend was mown down in the Kwangju massacre. The character is less a Korean Norman Bates than a cipher for the real-life horrors his generation lived through.

Tony Rayns, *Sight and Sound*, May 2005

Jung Jae-jin (*Noah*)  
Oh Nami (*Noah's wife*)  
Lee Hyeon-ah (*Noah's daughter-in-law*)  
Kim Jung-kwu (*Noah's son*)  
Park Sung-ming (*Adam*)  
Mina (*Eve*)  
Ah Min-jung (*girl on bus*)  
South Korea 2003  
118 mins  
Digital 4K (restoration)

**Contains scenes of graphic violence, implied domestic abuse and disturbing archive footage**

Restored in 4K in 2018 by the  
Korean Film Archive (KOFA)

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### **New Korean Cinema**

**Nowhere to Hide** Injeongsajeong bol geot eoupda  
Mon 28 Oct 20:25 (+ intro by season programmer  
Goran Topalovic); Sat 16 Nov 15:00

**Save the Green Planet!** Jigureul jikyeora!  
Wed 30 Oct 17:50 (+ Q&A with director  
Jang Joon-hwan); Sat 30 Nov 20:30

**Shiri** Swiri  
Sat 2 Nov 17:50; Sat 16 Nov 20:30

**Joint Security Area**  
Gongdonggyeongbiguyeok JSA  
Thu 7 Nov 20:50; Sat 23 Nov 18:20

**The Contact** Jeobsog  
Fri 8 Nov 20:30; Sun 17 Nov 18:30

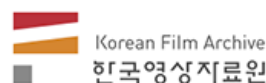
**Take Care of My Cat** Goyangyirul butakhae  
Thu 14 Nov 20:30 (+ extended intro by writer E.oni);  
Sun 24 Nov 18:20

**Waikiki Brothers** Waikiki buradeouseu  
Fri 15 Nov 20:45; Fri 29 Nov 18:00

### **In partnership with**

Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) and  
Korean Film Council. Special thanks to Eunji Lee.

This landmark season was prepared in  
collaboration with the Korean Film Archive (KOFA),  
which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.  
Featured in the programme are 12 digital  
restorations and 5 digital remasters supervised by  
KOFA, as well as unique 35mm prints from its  
archival collection.



### **A unique perspective on extraterrestrials**

Utilising the imagination of science-fiction, this is a film that critiques society. In Hollywood films or Western society aliens usually just provide entertainment value. However, the aliens in director Jang Joon-hwan's film speak to modern reality. This is not a film about the future; it may be described as an 'analogue' science-fiction comedy set in the present. Completely new subjects, unpredictable characters... the director set to shake up the 21st century says: Is it aliens from a distant planet trying to destroy the planet? Or is it just us?

### **Freshly imagined comedy meets suspense!**

This film's originality stems from the freedom of an imagination that criss-crosses fiction and reality. When animation-like fantasy meets well-drawn drama, intriguing emotions are the result. One moment incites a guffaw, the next a tear. Suddenly you are plunged into terror, but then you empathise with the character's sadness. Recalling Charlie Chaplin in films, laughs are not produced by one-liners, but by the suspenseful comedy itself.

### **Not a superhero, just an average man**

Our main character Byung Gu is completely unlike any superhero. But he is still a hero. He does not process Superman's cloak or Spiderman's webs: all he has is a blind belief of mankind. And actually, outside of the movies, it is the job of ordinary people to keep peace on earth.

### **The ordinary is just a cover for the exceptional**

Hollywood-style science-fiction excels in showing off future worlds and virtual spaces created with the most advanced computer graphics. This science fiction film's stylistic signature however, may be its emphasis on drama and emotional pitch.

A visual marker for the film's unique imagination can be found in the Earth Defence Headquarters. From the outside, the home is like many a traditional home that can be found in the countryside of Korea. On the inside however, it is a fantastical mission control centre. Furthermore, through the use of suspenseful editing, inventive visuals and unusual sounds (à la Jean-Pierre Jeunet), the film delivers a peculiar brand of entertainment fantasy.

Original production notes