

Tribute to Producer Park Keon-seop

NAMBUGUN, Directed by Chung Ji-young, Written by Jang Sun-woo & Tae Lee, Produced by Park Keon-seop With Sung-kee Ahn, Lee Hye-young Lee, Choi Jin-shil, Choi Min-soo.
South Korea 1990 – War Drama – 159mn

Nambugun was one of these movies you discover thanks to DVD. Produced in South Korea in 1990 – when I first saw the DVD at the Video Store I was intrigued by the Title. When I screened it, I was ecstatic by my discovery. *Nambugun* (North Korean Partisans) is one of the best war movies from South Korea or otherwise. The Story takes you on the other side of the Korean War, to the Communist point of view. A reporter from North Korea Tae Lee is ordered to join the North Korean Forces. Later these North Koreans left behind (and let down by the Chinese & North Korean Armies) became Partisans – gathered on Mount Jiri in South Korea where they will encounter a tragic end.

The story takes place in the aftermath of General McArthur Forces (US and UN Forces combined) invading Korea at Inchon. The film chronicles Tae Lee's painful journey with the Partisans. Through this journey we discover the reasons for these Partisans to fight until their tragic end.

Very realistic without taking any side it shows the futility of war and the passion for an ideology at any cost.

Producer Park Keon-seop

Park Keon-seop, is a major personality in the South Korean Film Industry - and a major force behind the resurgence of the South Korean Film Production worldwide during the 2000's. A self made man, Park ran the Film Department at The French Cultural Center in Seoul for 20 years where not only he programmed the films but also moderated them.

His first Feature was Kwang-su Park's **Berlin Report**, then came Chung Ji-young's **Nambugun**, which is being screened as a Tribute to him at MCFE. He has produced some 26 Features from **The Eternal Empire** (1994), to **The Petal** (1996), **The Ginko Bed** and the world wide sensation **My Sassy Girl** (2001) that Hollywood made a remake of in 2008 – to the groundbreaking and controversial **The Lie** (1999) which made the rounds of every major Festival – from Venice to London.

In 2006 he started teaching Film Producing at Dong Seo University in the city of Pusan, South Korea. He brought his amazing experience of 30 years in the Industry to the future Filmmakers of South Korea and other part of the World. In 2008 Dong Seo University launched the Im Kwon-taek College of Film and Performing Arts where he became the first Dean.

His philosophy is Films are not only a mean of entertainment, but a record of history.