

# Mother (Tentative Title)

## BONG Joon-ho



Genre: Crime Drama  
Format: 35mm  
Estimated Running Time: 100 min.

Budget:  
US\$5,000,000  
(HK\$39,000,000)

Producers:  
CHOI Jae-won  
SEO Woo-sik

Writing Credits:  
BONG Joon-ho (screenplay)  
PARK Eun-kyo (screenplay)

Production Company:  
Barunson Film Division

HAF Goals:  
Co-producers, Funds

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## INTRODUCTION

When the record-breaking Korean box office hit *The Host* was selected for Directors' Fortnight in Cannes in 2006, it encouraged director Bong Joon-ho to push the boundaries of Korean cinema even further. In his hard-hitting new crime drama, *Mother*, the lead character is not a detective but a devoted and determined mother. When her son is accused of a horrible murder in their neighborhood, her maternal instinct forces her to conduct her own investigation, one that will uncover dangerous secrets as she unravels the mysterious truth.

## SYNOPSIS

Widowed for a long time, a mother lives alone with her only son. He is 28 years old, a shy and quiet young man.

One day there is a terrible murder, and the woman's hopeless, helpless son becomes the prime suspect. There is no real evidence against him, but the police groundlessly suspect him almost instantly. The trouble is that there is no way he can prove his innocence.

Eager to close the case, the police are happy with their cursory investigation and they arrest the boy. His defense attorney turns out to be incompetent and unreliable and a conviction seems inevitable. So, faced with no other choice, his mother gets involved, determined to prove her son's innocence.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I want to make the saddest yet most beautiful crime drama ever. At the center of this story is a small and weak mother who stands alone, a woman who gazes in a vague direction with obsessive eyes, a woman so determined that she can't even stop herself. As she drags up and cracks open the dark, damp secrets, one by one, slowly the sadness and the beauty of her story will come to light.

## DIRECTOR

Bong Joon-ho was born in Seoul in 1969. He studied Sociology at Yonsei University and went on to study filmmaking at the Korean Academy of Film Arts. After winning praises for his short *Incoherence* (1995), he made his feature debut with *Barking Dogs Never Bite* (2000), which created a stir in the Korean film industry. The film won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2001. In 2003, he directed *Memories of Murder* based on the true story of Korea's first serial killer, and it was a massive hit, attracting more than 5 million viewers in Korea alone. The film brings a number of international awards for Bong, including Silver Shell for Best Director, Best New Director and the FIPRESCI Prize at the Spain's San Sebastian International Film Festival and Asian Film Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival. In 2006, he broke the Korean box-office record with *The Host*, which had more than 13 million admissions. The film was also

selected for Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival 2006. The film won four awards including Best Film at the Asian Film Awards 2007. He is one of the rare talents in the Korean film industry who has enjoyed tremendous commercial and critical success.

### PRODUCERS

**Choi Jae-won** studied at Korea University and founded I Pictures Co., Ltd., a film investment company, in 2000. Choi has financed globally-acclaimed films such as *A Tale of Two Sisters* (2003) by Kim Jee-woon; *Memories of Murder* (2003) by Bong Joon-ho; *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring* (2003) by Kim Ki-duk; *Chihwaseon* (2002), *Volcano High* (2001), *My Beautiful Girl, Mari* (2002) and *Take Care of My Cat* (2001), to name a few.

In 2005, Choi joined Barunson Co., Ltd. to serve as CEO of its newly-launched Film Division. He has also served as producer on Yim Phil-sung's *Hansel & Gretel* (2007) and Kim Jee-woon's *The Good, the Bad, the Weird* (HAF 2007 Project).

**Seo Woo-sik** studied Theater and Film at Chung-Ang University. He served as CEO of Free Cinema and is now in charge of production at Barunson Film Division as Production Executive.

### PRODUCTION COMPANY

Barunson Film Division was launched by Barunson Co., Ltd. as its film production outfit in 2005. It soon merged with I Pictures, one of the most active film investment companies in South Korea.

Barunson is currently working on the new projects from two of Korea's most acclaimed directors: Kim Jee-woon's *The Good, the Bad, the Weird* (HAF 2007 Project), which has just finished shooting in China and Korea and is currently in post-production and set to be released in summer, 2008; and *Mother* (tentative title) by Bong Joon-ho, director of *The Host*, which is scheduled to start shooting in autumn, 2008.

The Company has also produced *Hansel & Gretel* (2007), a fantasy thriller based on the world-famous fairy tale of the same title, directed by Yim Phil-sung (*Antarctic Journal*, 2005). Barunson aims to develop, produce, and finance about 5 films a year, making it one of the most prolific film production companies in Korea, producing high quality films capable of entertaining audiences around the world.