

# Thirst

## PARK Chan-wook



Genre: Drama  
Format: 35mm  
Estimated Running Time: 120 min.

Budget:  
TBC

Producers:  
PARK Chan-wook  
AHN Soo-hyun

Writing Credits:  
PARK Chan-wook (screenplay)  
CHUNG Seo-kyung (screenplay)

Production Company:  
Moho Film

Partner Attached:  
CJ Entertainment, South Korea

HAF Goals:  
Pre-sales, Funds

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## INTRODUCTION

Internationally acclaimed Korean director Park Chan-wook has been exploring various human vices in his works, and this year with HAF, he will make a film about the most extreme kind of forbidden passion. Sang-hyun, a beloved pastor who devotes himself to his work at a local hospital, has a secret crush on his friend's wife. When he becomes infected with the F.I.V. virus, he dies a horrible death, and comes back to life as a vampire. His newfound supernatural powers free him to pursue his repressed desires, and he finds himself in the middle of a truly dangerous liaison.

## SYNOPSIS

Sang-hyun is a priest who volunteers his time conducting his ministry to patients in a small town hospital. Although well respected for his strong faith and dedicated service to those around him, he suffers from overwhelming feelings of doubt and despair about living in a world that seems to be drowning in suffering and death. With the hope of saving even one life, he volunteers to participate in an experiment to find a vaccine for the deadly F.I.V. virus and heads to Africa. But the experiment fails, and Sang-hyun is infected with the fatal disease. Surprisingly, however, he recovers completely. News of his miraculous recovery spreads quickly, and devoted parishioners, thinking that he has the gift of healing, flock to his services. Among the visitors are Kang-woo, Sang-hyun's childhood friend, and his family. Later, Kang-woo invites Sang-hyun to join the weekly mahjong night at his house, and there Sang-hyun finds himself dangerously drawn to Kang-woo's wife, Tae-ju.

Suddenly, Sang-hyun relapses. He coughs up blood and dies, only to open his eyes the next day in dire need of shelter from the scorching sunlight: Sang-hyun has become a vampire. Initially he feels a new vitality and is excited by his urgent bodily desires, but soon he is disgusted to find himself sucking blood from a comatose patient. After a sinful suicide attempt, he finds himself drawn almost against his will to human blood, and the symptoms of F.I.V come roaring back. Desperately trying to avoid committing murder, he resorts to stealing blood transfusion packs from the hospital.

Living with her sick husband and his over-protective mother, Tae-ju leads a dreary, unhappy life. She is drawn to Sang-hyun and his strange new physicality, and he is unable to resist his desire. So they begin an affair. But when Tae-ju discovers the truth about his new life, she retreats in fear, only at first. When Sang-hyun asks her to run away with him, she turns him down, suggesting that they kill Kang-woo instead.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film was originally called "The Bat" to convey a sense of horror - after all, it is about vampires. But it is also more than that. It is about passion and a love triangle. I feel that it is unique because it is not just a thriller, and not merely a horror film, but an illicit love story as well.

### DIRECTOR

Park Chan-wook was born in Seoul in 1963, and is one of the most significant talents of new Korean cinema. The film that changed his life was Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, which he saw in college, and which served as the genesis of his cinema of cruelty and suffering. He studied philosophy at Sogang University, where he founded a film club and developed a strong interest in film theory and criticism. He became Kwak Jae-young's first assistant director, and in 1992, he made his feature film debut *Moon is the Sun's Dream*.

He directed *Trio* in 1997. The film came to the attention of the production company Myung Films, which offered Park the job of adapting Park Sang-yun's novel *DMZ*. This was how the political thriller *JSA - Joint Security Area* (2000) was born. The film was a huge success both in Korea and the overseas, gaining numerous awards including the Best Film at 2001 Deauville Asian Film Festival. Thereafter, he made *Sympathy For Mr. Vengeance* (2002). The film is about the class conflict in Korea and it divided the Korean public because of its extreme style, but became a cult classic at home and abroad, and a favorite on the international film festival circuit.

In 2003, Park directed *Oldboy*, which based on the comic of the same name written by Garon Tsuchiya and drawn by Nobuaki Minegishi. Park focused on the idea of vengeance as an outlet for repressed rage at social inequality in Korea. In 2004, *Oldboy* won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. The film also won the Audience Award at the Stockholm International Film Festival in 2004, Best Asian Film at the 24th Hong Kong Film Awards and Best Director at the Bangkok International Film Festival in 2005. Subsequently, Park co-directed the film *Cut*, the Korean segment of *Three...Extremes* (2004), which was invited to the Venice Film Festival. In 2005, *Sympathy for Lady Vengeance* won the Cinema Avvenire and Il Leoncino d'Oro Awards at the Venice Film Festival, and it brought to a close of Park's "vengeance trilogy." He directed *I'm a Cyborg, but that's OK* (2007) which won the Alfred Bauer Prize at the 57th Berlin International Film Festival, and the film was selected as the opening film for the 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival.

### PRODUCERS

**Park Chan-wook** (see above)

**Ahn Soo-hyun** was born in Seoul in 1970. She graduated from Sung Kyun Kwan University in 1994 with a major in History and joined the production company, Shin Cine,

immediately thereafter, handling *The Fox with Nine Tails* (1994) and *Wedding Story 2* (1994) as a marketer. While majoring in Media Studies at the New School in New York City, she took part in *The Cut Runs Deep* (1998) as a production coordinator. In 2000, she was a production manager on the Hur Jin-ho film *One Fine Spring Day* (2001/ HAF 2000 Project), and her first film as a producer was *The Uninvited* (2003) by Lee Soo-youn. She is also the producer of *Cut*, the Korean segment of *Three...Extremes* (2004), which was directed by Park Chan-wook. Her recent credits as producer include *You Are My Sunshine* (2005) and *Voice of a Murderer* (2007), both directed by Park Jin-pyo.

### PRODUCTION COMPANY

Moho Film was founded by Park Chan-wook. It has produced *Sympathy for Lady Vengeance* (2005) as well as *I'm a Cyborg, but that's OK* (2007). It is also producing *Hong-Dang-Mu*, a comedy directed by the first time director Lee Kyung-mi, to be released later in 2008.