

RYOO Seung-wan



Genre: Action
 Format: 35mm
 Estimated Running Time: 90 min.

Budget:
 US\$3,000,000
 (HK\$23,279,400)

Producers:
 KANG Hyeo-jeong
 KIM Kyungmi

Writing Credits:
 RYOO Seung-wan

Production Company:
 Filmmaker R&K Co., Ltd.

HAF Goals:
 Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

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INTRODUCTION

Director/writer/actor RYOO Seung-wan is a leading director of action films, and one of the leading directors in contemporary Korean cinema. *I Enforce* is his seventh feature and it combines elements from his two previous festival hits: the human drama of *Crying Fist* (2005) and the explosive raw action of *City of Violence* (2006). *I Enforce* follows stuntman Sae-hwang who, when faced with personal tragedy, loses his faith in social institutions, and takes the law into his own hands. With *I Enforce*, Director RYOO will explore the themes of revenge, forgiveness, and redemption while pushing the limits of Asian action cinema.

SYNOPSIS

A Russian deep-sea fishing vessel is on the high-seas. On the ship's deck, bushy-bearded Sae-hwang is working. Later, on his break, he eats a stone-cold sandwich, while looking at the pictures of his younger teenage sister Seri, on his digital camera.

A flashback takes us to a closed factory where Sae-hwang is fighting a group of armed men. It all looks very dangerous, and as he falls down..."Cut!" is heard from the director, and we learn that Sae-hwang works as a stuntman on movie set. At home, Seri is taking care of Sae-hwang's injuries. She's his only family and she means a world to him.

Sae-hwang's birthday is also the anniversary of his parents' death. That morning, Seri needs to prepare food for the memorial service, so she gives Sae-hwang a hard time that she has to do all the work. He intends to come home early to help his sister, however, a stunt goes terribly wrong and Sae-hwang wakes up in a hospital the next day where the police are waiting to tell him that his sister is dead. As he rushes off to the scene of the crime, he learns that Seri was raped and died of a drug overdose.

After her funeral, Sae-hwang swings between depression and rage, full of sorrow for the loss of his sister and full of anger at those responsible. The police investigation, led by Officers Cha and Oh, is going nowhere, and Sae-hwang decides to investigate on his own.

The trail leads to Gary who turns out to be an undercover Interpol agent – he is acting as a middle man who supplies young girls to a big crime syndicate that's involved in prostitution and drug trafficking. Sae-hwang searches Gary's laptop and finds video footage identifying a smooth, upstanding citizen, named Ha Joong-do, as the man who raped his sister, along with some Russian gangsters. Sae-hwang asks Ha to apologize to his sister, before he kills him.

Meanwhile, Detective Oh learns from Internal Affairs that Detective Cha is a dirty cop, and has been sabotaging their investigation from the beginning. After confronting Cha, Oh is injured but still informs Sae-hwang of Cha's involvement with the crime gang. Sae-hwang arrives at an abandoned hospital, where the girls are held captive, before being forced into prostitution.

He enters after an intense shoot-out, Sae-hwang kills all of the Russian fighters and has a final showdown with Detective Cha. It all ends with the entire hospital exploding, and Sae-hwang walking away.

At a Russian bar, Sae-hwang is writing a letter to action director Hyeong-Guk: "My new life in Russia is pretty good. I have a decent job, make good money and I have a nice girlfriend. Many people like me here."

Knife in his hand, he disappears into the crowd of Russian men fighting. The camera zooms on the bar table, where Sae-hwang was sitting, to show words that were carved by his knife: "I enforce." The screams of Russian men are heard...

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This movie will be a very violent action movie, but it will also be filled with sadness. The emotional element will be the driving force behind the action. The protagonist is driven by a need for revenge that's beyond his control, and even though he is plagued by feelings of guilt he continues on his self-destructive path of violence. *I Enforce* is a raw and emotional action film based on the crime stories we all read every day in the paper.

Sae-hwang could be any of us. Are you sure that you're protected by laws social order? Are you sure that this peace around you is real? Are you sure that you wouldn't become a monster if the world suddenly turned against you? Through *I Enforce*, not only do I want to answer these questions, but I also want to give the audience an action movie that gets their adrenaline pumping.

DIRECTOR

RYOO Seung-wan was born in 1973 and has become one of the leading figures of the new generation of Korean filmmakers. His first feature, *Die Bad*, is considered one of the most impressive debuts in the recent history of Korean cinema and is currently planned for an English-language remake by Vertigo Entertainment. RYOO's successive films have achieved both critical and commercial success at home and abroad. *Dachimawa Lee* (2008) was an official selection of the Sitges Film Festival; *City of Violence* (2006) had its international premiere at the Venice International Film Festival; *Crying Fist* (2005) played at Cannes, in the *Quinzaine des réalisateurs* section, where it won the FIRPESCI Prize.

PRODUCER

KANG Hye-jeong was born in 1970 and produced *City of Violence* and *Dachimawa Lee* with RYOO Seung-wan. Her current production development work includes Korean-language action thrillers *I Enforce* and *Joker Fellow*, and English-language action project *Kung Fu Family*, a Korea-U.S. co-production. Before founding Filmmaker R&K Co., KANG has spent ten years doing publicity, marketing and creative development for Cinema Service, Cine 2000 and FNH, working on films *Last Present*, *Kick the Moon* and *Funny Movie*.

KIM Kyungmi is a U.S.-based Associate Producer for Filmmaker R&K Co., with a focus on developing and producing domestic and international projects of director RYOO Seung-Wan. KIM has 9 years of combined experience in journalism, publicity, marketing, international sales, film financing, production and production supervising. She worked on *Marrying the Mafia*, *Hearty Paws*, *Two Faces of My Girl Friend*, *The Butcher*, and *The Producers* (Universal). Prior to joining Filmmaker R&K Co. in 2008, KIM was with Fine Works Co. Ltd., and Taewon Entertainment.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Filmmaker R&K Co. was founded in 2005 by KANG Hye-jeong and RYOO Seung-wan. In 2006 they produced *City of Violence* which was a commercial and critical success. In 2008 they produced *Dachimawa Lee*, an homage to Korean action films of the 60's and 70's. In 2009, Filmmaker R&K Co. is focusing on genre action films with *I Enforce* and *Jokerfellow*, and is working on developing *Kung Fu Family*, with an American production partner, slated for 2010.