

The Murderer

South Korea

NA Hong-jin



Genre: Thriller
Format: 35mm
Estimated Running Time: 100 min.

Budget:
TBC

Funds Secured:
TBC

Producers:
HAN Sung-goo

Writing Credits:
NA Hong-jin

Production Company:
Popcorn Film Inc.

Partner Attached:
Showbox / Mediaplex, Inc.
IM Pictures Corp.

HAF Goals:
Funds

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INTRODUCTION

This movie could be the story of any one of the 390,000 Yanbian Koreans living in South Korea right now. It could also be the story of how cheap it is to kill a person, and how little a human life is worth. At the same time, it could be a story about love betrayed, and the pure hatred generated by such an act.

SYNOPSIS

On the Chinese side of the China-Russia-North Korea border, there is a region called Yanbian, Korean Autonomous Prefecture. This film tells the story of a man from this region, who embarks on an assassination mission to South Korea in order to pay off his mounting debts. He is only given \$500 in advance and takes the job without knowing much about his target. However, before long a series of conspiracies and betrayals bring him to the realization that he has been tricked into entering a dangerous trap.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The year before last, I saw a foreign kid in the corner of a small restaurant, eating alone. He looked like he was about ten years old and he wore a very dirty outfit, seemingly from a construction site, and he was eating what I thought was curry. He was there without his parents. The owner of the restaurant told me that the boy comes to his restaurant for every single meal. For some reason the lack of expression on his face while he spooned up his food stuck in my mind.

DIRECTOR

Born in 1974 in Seoul, NA Hong-jin graduated from Han Yang University and studied filmmaking at the Korean National University of Arts. He made a number of short films including *A Perfect Red Snapper Dish* (2005) and *Sweat* (2007), which earned him many awards from both national and international film festivals.

In 2008, he made his feature film debut, the story of an ex-cop chasing a serial killer called *The Chaser*. The film broke box office records in South Korea, with over 3 million admissions in just the first 20 days of its run. The final box office tally recorded over 5 million. The film won many domestic major awards for Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Actor. After it was invited to the Cannes Film Festival in the Out of Competition section, Warner Bros. obtained the remake rights for the US.

PRODUCER

HAN Sung-goo graduated from Utah State University with a major in economics. He joined LG Advertisement Company working as an AE and he later entered the film industry. After building his portfolio as a producer on several films, he established Popcorn Film Inc. He maintains close ties with many management companies, giving him access to a wide range of talents.

He has a great reputation among the major investment/distribution companies for providing a good production environment. He became the CEO of Popcorn Film Inc. in 2006.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Popcorn Film Inc. is best known for a number of hit movies including *Running Wild* (2006) and *Almost Love* (2006). Starting in 2005, they began to invest in films like *Arang* (2006) and *BA:BO* (2008). The company has since launched a management division. Moreover, Popcorn Film has expanded to TV dramas with the debut of the much-loved *Stranger than Heaven* (2006). Currently the company is developing Director NA Hong-jin's next film *The Murderer*.