

# Exit to Exist

South Korea

## JEON Yun-su



Genre: Drama  
Format: 35mm  
Estimated Running Time: 110 min.

Budget:  
US\$ 5,000,000 (HK\$ 39,000,000)  
Funds Secured:  
US\$ 4,000,000 (HK\$ 31,200,000)

Producer:  
Peter CHU

Writing Credits:  
JEON Yun-su  
Peter CHU

Production Companies:  
Jupiter Film, Sidus FNH

HAF Goals:  
Funds, Pre-sales

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## INTRODUCTION

Best-selling novel, *Shoot Me in the Heart*, has sold over 100,000 copies in its first month of publication, receiving outstanding support from Korea's leading authors and the judges at the 5<sup>th</sup> Segye Literary Awards. It was praised for its elaborate structure, the vigorous characters who seemed to breathe on the page, and its humor and realism based on much detailed research and observation. But most of all, it was acclaimed because it was a powerful story.

Director JEON Yun-su plans to turn this popular novel into a film adaptation, saying, "I want to make a touching human drama that can bring hope to the tough and depressing times of today." The film is focused on two men trapped in a mental hospital, and it will follow their courageous journey all the way to the end. *Exit to Exist* sends a message that we are all owners of our own lives and it gives true consolation, courage and encouragement to young people living in the world today.

## SYNOPSIS

"There are two types of people in a mental hospital: those who are locked up because they are crazy and those who are going crazy because they are locked up. I'm the first type. Seung-min is the second type. I was trying to escape from my life. Seung-min was trying to face his, dead on. We were like aliens from two different planets. Other than the fact that we were both 25 years old, we had nothing in common. The possibility of our lives crossing paths was practically zero. If something didn't drag us to the same spot at the same time on that cruel, ill-fated day, we would never have met. So I guess you could call this testimony on destiny." - Soo-myung.

LEE Soo-myung is a long-time survivor of schizophrenia who's been in and out of psychiatric hospitals for six years. Paragliding pilot, RYU Seung-min, is a different story, having been committed by a panel of "experts," a casualty of a battle over his family's inheritance. With nothing in common other than the fact that they are both 25 years old, destiny brings the two men together at a remote mental hospital in Kangwon-do. The people around them are either patients who have come to the mental hospital for help with their various psychiatric problems or hospital personnel who think of the patients as a bunch of "crazy bastards." After each repeated attempt to escape, the patients receive electroconvulsive shock therapy (ECT) and become more and more devastated and weak. But on the 100th day since their arrival at the mental hospital, Seung-min and Soo-myung finally succeed in getting out. Now, the man who was locked up because he was crazy and the man who is going crazy because he was locked up have one last shot at returning to the world.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There are two types of people in a mental hospital: those who are locked up because they are crazy and those who are going crazy because they are locked up. *Exit to Exist* is about two men who were exiled from the world and are fighting to return to it. This is a film about a journey undertaken by two 25-year-old men fighting ferociously and heroically against their own destinies.

I hope Soo-myung and Seung-min's escape from the mental hospital will give hope and encouragement to people who have lost faith in the world today. For those young people who stand boldly against the fate that is handed to them, I hope this film will be an emotional and heartfelt song of cheer. I dedicate this film to Seung-min who should be flying in the sky even at this moment and Soo-myung, a man who requires a remarkable amount of courage just to live his life every day.

## DIRECTOR

Born in Seoul in 1971, director JEON Yun-su graduated from Joong-Ang University with a major in film studies. His graduation short film, *Goodbye New-School Seoul*, won several awards at the 10<sup>th</sup> Korean Original Short Film Festival. His next short film, *Nothing Special Happened*, caused a stir within the industry with its take on how people so quickly forget what seems to be a major tragedy. He worked as an assistant director on *The Gingko Bed* and *Shiri* under the direction of KANG Jae-gyu. His first feature film, *Le Grand Chef*, was adapted from a popular comic book series and became a huge hit. His most recent film *Portrait of a Beauty*, in which he depicted the legendary painter SHIN Yun-bok as a cross-dresser, was also a box office success.

## PRODUCER

Peter ZHU is a veteran film marketer and producer who has worked on over 200 films including *My Sassy Girl*, *Friend* and *The Lord of the Rings* as a marketing chief at Film Room. He made his producing debut with the provocative

*My Wife Got Married* (2008), a controversial film that was a much-talked-about sensation and which drew almost two million admissions at the box office. It also won Best Actress at the Blue Dragon Film Awards for its star SOHN Ye-jin. ZHU is currently producing *Exit to Exist*, the film adaptation of a bestseller novel that won the 5<sup>th</sup> Segye Literary Awards.

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Founded in 2008, Jupiter Film made a strong debut with *My Wife Got Married*, a controversial box office sensation. Its founder and CEO, Peter ZHU, aims to produce timely films that capture the current trends while remaining relevant to future audiences. In addition to *Exit to Exist*, the company is looking into many genres of novels and a variety of other content for its future productions.

Sidus FNH is a fully-integrated entertainment company and Korea's leading production house. Founded in 1995, its library contains more than 65 motion picture titles including the award-winning international hits *Memories of Murder*, *Volcano High*, *Il Mare*, *Save the Green Planet*, *A Moment to Remember*, *Rikidozan*, *Musa*, *A Dirty Carnival*, *Like a Virgin*, *Lump Sugar* and *Tazza: The High Rollers*. Sidus FNH is the film and media business arm of KT (Korea Telecom) Group-Korea's leader in the telecommunication, satellite, mobile, and IPTV business.