

Korean film labelled Hollywood's next big thing

KOREAN CINEMA: THE NEW HONG KONG

by Anthony C.Y. Leong ISBN 1-55395-461-0

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Anthony Leong's **KOREAN CINEMA: THE NEW HONG KONG** is a guidebook that explores this new and exciting treasure trove of cinema. South Korea is often likened to the new 'Hong Kong', with its film industry on the verge of exploding onto the world stage, similar to how the 'Hong Kong New Wave' catapulted the former British colony and its ground-breaking films into the international spotlight.

Since 1998, South Korea's local film industry has undergone a remarkable transformation. A new generation of Korean movie makers is revitalizing the industry with bold arthouse productions, big-budget actioners, thought-provoking dramas, and subversive satires.

KOREAN CINEMA: THE NEW HONG KONG is designed to bring all the sought-after information about Korean cinema into one convenient package," explains Leong. "I hope this book will help readers develop an appreciation for what is still a niche pop culture phenomenon, and help Korean cinema gain greater mainstream acceptance."

According to Leong, Korean films have become the 'next big thing' in Hollywood, and it won't be long before they crossover into the mainstream consciousness. Since late 2001, major studios have been trawling South Korea for films to be remade as Hollywood productions.

After becoming 'hopelessly hooked' on Korean cinema Leong was disappointed to learn that there were few information sources to tap in to about new film interest.

"I had to rely on a hodgepodge of different information sources, such as entertainment trade journals, foreign-language newspapers, or academic textbooks," recalls Leong. "I also examined a number of web sites and on-line discussion forums

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dedicated to Asian cinema or Korean film, but the information was either not very well written or lacked the scope I was looking for and so, I decided to write the first book on this emerging pop culture phenomenon.”

After perusing **KOREAN CINEMA: THE NEW HONG KONG**, readers will have an understanding of how the tumultuous history of South Korea and its home-grown film industry have helped shape the current revolution in Korean cinema; learn how the films of the latest ‘Korean New Wave’ share the same unique qualities that helped Hong Kong films gain international recognition during the late Eighties and Nineties; discover the ten must-see films of the latest ‘Korean New Wave’; find out which films are worth watching among the various genres; learn about the stars of the latest ‘Korean New Wave’ and also learn how to locate Korean films with English subtitles.

In addition to being a licensed pharmacist and management consultant, Anthony Leong has been a part-time film critic since 1997. Many of his over 750 film reviews and articles have appeared in books, magazines, and entertainment portals all around the world, as well as on his own entertainment web site, MediaCircus.net.

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