

SHADOW FLOWERS (109 MIN)



Logline

A North Korean woman struggles to go back to her family in Pyongyang, North Korea, but the political absurdity hinders her journey back to her loved ones.

Synopsis

Ryun-hee Kim, a North Korean housewife, was forced to come to South Korea and became its citizen against her will. She tried to smuggle herself out and even sought political asylum at the Vietnamese Embassy but all in vain. As her seven years of struggle to go back to her family in North Korea continues, the political absurdity hinders her journey back to her loved ones. The life of her family in the North goes on in emptiness, and she fears that she might become someone, like a shadow, who exists only in the fading memory of her family.

Director's Statement

Kim Ryun-hee is trapped between the South and the North. Following her struggle to go back to her family in the North, I realised that our understanding of the defectors was too simplistic. The journey of NK defectors cannot be a happy ending even though they arrive in the South. They are still drifting on the still-cold river of division, disconnected both to the North and the South. So I wanted to raise awareness about this absurdity that hinders a humanitarian desire to be together with her loved ones. Kim often thinks how wonderful it would be if all these things were available in the North. But a

tearful Kim says, "Freedom and material and other lures of any kind, they are not as important to me as my family and my home."

Director's recent filmography: Seung-jun YI

<PLANET OF SNAIL> (88min / 2011)

Award

Best Feature-Length Documentary / *Int'l Documentary Festival Amsterdam 2011*

Best Feature Documentary / *It's All True Documentary Festival 2012, Sao Paul*

Best International Documentary / *Docaviv Documentary Festival 2012, Israel*

Best International Documentary / *DocumentaMadrid 2012*

High Commendation Award / *Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2012*

Golden Frog Award /

The Int'l Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography Plus Camerimage 2012

Audience Award, UNICEF Special Award / *EBS Int'l Documentary Festival 2010, Korea*

Nomination

Best Documentary Feature Film / *Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2012*

The 2012 Cinema Eye Honours Awards, US

Muhr Asia-Africa Award / *Dubai International Film Festival 2012*

Best Documentary Feature / *Tribeca Film Festival 2012*

<IN THE ABSENCE> (29 min / 2018)

Award

Grand Jury Prize / *Shorts Competition, DOC NYC 2018*

Grand Jury Prize / *Short Films, AFI Docs 2019*

1st Prize for Digital Storytelling (Long Form), World Press Photo Award 2019

Audience Award, Indy Shorts International Film Festival 2019

Int'l Documentary Festival Amsterdam 2018 official selection

Nomination

Grand Jury Award, *Indy Shorts International Film Festival 2019*

Online Video of the Year, *World Press Photo Award 2019*

<CROSSING BEYOND> - the Official Olympic Film (102 min / 2018)

Busan Int'l Film Festival

Tokyo Int'l Film Festival,

Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

Sport, Literature and Movie Festival, Lyon 2019

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