

The Trip to Otaru

Production Staff Information



Career History

- "Merry Christmas Mr. Mo"
- 21st Busan International Film Festival, New Currents section (Awarded the NETPAC Award)
 - 41st Seoul Independent Film Festival, Official Competition (Awarded Passionate Staff Award)
 - 52th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
 - 22nd Vilnius International Film Festival
 - 19th Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival

Director

Lim Dae Hyeong

Director Lim Dae Hyeong **Producer** Park Doohee **Production Company** Film Run **Scenario Type** Original **Project Type** Live Action Film **Genre** Drama **Casting(Confirmed)** TBD **Format** Digital **Shooting Estimated to Begin** February 2018 **Total Budget(KRW)** 1,000,000,000 **Financing in Place** 200,000,000(2017 KOFIC Low Budget Film Supported) **Goals** Coproduction, Sales, Advance Sales, Casting, Investment, Distribution **Scenario Status** 2nd draft **Project Status** Casting in progress

Production Company

Name	Film Run
History	Produced "Merry Christmas Mr. Mo" (2016) Domestic distribution and overseas sales of 36 short films
Address	Kyeongho Building 508, Dasanro 47, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea
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Synopsis

One day, 19-year-old high schooler Saebom, returns home after taking college entrance exams to find a strange letter in the mailbox. The letter is from Otaru, Japan, and it is a heartfelt love letter addressed to her mother. The name of the person who sent this love letter to her mother is Hana Katase — a woman. Could it be that her mother's first love is a woman? Saebom returns the letter to the mailbox to hide that she has read it. What kind of person is her mother? Neither Dad, who has been divorced from Mom for 3 years, nor Uncle, Mom's only brother, seems to know her very well. Saebom feels like she can no longer stand the lack of communication with her mother, who is

perpetually tired and lives apathetically. She suggests that they go on a trip together. They'll go to Otaru, and meet her mother's first love. There, Saebom will meet her mother's true self. Saebom's mother Yoonhi is a 41-year-old working at the cafeteria of a large factory. Her day-to-day life is repetitive and meaningless. But her daily routines fall to pieces after she receives the letter from Otaru. Saebom's sudden pleas to go on a trip together also upset her. After much deliberation, Yoonhi decides to go to Otaru with her daughter. She'll go there and show Saebom who she is. She won't run from her destiny any longer.

Plan for Production

1. A film about traveling

I've taken a trip to Otaru, located in Hokkaido, Japan, during the winter. It was a romantic city. I thought that this was because of the snow falling in Otaru, which covered all streets and stores. Thanks to the snow, the kitschy and not-so-beautiful old buildings, and even the vending machines on the street looked romantic. Watching the snow fall over Otaru, I imagined that here, even a love that might be difficult to come true could come to fruit. "The

Trip to Otaru" began from this daydream. Japan is the most-visited country for Korean tourists traveling as a family. Even the political conflicts between Korea and Japan seem unable to stop these countless Korean travelers from visiting Japan. This is an undeniable fact. However, it is difficult to find Korean films that are set in Japan. Furthermore, films that take 'travel abroad' as its main motif are also hard to find. "The Trip to Otaru" will be a film that ordinary Korean travelers who have visited Japan have awaited.

2. LGBT Film

LGBT issues are currently a globally resonant topic. Many people are now mustering the courage to show who they are. But sexual minorities in Korea are still discriminated upon within a heterosexual-centric social system, and not allowed even the most basic dignities. Films featuring sexual minorities are slowly growing in number, but there is still a lack in quantity and quality. I wanted to see a film that strives to avoid objectifying an LGBT character; a film that depicts an LGBT character's struggle to prove their dignity to their family, friends, and society which do not recognize their existence. This was my motivation behind writing the story. This film shows a main character who struggles to regain her humanity. Despite living in a rigid, oppressive environment that takes away beauty from individuals, the main character attempts to recover a vivid and flexible life. I think this process of recovering

values and the social meaning of that process will become the reason for this film's existence. I sought to contribute to a better society for the future.

3. A film about a mother

At some point, I began to wonder who my mother was. I spent long periods of time with my mother prior to writing this story. Through that process, I got to know of many different sides of my mother, to which I was previously oblivious. I also learned of a secret that she had kept hidden for a long time. I was very shocked, and at the same time I had to reflect upon myself. Because I internalized the patriarchal social system in Korea, I had only seen my mother as an objectified, archetypical figure. Through this story, I wanted to show the mother I met. I hoped to depict a woman and an individual with a distinct personality of her own prior to her identity as mother.

Producer

Park Doohee

- "Merry Christmas Mr. Mo" (2016, Producer)
- "I Can Speak" (2017, Investment proceedings)
- "Glass Garden" (2017, Investment proceedings)
- "Collective Invention" (2015, Investment & Marketing)
- "Set me free" (2014, Investment & Marketing)
- "Sunny" (2011, Production Team)
- "No Mercy" (2009, Arts Team)

Screenwriter

Lim Dae Hyeong

Short Films

- "Lemon Time" (HD, 30 min, 2013, Screenwriter & Director)
- 2013 Indie Forum, "New Work" section
- 2013 Daegye Short Film Festival, Official Competition
- 2013 Daejeon Independent Film & Video Festival, Excellence Award
- "The World of IF" (HD, 22 min, 2014, Screenwriter & Director)
- 2014 Indie Forum New Work
- 2014 Mise-en-scene Short Film Festival, Short Film about Love section, Jury Prize
- 2014 Daejeon Independent Film Festival Opening Film
- 2014 Seoul Independent Film Festival, Excellence Award

Statement on Participation

"The Trip to Otaru" is not a project we seek to coproduce simply for the reason that the story is set in Otaru, Japan. This coproduction project was created to target the audience of Korean & Japanese low-budget auteur films.

Although it is said the Japanese film market is in decline, there are great auteur films being created there including those of renowned directors. However, it is hard to find art films by spirited new directors. This seems to be due to the fact that the target audience for low-budget art films is limited, and difficult to expand during this stagnant period.

The Korean film market is in a similar situation. Because of difficulty

in attracting investment for films that do not target a general audience, many films are produced as purely as commercial. From the point of the view of the investor, it is understandable: surely it is difficult to invest in a project that may not reach the breakeven point.

In both Korea and Japan, the domestic audience for art films are too small, and this has led to films that were not even able to cover production costs. By targeting art film audiences in both countries, we hope to create "The Trip to Otaru" as a low-budget auteur project that succeeds in the market as well.