



춘천, 춘천

Autumn, Autumn

Jang Woo-jin

Producer Jang Woo-jin, Kim Dae-hwan, Kim Dong-ho.
Production companies Bomnae Films (Chuncheon, Republic of Korea), Tiger Cinema (Seoul, Republic of Korea). **Written and directed by** Jang Woo-jin. **Director of photography** Jang Woo-jin. **Editor** Jang Woo-jin. **Music** Mo Seong-min. **Sound design** Jang Woo-jin. **Sound** Jang Woo-jin.

With Yang Heung-ju (Heung-ju), Lee Se-rang (Se-rang), Woo Ji-hyeon (Ji-hyeon).

Colour. 77 min. Korean.

Premiere October 8, 2016, Busan International Film Festival

World sales Wolf Cell

Ji-hyeon is on his way home after a job interview in Seoul. A man and a woman who don't appear to know each other so well sit down next to him on the train. The film first follows Ji-hyeon and then the couple. It doesn't tell their stories as much as it accompanies the characters for a section of their journey. They are all headed to Chuncheon, a popular tourist destination in northern South Korea. For the young Ji-hyeon, it's a place familiar to him from his childhood and adolescence, although he doesn't want to spend his future there. On the evening of his return, he already hears that he didn't get the job he'd been hoping for. The camera follows him, the two of them drifting together through a long, lonely night. The couple, who aren't yet really a couple and may never actually become one, are taking a trip down memory lane. They sit in a restaurant, telling each other about their past loves, feeling very close for a moment. The light constantly changes as they speak. Sometimes the sky clouds over and sometimes the sun comes out, illuminating their faces. *Autumn, Autumn* is a reflection on the essence of a place. What does it do to people? What different feelings does it evoke?

Anke Leweke

“We also grow up through the past”

The location of the film, the city of Chuncheon, is like a character in the film. Why did you choose this place? Do you have a personal relationship to Chuncheon?

Jang Woo-jin: Chuncheon is my hometown. I still have many childhood friends there. Among those born and raised in Chuncheon, there are those who stayed and raised their own families and others who left to study and went away for a long time. I am among the latter. For my first full-length film, I took a train to Chuncheon for the first time in a long time. As the train moved, so many old memories went past. When I was a child, I thought that Chuncheon was like an unmoving lake and I just wanted to escape. But when I visited after having stayed away for a long time, I felt something different; a feeling of warmth. Chuncheon was all so warm. A new meaning of hometown and space came to me.

The film is structured in two storylines. What was your starting point and how did the script develop that way?

When I came back to my hometown on the train, there was a suspicious-looking middle-aged couple. I could hear their conversation. I wanted to combine their story with that of a friend I had who wanted a job so that he could leave our hometown.

It seems that the characters of the film are searching for their identities by recalling their memories. What interested you in this reflection?

Many people, including me, are not free from past memories. And through that memory, people look at the present, and have regrets; but we also grow up through the past. Me too. I wanted the characters to see the present through the past. The past is buried in many places in Chuncheon, and I wanted to try to capture it.

Autumn, Autumn is produced by Kim Dae-hwan, who is also a director. How was the collaboration with him and what production conditions did you have?

I have been close friends with him since childhood. This is our first collaboration, for which we founded Bomnae Films. Because we know each other so well, he quickly understood what I wanted. Since he is also a director, he gave me exactly what I wanted. For Bomnae Films' second project, I will be the producer and Kim the director. We plan to work together again in the future.

The characters regret that some things are changing and become irrevocably past. Would you agree that the keynote of the film is a poetic melancholy?

I agree. In fact, I collected the stories and characters I experienced in Chuncheon, and I tried to put them together naturally into the film. I wanted to express this in a more poetic rather than an explanatory way.

Interview: Gabriela Seidel-Hollaender, January 2017



Jang Woo-jin was born in 1985 in Ulsan, South Korea. He graduated from the Hongik University School of Film, Video and Moving Image in Sejong in 2011. Afterwards he attended Dankook University in Yongin to study Directing at the Graduate School of Cinematic Content. In 2014, he completed his graduation project, the film *Sae-chul-bal*. *Autumn, Autumn* is his second film.

Films

2014: *Sae-chul-bal/A Fresh Start* (94 min.). 2016: *Autumn, Autumn*.