GOLDEN SLUMBER

PRESS KIT-

A FILM by NOH Dong-seok
FILM INFORMATION

ENGLISH TITLE | Golden Slumber
BASED ON | the novel “Golden Slumber” by Isaka Kotaro published by Shinchosha Publishing Co., Ltd.
GENRE | Thriller, Drama
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION | Republic of Korea
LANGUAGE | Korean
DIRECTOR | NOH Dong-seok
WRITER | CHO Ui-seok
CAST | GANG Dong-won, KIM Eui-sung, KIM Sung-kyun, KIM Dae-myeung, with HAN Hyo-joo, and YOON Kye-sang
PRESENTED BY | CJ Entertainment
PRODUCTION | Zip Cinema
WORLD SALES | CJ Entertainment
PROD. YEAR | 2017
RELEASE DATE | February 14, 2018
RUNNING TIME | 108 min
TECHNICAL INFO | 2.39:1 / Color / 5.1
PROLOGUE

Golden Slumbers

music and lyrics by: Paul McCartney and John Lennon
performed by The Beatles

Once there was a way to get back homeward
Once there was a way to get back home
Sleep pretty darling do not cry
And I will sing a lullaby
Golden slumbers fill your eyes
Smiles awake you when you rise
Sleep pretty darling do not cry
And I will sing a lullaby

When the Golden Slumbers ends,
I became a suspect!
FILM SYNOPSIS

A moment turned his world upside down

Gun-woo (GANG Dong-won) is an honest and hardworking courier who even won a Model Citizen Award for saving a singer from a robbery incident. Out of the blue, his old friend Moo-yeol comes to visit him at work. With just a short moment to enjoy the pleasant surprise, Gun-woo witnesses a bombing incident that kills a presidential candidate right before his eyes. Moo-yeol tells Gun-woo that he is responsible for the bombing and that everyone will come after him as it is the agency’s plan to make him the prime suspect.

Gun-woo manages to flee from the scene but all evidences, including security camera footages, witness testimonies and fingerprints point toward him as the suspect. He meets former secret agent Mr. Min (KIM Eui-sung), who is an old friend of Moo-yeol and he helps out clear his name. Gun-woo must fight with all his strength to stay alive. However, as he tries to run away, everyone around him is put into dangerous situations, including old friends Dong-kyu (KIM Dae-myeung), Geum-chul (KIM Sung-kyun) and Sun-young (HAN Hyo-joo).

The only way to face off the nation is to run off grid!
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

NOH Dong-seok

“*I hope this film inspires everyone to call up their old friends*”

As an acclaimed director, NOH Dong-seok received Special Jury Award from 2004 Busan Film Critics Association Awards for MY GENERATION. The film depicted of a group of youths who chased their dreams but could not overcome the barrier of reality. His second feature film, BOYS OF TOMORROW told the story of two youths living dire lives without any hope. It also won International Competition from 60th Festival del Film Locarno. GOLDEN SLUMBER marks his first mainstream feature. He combines his unique emotional warmth with a one-of-a-kind action thriller.

FILMOGRAPHY

2007  **BOYS OF TOMORROW** *(writer, director)*
      Festival del Film Locarno – Special Mention, International Competition

2006  **IF YOU WERE ME 3** *(co-director)*

2004  **MY GENERATION** *(writer, director, editor)*
      Busan Film Critics Association Awards – Special Jury Award
ABOUT THE FILM #1

Anyone can become a target, if he is worth exploiting!
A dramatic chase for a man who is instantly framed as an assassin

Gwanghwamun in the heart of Seoul is booming with civilians who go about their daily lives. When a bomb goes off, this busy area suddenly turns into a scene of chaos and panic. Blending emotional melody of the Beatles' Golden Slumbers and ferocious chase of a desperate man, GOLDEN SLUMBER's fun factor comes from the clash between these two opposite ends of an emotional roller coaster. Dangerous game of cat and mouse isn't the film's emotional core. The most important things to Gun-woo's life are friendships with his old friends, who learn a valuable lesson when Gun-woo becomes a prime suspect of a deadly bombing. Gun-woo too receives courage to resist and survive from the support of his friends even though everyone has turned their backs on him. Based on Isaka Kotaro's bestseller ‘Golden Slumber’, the stage has changed to Seoul, GOLDEN SLUMBER vows to exceed everyone's expectation to become a suspenseful yet heartwarming thriller.
ABOUT THE FILM #2

Renowned casting of GANG Dong-won, Kim Eui-sung, HAN Hyo-joo, KIM Sung-kyun, KIM Dae-myeung and YOON Kye-sang

GANG Dong-won who received a ton of rave reviews for his appearance in mega hit 1987: WHEN THE DAY COMES, at its core, some of the most notable actors of their generations have gathered in one place for GOLDEN SLUMBER. GANG Dong-won has been on an incredible streak in recent years by playing an elite detective in MASTER, a swindler in A VIOLENT PROSECUTOR, and a young exorcist in THE PRIESTS. Gun-woo in GOLDEN SLUMBER marks his most realistic character yet. He showed immense interest to the attractive character from the beginning and has participated in the development stage of the film which began 7 years ago. The cast was completed by bringing in top supporting actors to play his old friends: HAN Hyo-joo, KIM Sung-kyun, KIM Dae-myeung and YOON Kye-sang. All of them exhibited their own unique traits with a variety of occupations: Geum-chul is a regular computer repairman, Dong-kyu is a renowned divorce lawyer, Sun-young is a traffic reporter, while Moo-yeol is a secret government agent. Having veteran actor KIM Eui-sung on the set alongside GANG Dong-won enhanced this stunning ensemble cast. Having starred in blockbusters TRAIN TO BUSAN, THE KING and 1987: WHEN THE DAY COMES, KIM brings gravitas to the screen. GOLDEN SLUMBER is also KIM and GANG’s first on-screen partnership.
ABOUT THE FILM #3

First film to shoot in Gwanghwamun Square!
Reality-based action sequences that weave through all parts of Seoul

GOLDEN SLUMBER took on a huge challenge of filming on Sejong-ro street in Gwanghwamun, one of the most prestigious and central location in Seoul, and onto Hongje stream’s underground drainage system. The explosion scene in the beginning of the film was shot in Gwanghwamun for the first time in Korean cinema history. As it was difficult to receive permit for the shooting, the filmmakers of GOLDEN SLUMBER meticulously completed all shoot preparations, pre-visualizations and received the permit after 4 long months. With over 200 extras and 50 additional production assistants, about 450 people, 50 cars, 5 main cameras and 14 secondary cameras were used in the shoot to make the explosion scene as believable as possible.
ROARING CURRENTS, TUNNEL’s director of photography KIM Tae-sung and NEW WORLD, THE MERCILESS and THE OUTLAWS’ stunt coordinator HEO Myeong-haeng collaborated with director NOH to come up with unforgettable and realistic action sequences in GOLDEN SLUMBER.
ABOUT THE FILM #4

The Beatles' Golden Slumbers is remade by KANG Seung-yoon and LEE Hai
Music that brings back memory, SHIN Hae-chul's 'To You' and 'Be Strong'

Title of GOLDEN SLUMBER came from The Beatles' song with the same name, which was released in 1969 as part of Abbey Road album just prior to the disbandment of the band. Written by Paul McCartney, the song looks back on the friendship between the band members over the years. As it is also the name of Gun-woo's shop, the song plays a crucial part as the backdrop of Gun-woo's flashback, where he and his friends played the song together as high schoolers. WINNER's lead vocalist KANG Seung-yoon and LEE Hai used their soulful baritone voices and remade a new version of Golden Slumbers. Both versions of the song are used depending Gun-woo's emotional change as the film progresses.

If The Beatles' song represented Gun-woo's emotional state, SHIN Hae-chul's songs represent reflection of his friendship with his old band mates. While thinking about which songs were most sung by Korean rock bands, music supervisor KIM Tae-seong thought of 'To You.' The song 'To You' reminisces on heart-beating, energetic vibe and warm-hearted lyrics, which effectively shows one's cry for help and strength to never give up.
CHARACTERS & CAST #1

A courier framed for murder, Gun-woo

“Why me? Is it a crime to live a clean life?”

Ordinary in every way, Gun-woo tried to live his life with a strict ethics code to never cause harm to anyone. He can’t look away from someone getting hurt and believes good deed will bring change to the world. He saves teen idol Su-ah from a robbery incident and becomes famous nationwide. But out of nowhere, he becomes framed for killing a presidential candidate. From security camera footages, witness testimonies to fingerprints, evidences are stacked against him. With the whole world chasing after him, he must resist and survive in order to clear his name.

GANG Dong-won / His first approach as an ordinary courier!

As one of the most celebrated actors of his generation, GANG Dong-won is an actor to the highest degree. For that reason, he is the top casting choice for many top directors in Korean cinema, including YOON Jong-bin (KUNDO), JANG Hoon (SECRET REUNION) and LEE Myung-Se (M). He was most recently seen in civil unrest film 1987: WHEN THE DAY COMES (2017). “I thought the film effectively articulated a personal and falsely accused story that fit the modern society. I hope that the audience can relate to the protagonist and presume that such incidents can actually take place,” GANG said about his role in GOLDEN SLUMBER.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

AWARDS
2017 16th New York Asian Film Festival – Asian Star Award (VANISHING TIME)
2010 30th Korean Association of Film Critics – Best Actor Award (SECRET REUNION)
2005 26th Blue Dragon Awards – Popular Actor Award (DUELIST)
2005 41st Baeksang Arts Awards – Popular Actor Award (ROMANCE OF THEIR OWN)
2005 28th Golden Cinematography Awards – Popular Actor Award (ROMANCE OF THEIR OWN)
2004 7th Director’s Cut Awards – Best New Actor Award (TOO BEAUTIFUL TO LIE)
2004 3rd Korea Film Award – Best New Actor Award (ROMANCE OF THEIR OWN)
2004 24th Korean Association of Film Critics – Popular Actor Award (ROMANCE OF THEIR OWN)
CHARACTERS & CAST #2

Former special agent, Mr. Min

“Anyone can be a target, if they’re worth exploiting”

As a former intelligence agent himself, he knows how the agency operates and is able to stay one step ahead of them. He’s also the only person who can help Gun-woo out of his predicament. Despite being in a grave situation, Gun-woo’s naivety wins him over and teaches him how to survive.

CAST KIM Eui-sung | An actor who brings tension to the screen

From TRAIN TO BUSAN, THE KING and 1987: WHEN THE DAY COMES, veteran actor KIM Eui-sung always draws audiences’ attention whenever he comes to the screen. He plays former agent Mr. Min, who knows how to save Gun-woo from the same agency he used to work for. “I knew this film could embrace the audience with its story of how powerless citizen could fight off a large and dangerous government organization,” said actor KIM.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY


AWARDS

2017 53rd Baeksang Arts Awards – Best Supporting Actor Award (TRAIN TO BUSAN)
2016 MBC Drama Awards – Golden Acting Award (W)
2016 5th APAN StarAwards – Best Actor Award (W)
2016 25th Buil Film Awards – Best Supporting Actor Award (TRAIN TO BUSAN)
2016 3rd Korean Film Producers Association Awards – Best Supporting Actor Award (TRAIN TO BUSAN)
1997 20th Golden Cinematography Awards – Best New Actor Award (THE DAY A PIG FELL INTO A WELL)
CHARACTERS & CAST 3

Gun-woo’s friend in a conflicted situation, Geum-chul

“Are you saying my friend killed a man?”

As a high school student, Geum-chul was the band’s guitarist. As an adult, he’s a father of twin boys and works as a computer repairman. Due to his family’s financial downturn, he ponders whether to turn his own friend in for a reward.

KIM Sung-kyun | Actor without limits!

Although he built his career by playing ruthless villains, actor KIM Sung-kyun showed his soft and innocent side by playing a naïve college student in mega popular TV series REPLY 1994 and its sequel REPLY 1988. He also played a mentally handicapped son who must learn to become self-reliant in THE PREPARATION. In GOLDEN SLUMBER, he plays a meaty role as the protagonist’s trusted friend, who makes a difficult decision to give him up for his own financial gains. “He’s an actor with beautiful eyes. Because his eyes are so appealing, he was able to create the character of Geum-chul, who can convey so much to the audience without verbalization,” director NOH praised on KIM.

SELECTED FIMOGRAPHY

AWARDS
2016 1st tvN 10 Awards – Scene Stealer Award (REPLY 1988)
2014 7th Korea Drama Festival – Best Couple Award (REPLY 1994)
2012 20th Korean Culture Entertainment Awards – Best New Actor Award (NAMELESS GANGSTER: RULES OF THE TIME)
2012 13th Busan Film Critics Association Awards – Best New Actor Award (THE NEIGHBORS)
2012 32nd Korean Association of Film Critics – Best New Actor Award (THE NEIGHBORS)
2012 49th Grand Bell Awards – Best New Actor Award (THE NEIGHBORS)
2012 21st Buil Film Awards – Best New Actor Award (NAMELESS GANGSTER: RULES OF THE TIME)
2012 48th Baeksang Arts Awards – Best New Actor Award (NAMELESS GANGSTER: RULES OF THE TIME)
CHARACTERS & CAST 4

The best divorce lawyer in town, Jang Dong-kyu

“He loves people way too much, it’s all useless”

Dong-kyu was the drummer for the band. Even though he had the disadvantage of graduating from a third rate college, he studied hard to become a renowned divorce lawyer. He receives a call out of the blue and finds out that his friend is a wanted man. As time passes, more and more media outlets pinpoint him as the prime suspect and when the task force comes knocking at his office, he doesn’t know what to do.

CAST KIM Dae-myeung | An actor with multiple faces

Actor KIM Dae-myeung shocked the entire nation just with his voice of a terrorist in THE TERROR, LIVE (2013). After such memorable role, he went onto become a capable mid-level manager in INSIGNIFICANT LIFE and a spirited freedom fighter in THE LAST PRINCESS, and even a comedic role in THE SOUND OF YOUR HEART. He has tackled a variety of roles over the course of relatively short career thus far. In GOLDEN SLUMBER he plays an adorable divorce lawyer who can never give up on his friends. It's impossible to hate this character thanks in part by KIM’s irresistible performance. “I hope it becomes a precious film that brings back crucial memories to the audience,” he said of the film.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

AWARD
2015 8th Korea Drama Festival – Best Actor Award (INSIGNIFICANT LIFE)
CHARACTERS & CAST 5

Reporter of 3 min. Traffic Reporter, Jeon Sun-young

“Not an old friend, he’s still a friend”

Although she slowly drifted apart from her friends when she got married, she still has fondness for her old buds. It’s an utter shock when her friend Gun-woo is all over the news and is revealed as a prime suspect for killing a presidential candidate. She absolutely cannot believe the report and goes out of her way to prove his innocence.

CAST HAN Hyo-joo | Removing her innocent image to reveal her maturity

HAN Hyo-joo was first discovered in a teenage beauty pageant in 2003 and began her acting career in the sitcom NONSTOP 5 and the gangster comedy MY BOSS, MY TEACHER. In 2009 her Cinderella TV series BRILLIANT LEGACY became a massive hit, reaching a peak viewership rating of 47.1%. As the titular character in TV series DONG YI, HAN won several acting awards for her portrayal of Choi Suk-bin and cemented her status as a Hallyu(Korean wave) star. She played the queen to LEE Byung-hun's Gwanghae in the blockbuster period film MASQUERADE. In COLD EYES she transforms into a surveillance specialist who remembers everything she has experienced and becomes a source of high tension. She successfully removes the innocent image she has built over the years. She plays a traffic reporter and an old friend and muse of Gun-woo in GOLDEN SLUMBER. “She even edited her own dialogues and came up with extremely realistic and convincing lines for the radio broadcast. As a director, my work was easy thanks to all her efforts. I’m so thankful,” said director NOH.

SELECTED FIMOGRAPHY


AWARDS

2016 MBC Drama Awards – Best Actress Award, Best Couple Award (W)
2016 5th APAN StarAwards – Best Actress Award (W)
2015 4th Korea Pop Star Awards – Korea Top Star Award (THE BEAUTY INSIDE)
2013 22nd Buil Film Awards – Best Actress Award (COLD EYES)
2013 34th Blue Dragon Awards – Best Actress Award (COLD EYES)
CHARACTERS & CAST 6

A friend with a secret, Shin Moo-yeol

“Remember, don’t trust anyone!”

Back in high school, Moo-yeol was the vocal of Gun-woo’s band. The two of them were so close as youths but grew apart as they both entered the workforce. Gun-woo believed that he was an ordinary insurance salesman, but he kept a devastating secret: he was a government intelligence agent who was in charge of initiating a massive conspiracy.

CAST YOON Kye-sang | 2017’s acclaimed actor!

Jumping between films and TV series, actor YOON Kye-sang starred in one of 2017’s best and biggest films, THE OUTLAWS, which brought in 6.87 million admissions. He transformed into a vicious and charismatic gangster Jang Chen and left a lasting impression on the audience. As someone who has can show both his soft and tough sides. YOON plays a powerful cameo in GOLDEN SLUMBER. “Moo-yeol is a character who holds an important secret but has to convey emotional strength. It’s a difficult role but he created a well-rounded character with plenty of prep,” said director NOH.

SELECTED FIMOGRAPHY


AWARDS

2017 6th Korea Pop Star Awards – Popular Start Award (THE OUTLAWS)
2011 MBC Comedy Awards – Best Actor Award (HIGH KICK: REVENGE OF THE SHORT LEGGED)
2005 41st Baeksang Arts Awards – Best New Actor Award (FLYING BOYS)
## CONTACT INFO

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