



Festival del film Locarno
Official selection
Filmmakers of the Present

THE STONE

a film by **CHO Se-rae**

**IF LIFE IS A GAME OF GO,
I WISH I CAN PLACE MY FIRST STONE AGAIN**

Press kit

PRODUCTION SUMMARY



Title	THE STONE
Genre	Noir Drama
Director	CHO Se-rae (feature debut)
Cast	CHO Dong-in <i>as Min-su</i> KIM Roi-ha <i>as Nam-hae</i>
Produced by	Shine Pictures
Presented by	TM Marine
World Sales	Finecut
Country of Production	South Korea
Language	Korean
Tech info	HD (digital 2K) Color 2.35:1 Dolby Digital 5.1 Color

SYNOPSIS



A gang boss meets a young master Go player and discovers a new realm, while the Go master realizes the meaning of true victory.

A small-time middle-aged gang boss Nam-hae coincidentally meets a young Go player Min-su, who shows an outstanding talent and rekindles Nam-hae's interest in the game. Despite his exceptional gift in Go, with the uncertainty ahead of his life including his gambling addict mother, Min-su has been wasting his days as a gambler sometimes going against his own conscience by cheating to win. Unlike his other peers constantly training to become professionals, Min-su continues on without pursuing a real career out of it. Nam-hae orders his second in command, a loyal man true to his boss, to persuade Min-su and after many twists and turns, Min-su accepts in becoming Nam-hae's private Go tutor.

In learning Go from Min-su and spending peace time with him, Nam-hae is able to look back on his own life. The path he has walked for his whole life, stained with blood, leaves Nam-hae with regret and he is determined to help Min-su pursue his path as a Go player. While Min-su, a professional Go gambler at a loss for the direction in life, discovers the coarse masculine underworld and the meaning of life and true victory through his encounters with the gang boss. Like this, the path of these two people who live in two different worlds intersect, and the relationship between the two develop through the game of Go. Nam-hae regrets his past that cannot be undone and is determined to stop, whilst Min-su sees a new future and pursues to go forward. However, when Nam-hae's competition starts to expand their territory, Nam-hae is forced into a path to destruction.

CAST & CHARACTER



CHO Dong-in as Min-su

“Go is the fairest game in the world where opponents take turns in playing. Life is not so.”

Min-su is a Go prodigy who only plays the game for money rather than becoming a professional Go player like his peers from Korean Go Academy. Spending more time at a local Go club gambling rather than going home to his mother who is an addicted gambler herself, he meets a local gang boss, who one day barges into the Go club to collect a debt. Upon the gang's request, he plays against their boss. And by associating with this leader of the underworld gang, he finds a new meaning, a new goal in his disoriented life.

Filmography

UNBOWED (2012)



KIM Roi-ha as Nam-hae

“If life is a game of Go, I wish I'd be allowed to place my first stone on the board again.”

Nam-hae is a middle aged gang boss who has led a crude violent life as a gangster, creating numerous enemies that are waiting to take their revenge against him. One day, he comes across Min-su, a talented young Go gambler and plays a game of Go with him. After much enjoying the peaceful game of Go, he comes to regret his rugged past while seeing that Min-su is wasting away his life despite all the opportunities that are ahead of him and tries to guide him to the path that he had not been able to take.

Selected Filmography

A BITTERSWEET LIFE (2005)

MEMORIES OF MURDER (2003)



PARK Won-sang as In-gul

In-gul is Nam-hae's second in command that joined the gang at a young age of 18. He shows great loyalty towards Nam-hae and respects his decisions regardless of the fact that Nam-hae moves according to his own philosophy rather than the good of the gang.

Selected Filmography

MIRACLE IN CELL NO.7 (2013)

UNBOWED (2012)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Every form of art including cinematography serves the purpose of human observation, human salvation or even projecting a vision of a new world. The essence of Go also lies in manners and morals.

If you look into the nature of Go more thoroughly, it is a performance of art that is more about 'the human' rather than 'god' or 'philosophy'.

The essence of Go is to duel, to sort out a winner and a loser, and this is also what makes up a human being.

Go peeks into the profoundness of the world and the people living in it.

This is the fundamental reason that Go has been around for thousands of years.

A middle aged gang boss in the brink of leaving the gang meets a young go player and looks back on his own life. This whole process of self-exploration demonstrates how Go is deeply related to our daily lives. The way that emotions are built up within the young wandering Go player through the gang boss does not only represent the relationship between the two characters but also the correlation between life and Go.

My goal was to project the image of a human being that reaches epiphany and tries to do away with the ruthless life that he has lived through the experience of Go.

DIRECTOR



CHO Se-rae

Born in Yecheon County of the North Gyeongsang Province of South Korea. After more than ten years of working as a novelist, scriptwriter, broadcast writer, and a member of a film crew in the Korean film production industry, so-called Chungmuro, CHO Se-rae decided to become a businessman due to hardships of life. He jumped into various types of businesses including Go clubs. Even while working, he constantly presented his own novels and scripts. THE STONE is his feature debut as a film director.

2013 THE STONE (debut) - Writer, Director

2003 <Seungbu> volume 1,2,3 (novel) - Writer

1997 <Yeoksu> volume 1,2,3 (novel) - Writer

WORLD SALES



FINECUT

FINECUT is a film company specialized in international sales and marketing, production, financing and acquisition of high-end films, set up in 2008 by Youngjoo SUH, the founder of Cineclick Asia, who has represented many of the best known Korean films such as LEE Chang-dong's OASIS, PARK Chan-wook's OLD BOY, KIM Ki-duk's 9 titles including SAMARITAN GIRL, 3-IRON, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER...AND SPRING, and BONG Joon-ho's THE HOST.

SUH has also represented not only Korean films but also a wide variety of international films such as TUYA'S MARRIAGE(China) winner of Golden Bear Award in Berlin Int'l Film Festival, OPIUM WAR(Afghanistan) winner of Golden Marc'Aurelio Critics Award in Rome Int'l Film Festival, Pablo TRAPERO's LION'S DEN(Argentina) and CARANCHO(Argentina) both invited to Cannes Film Festival.

Since its launch, the company has been representing many successful titles including THE CHASER (dir. NA Hong-jin) invited to 2008 Cannes Out-of-Competition, SUH's producing titles LION'S DEN and CARANCHO directed by the Argentine director Pablo TRAPERO and both invited to Cannes Official Selection in 2008 and 2010, POETRY(dir. LEE Chang-dong) winner of the 2010 Cannes Best Screenplay Award, HAHAAHA(dir. HONG Sangsoo) winner of 2010 Un Certain Regard Prize, BEDEVILLED(dir. JANG Cheol-soo) which was invited to Critics' Week in 2010, KIM Jee-woon's controversial film I SAW THE DEVIL, Berlin Golden Bear winning short NIGHT FISHING by PARK Chan-wook and PARK Chan-kyong, and ARIRANG(dir. KIM Ki-duk) winner of 2011 Un Certain Regard Prize. And most notably, one of its latest films PIETA (dir. KIM Ki-duk) has won the Golden Lion at 2012 Venice Film Festival.

FINECUT also focuses on participating in co-production and financing for director-driven edgy projects from worldwide in support of directors, producers, financiers and aims to develop many international projects for its pipeline.