

# THE BEAST

Press kit

## **INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE</b>	The Beast
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	LEE Jeong-ho
<b>CAST</b>	LEE Sung-min, YOU Chea-myung, JEON Hye-jin, Daniel CHOI
<b>PRESENTED BY</b>	Next Entertainment World
<b>PRODUCTION</b>	Studio&NEW
<b>GENRE</b>	Crime, thriller
<b>RUNNING TIME</b>	130 min.
<b>PRINCIPAL SHOOT</b>	November 5, 2018 – February 12, 2019
<b>RELEASED DATE</b>	June 26, 2019

## **SYNOPSIS**

**"If someone was rewarded for covering up a crime, what would that reward be?  
If the crime was murder, then the reward would be significant."**

A vicious murder that shook Korea to the core remains unsolved and ace detective Han-su takes over the case with his partner Jong-chan (Daniel CHOI) to find and arrest the killer at any cost.

Drug dealer and Han-su's informant Choon-bae (JEON Hye-jin) provides him with a crucial tip for covering up a murder, and Han-su's rival detective Min-tae (YOU Chea-myung) begins to clue in on Han-su's shady dealings. He becomes more desperate as his involvement in the crime is about to be revealed by Min-tae...

**To find the killer, a murder was covered up  
WHO IS THE BEAST?**

## **ABOUT MOVIE 1**

**Assembling Korea's biggest actor's actors!**

**Explosive synergy effect between LEE Sung-min, YOU Chea-myung, JEON Hye-jin and Daniel CHOI!**

THE BEAST's cast includes some of the most important actors in terms of their acting skills and body of work. Headlined by LEE Sung-min, who works with all types of genres and has earned numerous awards, including a Blue Dragon Award's Best Actor Award for THE SPY GONE NORTH. He turns into ace detective Han-su, who will stop at nothing to solve his case. THE BEAST marks his third collaboration with director LEE Jeong-ho after BESTSELLER and BROKEN. **"Han-su is someone who constantly steps over the explosive emotional boundaries, and LEE Sung-min's interpretation of that was astounding. He knew what I wanted even without saying anything,"** said director LEE. **"I acted with my instincts without any calculations,"** said actor LEE Sung-min.

YOU Chea-myung plays the ying to LEE Sung-min's yang in THE BEAST. YOU has carved out a name for himself on TV screen over the years. **"My character may look cold on the outside, but his ambition fuels him, this was the focal point I thought of when acting,"** said YOU. **"I was surprised to find an actor like YOU in Korea. I was stunned by his strong and detail-oriented performance,"** said director LEE.

Meanwhile, JEON Hye-jin plays a drug dealer with a tip that could turn the tide of Han-su's case. She's also someone who forces Han-su to make difficult decisions, so JEON is tasked with a tough character. She wanted to create a character who has never been seen in Korea, so she worked hard to create a unique mannerism and appearance as well. **"I'm sure that only JEON was able to pull this character off,"** said director LEE.

Lastly, young actor Daniel CHOI is someone who endlessly challenges himself to widen his acting spectrum and is called the dark horse of Korean cinema. He challenged himself to act and speak like a detective.

## **ABOUT MOVIE 2**

**This summer's first crime thriller**

**Filled with edge-of-your-seat tension and unpredictable twists!**

Tension between 2 veteran detectives, suspense between a drug dealer and a cop, THE BEAST contains unbelievable tension that can't be felt in any other crime thrillers. The filmmakers use everything in their disposal to elevate the tension, including usage of diverse mise-en-scene. Whenever the characters are cornered, a lot of passionate red and cold blue lights were used to fill the screen. From THE OUTLAWS to THE TRUTH BENEATH, gaffer CHOI Jong-ha said **"The lighting on this film was very exaggerated. High temperature colors were used on Han-su and Choon-bae, while low temperature lights were used on Min-tae to create 3-dimensional characters."** Use of these colors also created a dream-like visuals, increasing its secretive nature of the film.

By utilizing this genre's weighty atmosphere and striking visuals by matching characters within it, the film creates tensions between 2 detectives, which equates to more entertainment value to the audience.

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## **ABOUT MOVIE 3**

**Korea and France's successful co-production!  
THE GREAT BATTLE's Studio&NEW and historic French production house  
Gaumont!**

THE BEAST brings together 2 top international production studios, including Korea's Studio&NEW, which produced period blockbuster THE GREAT BATTLE (5.4 million admissions) and Gaumont, which is famous for producing LEON and THE FIFTH ELEMENT. More importantly, Gaumont produced THE BEAST's original source film called 36 QUAI DES ORFEVRES (2005). The French film received a lot of praise for having a tightly written story and was a box office hit. Gaumont is in charge of distributing THE BEAST in Europe and North America, thereby helping to spread the film all over the world. **"THE BEAST is intense and thrilling and leaves very long lasting impression. The thrill comes from the clash between 2 rival detectives. It's the highest praise for the original source material,"** said Gaumont representative.

In addition, the filmmakers have worked on some of the best films of late, including THE OUTLAWS, THE TRUTH BENEATH, and THE WITCH. DP JU Sung-lim said, **"THE BEAST has its own attractiveness and the mood that is quite peculiar. I wanted to capture that closely so I paid more attention to selection of lenses and finding interesting angles. I wanted people to be sucked into the scene."**

Other notable filmmakers who collaborated with director LEE were production designer HONG Joo-hee, gaffer CHOI Jong-ha, composer Mowg. All of them contributed to creating tension with details and architecting the mise-en-scene.

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# **PRODUCTION NOTE 1**

## **Creating tension with space**

### **Behind the story of various locales in the film**

#### **1. Incheon mud flat**

The film kicks off on the mud flat where the film's first murder victim is discovered. This is also where muddy ambitions of two lead characters are introduced. Not only that, cold wind and other characteristics are seen on the screen, creating a weighty tone and manner for the film, which highlights complicated relationships between characters. DP JU Sung-lim said, **"There is a peculiar atmosphere only Incheon exudes. I worked hard to capture the essence of the mud flat."**

#### **2. Daegu Changsin Apartment**

The apartment complex where the suspects and other gangs are located should be noted. It's the location where the film's massive action sequence takes place between multiple gangs and police institutions. **"I needed an old apartment complex so that ambitions of these characters peak. After a long search period, we found this place in Daegu and were able to visualize what I was imagining in the beginning,"** said director LEE.

#### **3. Hwingsung Forest**

There are many scenes in THE BEAST that uses fog to great effect. In the forest, smoke and fog were so thick that they helped create a dream-like atmosphere, where the audience can't be sure if certain events took place or not. It also feels as though the forest is a keeper of secrets, where anything can and will happen. This was the perfect setting for the diabolical climax between Han-su and Choon-bae.

## **PRODUCTION NOTE 2**

**From lensing, production design to music, making all the unconventional choices!**

**Never before seen mise-en-scene!**

“Because the film is weighty at its core, we opted to go extreme on the surface,” said director LEE when talking about lighting and music. Production designer HONG Joo-hee, who worked on THE TRUTH BENEATH and THE WHISTLEBLOWER, said, “Using fog and distant view, I wanted to accentuate the city landscape, and wanted each characters’ instinctual sides to be melted into the space they exist.”

DP JU, who worked on THE OUTLAWS, wanted to capture mise-en-scene with a variety of light colors and spaces, he chose to shoot the film with anamorphic lenses, which create a unique look and feel in blue tone. “Wanting to express the film in a classical way, I chose to shoot with anamorphic lenses which were used when Cinemascope was first introduced,” said DP JU.

Composer Mowg, who worked on THE WITCH, THE OUTLAWS, THE KING and other notable Korean films, put his effort into creating a harmony with mise-en-scene and traits of the genre. “I chose to go with music that feel dry, which can’t be used easily in other films,” to accentuate weighty and chilly atmosphere.

## **PRODUCTION NOTE 3**

**Realistic, instinctual action!**

**Creating hard-hitting and emotional action sequences!**

For the action sequences, DP JU Sung-lim, who is well versed in action filming since he has worked on THE OUTLAWS, focused on making action as least artificial as possible. He went with shaky handheld camera style for the massive apartment raid, a fight between multiple gangs and police officers. Not only that, the staff and cast members discussed endlessly to create such large scale fight.

Just as important as physical action is emotional action, which explores psyche of characters with pent up emotions. Ace detective Han-su receives vital tip that leads to finding the killer, but he had to cover up a murder to do so. His emotional instability is translated into physical reactions, such as shaky hands. The tension between he and Min-tae is the source of incredible suspense in the film. **“When it came to expressing these characters, I had my camera move in a step closer and was very persistent in depicting their emotions,”** said DP JU. **“It got so tense on the set during filming one of the scenes that it was impossible to breathe,”** said actor LEE Sung-min.



## **CHARACTER & CAST**

### ***“I told you I’d get that bastard, didn’t I?”***

#### **Covers up a murder to find the killer of a different case | Han-su**

As the team leader of homicide team 1 of Incheon Central Police, Han-su is tasked with finding the killer of Korea’s murder of the century. While investigating the case, he finds out that one of his informants, a drug dealer named Choon-bae, knows where the killer is hiding. But to get to the killer, he’s forced to cover up Choon-bae’s revenge killing.

#### **Emergence of a thriller king! A trusted actor | LEE Sung-min**

Having reached the top of his game on theater productions, seasoned actor LEE Sung-min moved onto TV roles and landed several popular and notable TV dramas before finally making his big splash on the big screen. He received much love from his role as manager Oh Sang-sik in 2013’s mega TV hit INCOMPLETE LIFE, who made his employees living hell. His appearance in acclaimed SECRET SUNSHINE also left lasting impression on general audiences’ minds. He also received numerous accolades for his performance in THE SPY GONE NORTH and solidified his name as an acting powerhouse. Only LEE was able to pull off a character as sophisticated and divided as THE BEAST’s Han-su, who has to act quickly on his feet.

## **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 Hit-and-Run Squad, The Drug King  
2018 The Spy Gone North, What a Man Wants  
2017 The Sheriff In Town  
2016 A Violent Prosecutor, SORI: Voice From The Heart, Memory (TV)  
2015 The Piper, Splendid Politics (TV)  
2014 Big Match, Venus Talk, Broken, Kundo  
2013 The Attorney, A Wonderful Moment, Incomplete Life (TV)  
2012 Howling, Golden Time (TV), Just Ordinary Love Story (TV)  
2011 Officer of The Year, Can You Hear My Heart (TV), My Princess (TV)  
2010 Troubleshooter, The Unjust  
2008 Go Go 70s, The Good The Bad And The Weird, The Great King Sejong (TV)  
2007 Secret Sunshine

## **CHARACTER & CAST**

***"A cop can become a criminal when he ignores the law"***

**Rival detective who figures out Han-su's cover up | Min-tae**

Homicide team 2's captain Min-tae is by-the-book cop, whose priority is to uphold the law and never cut any corners. When he finds out that Han-su may have broken a law while investigating a case, he uses this leverage to secure a promotion.

**A trustworthy face who can soak into a role | YOU Chea-myung**

As an actor who knows no boundary when it comes to roles on TV and the big screen, YOU is known to tackle tough characters and leave the audience breathless. In THE BEAST, he transforms into Min-tae, whose friendly competition with Han-su turns deadly.

## **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 Confession (TV)

2018 The Drug King, Youngju, Fengshui, Golden Slumber, The Smile Has Left Your Eyes (TV), Life (TV)

2017 Forest of Secrets (TV), Prison Playbook (TV), Strong Woman Do Bong Soon (TV)

2016 Jealousy Incarnate (TV)

2015 Reply 1988 (TV)

## **CHARACTER & CAST**

***“Just be my alibi, then I’ll let you arrest those bastards”***

**A drug dealer who holds the key tip to solving the murder | Choon-bae**

Just a week before her release from prison, Choon-bae requests a furlough. As soon as she’s out in the real world, she goes after the man who locked her up. But to avoid becoming a prime suspect for the murder, she uses Han-su as her alibi and trades a crucial tip for the murder he’s been investigating.

**Prominent scene stealer | JEON Hye-jin**

After winning the Best Supporting Actress Award at 36<sup>th</sup> Blue Dragon Awards for her role in THE THRONE, actress JEON Hye-jin has been applauded for her performance ever since. She went onto star in high profile roles in THE TERROR, LIVE, THE MERCILESS, and HIT-AND-RUN SQUAD, thereby constantly transforming herself. BEAST is proving to be no different as she’s almost unrecognizable under heavy make-up and piercings.

### **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 Hit-and-Run Squad

2018 Misty (TV)

2017 RV: Resurrected Victims, The Poet and the Boy, The Merciless

2016 SORI: The Voice From the Heart

2015 The Throne

2013 The Terror, Live

2008 Romance Hunter (TV)

2004 I’m Sorry, I Love You (TV)

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## **CHARACTER & CAST**

***“Don’t get too close to the informants, we could arrest them at some point...”***

**Han-su’s energetic partner | Jong-chan**

Jong-chan will follow his boss Han-su to the edge of hell if he has to. But he also makes the perfect partner to Han-su, complimenting him perfectly. As a man of loyalty, he helps Han-su with the investigation of a gruesome murder.

**Korean cinema’s stylish dark horse | Daniel CHOI**

Actor Daniel CHOI first gained a lot of attention by starring in mega popular TV sitcom HIGH KICK THROUGH THE ROOF as an adorable doctor. He went onto star in a variety of genres from action, romance, melodrama and thrillers in order to widen his acting spectrum. As a way to keep challenging himself, he plays an overtly enthusiastic detective in THE BEAST alongside LEE Sung-min, who brings out a detective’s mannerism as naturally as possible.

### **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

2018 The Ghost Detective (TV)  
2017 Jugglers (TV)  
2015 Untouchable Lawmen, The Chronicles of Evil  
2014 Big Man (TV)  
2013 AM 11:00, Expect to Date (TV), School 2013 (TV)  
2012 Traffickers, Cyrano Agency  
2009 High Kick Through the Roof (TV)  
2008 The World That They Live In (TV)

## DIRECTOR

***“A film in which you can look into human being’s inner conflicts through 2 people’s change in emotions”***

Director | LEE Jeong-ho

Director LEE Jeong-ho made his directorial debut with 2010’s BESTSELLER and received a lot of critical acclaim. He went on to adapt Japanese author Keigo Higashino’s novel BROKEN into a feature film in 2014, which depicted a character’s complicated psyche and societal problems in a stylish manner with traits that highlight the thriller genre.

He’s back after 5 long years, remaking a seminal French thriller 36 QUAI DES ORFÈVRES (2005) about a detective who must hide a murder and his rival detective who is on the verge of uncovering his colleague’s dark truth. **“Thriller is a genre that can veer into human nature. Pay special attention to how these two characters’ emotions change,”** said director LEE, promising to deliver a suspenseful film from the ‘thriller specialist’. **“I needed to approach it as a purely genre film, and the lights, production design, photography and everything behind the scenes worked to support that idea,”** said director LEE.

Speaking about remaking the French thriller, he said, **“I wanted to keep the sentiment of the original but focused on creating a new story.”** **“THE BEAST is intense and thrilling and leaves very long lasting impression. The thrill comes from the clash between 2 rival detectives. It’s the highest praise for the original source material,”** said Gaumont representative.

As this was actor LEE Sung-min’s third collaboration with the director, he said, **“It’s like director LEE’s hard hitting fast ball from the bottom of his heart. It’s a very uncommon film.”**

## FILMOGRAPHY

2014 Broken  
2010 Bestseller