

AFTER THE SEWOL

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
MATTHEW ROOT & NEIL P. GEORGE

PRESS PACK



4.16
NEVER FORGET

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 16, 2014, THE SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER FERRY, SEWOL, CAPSIZED AND SANK EN-ROUTE FROM INCHEON TO JEJU ISLAND. THE MAJORITY OF THE 476 PASSENGERS WERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. OF THOSE PASSENGERS, 304 OF THEM DIED IN THE TRAGEDY. THE WORLD PAID ATTENTION TO A NATION IN MOURNING.

IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING THE TRAGEDY, BODIES WERE SLOWLY RECOVERED FOR BURIAL. AS THE SHIP LAID DORMANT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, 9 BODIES REMAINED UNDISCOVERED.

THE SEWOL FERRY WAS FINALLY RAISED TO THE SURFACE ON THE 22ND MARCH 2017 AND AS OF TODAY 7 BODIES STILL REMAIN UNDISCOVERED INSIDE THE SEWOL FERRY.

THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND MEMBERS OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGNED FOR THE SUNKEN FERRY TO BE LIFTED FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR FOR 3 YEARS. WHEN RESTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA IT INSURED THAT THE BODIES REMAIN UNCOVERED AND THE INCIDENT UN-INVESTIGATED.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT WITHOUT A FULL INVESTIGATION MANY QUESTIONS AND ISSUES ARE UNANSWERED AND UNRESOLVED IN AN INCIDENT THAT SHOCKED AN ENTIRE NATION AND CAUSED THE DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN.



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LOGLINE

ON THE 16TH APRIL 2014 SOUTH KOREA WAS CHANGED AS A NATION. AFTER THE DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED THE SEWOL TRAGEDY, THE COUNTRY BECAME UNDONE, UNTRUSTING AND MORE DIVIDED THAN EVER SEEN IN ITS HISTORY. AFTER THE SEWOL EXPLORES THE CHANGING FACES OF THIS NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO BRITISH FILM MAKERS WHO HAVE MADE SOUTH KOREA THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

SYNOPSIS

ON THE 16TH APRIL 2014 SOUTH KOREA WAS CHANGED AS A NATION. AFTER THE DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED THE SEWOL TRAGEDY, THE COUNTRY BECAME UNDONE, UNTRUSTING AND MORE DIVIDED THAN WE HAVE EVER SEEN IN ITS HISTORY.

'AFTER THE SEWOL' EXPLORES THE CHANGING FACES OF THIS NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO BRITISH FILM MAKERS. THEY TALK WITH RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS, RESCUE DIVERS AND ACTIVISTS ABOUT THEIR STRUGGLES AND BATTLES SINCE THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT HAPPENED AND EMBARK UPON A JOURNEY TO UNCOVER HOW THIS ACCIDENT CAME ABOUT, LOOKING DEEP INTO KOREAN HISTORY ABOUT WHY NO ACTION WAS TAKEN TO PREVENT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THIS JOURNEY TAKES THEM ALL OVER KOREA, MEETING AN OLDER GENERATION STRUGGLING TO CREATE A SAFER PLACE FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN AND A YOUNG VIBRANT GENERATION FIGHTING FOR A CORRUPT FREE SOCIETY.

BUT, ALL OF THEM SEARCHING FOR ONE THING, THE TRUTH ABOUT WHY THE SEWOL VICTIMS DIED.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

THE REASON WE WANTED TO MAKE THIS DOCUMENTARY IS BECAUSE WE BOTH REMEMBER SO CLEARLY ABOUT HOW IT AFFECTED US AS EXPATS LIVING IN SOUTH KOREA.

MATT AND I BECAME ADDICTED TO NEWS STATIONS AS WE FOLLOWED ANY PROGRESS THAT WAS BEING MADE WITH THE RESCUE OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE CONFLICTING INFORMATION WHICH WAS BEING BROADCAST, WE BOTH BECAME VERY CONFUSED ABOUT THIS NEWS AND I'M SURE WE WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO FELT THIS CONFUSION.

SINCE THE SINKING OF THE SEWOL FERRY THERE HAS BEEN NUMEROUS INFORMATIVE DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE SINKING, BUT FEW OF THEM HAVE TOUCHED ON THE EFFECTS THIS TRAGEDY HAS HAD ON THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES.

WE WANTED TO MAKE A DOCUMENTARY THAT EDUCATES ABOUT THE CHANGES PEOPLE GO THROUGH WHEN UNDERGOING A GREAT TRAUMA IN THEIR LIVES.

AS EXPATS WHO PLAN ON STAYING IN SOUTH KOREA WE FELT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE COUNTRY THAT HAS TAKEN CARE OF US, RATHER THAN IGNORING THE STRUGGLES THAT THE CITIZENS HAVE GONE THROUGH.

- MATTHEW ROOT & NEIL P. GEORGE



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TEAM



MATTHEW ROOT - PRODUCER / WRITER / DIRECTOR

MATT IS A SOUND DESIGNER TURNED DIRECTOR WHO HAS WORKED ON NUMEROUS PRODUCTIONS SINCE MOVING TO SOUTH KOREA IN 2011. IN KOREA MATT HAS WORKED WITH CLIENTS SUCH AS REEBOK, ANGLE MAGAZINE, THE DAEGU COMPASS AND DISCOVERY.

IN 2014 MATT WORKED AS A DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FOR A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE DISPUTED ISLETS OF DOKDO.



TEAM



NEIL P. GEORGE - PRODUCER / WRITER / DIRECTOR

NEIL IS AN AWARD WINNING PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY (DP) WITH OVER TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND HAS OVER 100 TELEVISION CREDITS TO HIS NAME AS PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR OR DP.

NEIL'S RECENT NORTH KOREAN DOCUMENTARY, 'WHILE THEY WATCHED', HAS WON SEVERAL AWARDS AROUND THE WORLD AND BEEN SELECTED INTO 11 INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS AS WELL AS SECURING 2 GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION CONTRACTS.



TEAM



DAVID MORRIS - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

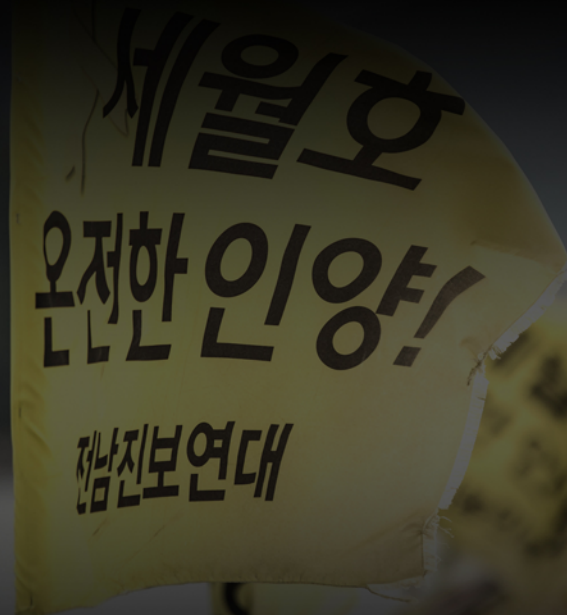
DAVID HAS SEVERAL YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE HAVING PITCHED, DIRECTED AND PRODUCED MULTIPLE PROJECTS FOR SOME OF THE BIGGEST ARTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD, RECEIVING A 'BEST DIRECTOR' AWARD, 'EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING' NOMINATION, AS WELL AS A METEOR MUSIC VIDEO AWARD NOMINATION.

IN 2014 DAVID LAUNCHED SCRIPT 2 SCREEN MEDIA IN THE UK AND GREW RAPIDLY INTO SOUTH KOREA, MAINLAND EUROPE AND BRAZIL.



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CONTRIBUTORS



JUNG SEONG-WOOK
FATHER



JANG HOON
FATHER



KWON OH-HYUN
BROTHER



PARK JOO-MIN
CONGRESSMAN



JANG EUN-HA
ACTIVIST



DR. OWEN MILLER
PROF. KOREAN STUDIES



HWANG MYEONG-JU
RESCUE DIVER



KIM SANG-JU
RESCUE DIVER



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STILLS



If it didn't become a political issue it would be over by now.



For not helping them because they are in pain.



preparing the documents, allocating the budget and forming the committee.



약물투여도 늘 그랬던 것 처럼. 서해 해리는 그날도 용항을 향합니다.



By showing these gestures, she won't lose support from the established.



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STILLS



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BROADCAST ON 2017.04.24
NEIL P. GEORGE WAS INTERVIEWED BY BBC RADIO SCOTLAND.

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnABsFKRmTg>



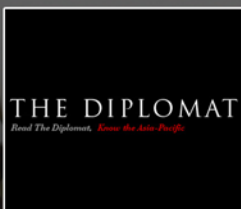
PUBLISHED ON 2017.04.23
A WRITTEN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FILM.

LINK: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39585872>



BROADCAST ON 2017.04.17
MATTHEW ROOT WAS INTERVIEWED BY TBS eFM.

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8i1UFX55HgA&t=112s>



PUBLISHED ON 2017.03.31
A WRITTEN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FILM.

LINK: <http://thediplomat.com/2017/03/as-sunken-ferry-is-finally-raised-documentary-explores-what-comes-after-the-sewol/>



PUBLISHED ON 2017.03.04 & 2017.03.12
TWO WRITTEN ARTICLES ABOUT THE FILM.

LINK 1: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/after-the-sewol-extended-movie-trailer-released>

LINK 2: <http://maritime-executive.com/features/sewol-documentary-explores-role-of-divers>



FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS AND SELECTIONS

AWARDS:

- WINNER BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY - LONDON TMC FILM FESTIVAL
- WINNER BEST DOCUMENTARY - INDEPENDANT INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS:

- 40TH ASIAN AMERICAN I.F.F - NEW YORK, USA
- HUMAN RIGHTS HUMAN DIGNITY I.F.F - MYANMAR
- LONDON TMC - UK
- INDEPENDANT INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS - USA
- INDIEFEST - USA
- DOCS WITHOUT BORDER I.F.F - USA
- COLORTAPE I.F.F - AUSTRALIA
- DEPTH OF FEILD I.F.F - USA



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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

RUNNING TIME	TBC
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION	SOUTH KOREA
YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2015 - 2018
PRODUCTION COMPANY	RHK MEDIA S2S MEDIA SLICED PICTURES
BUDGET	25,000,000 KRW
SHOOTING FORMAT	4K, HD 1080P
FPS	24
EXHIBITION FORMAT	HD 1080P (1.85:1)
AUDIO FORMAT	DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND 5.1
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY	MATTHEW ROOT NEIL P. GEORGE
PRODUCED BY	MATTHEW ROOT NEIL P. GEORGE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	NEIL P. GEORGE MATTHEW ROOT DAVID MORRIS



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