



이승우

# THE DESCENDANT – PRESS KIT

SAM SUNGMIN LEE - Director & Producer  
samsungminlee@outlook.com  
+61 478 002 799

Director Website: [www.samsungminlee.com](http://www.samsungminlee.com)  
Director IMDb: [www.imdb.com/name/nm10800870](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm10800870)  
Director Instagram: [www.instagram.com/samsungminlee](http://www.instagram.com/samsungminlee)



Filmed in Seoul, South Korea

Produced in Melbourne, Australia

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## THE STORY

Bound by blood but divided by time, a Joseon king sees visions of his future descendant—one who will bring ruin to his legacy. Desperate to alter fate, he makes a choice that will seal his legacy forever.

A tale between the king of the Joseon Dynasty era and his descendant from modern day Korea collide in this tale of legacy, madness, and an unthinkable choice that will shape history.

A film made entirely by 1 actor and 1 filmmaker.





## SAM SUNGMIN LEE

### Writer & Director



Lee's Korean name is 이성민 (Sungmin Lee), but when he first moved to Australia, he used 'Sam Lee' for its simpler pronunciation. Later, as he pursued filmmaking, he reintroduced his Korean name, becoming 'Sam Sungmin Lee', to reflect his heritage through his name alone. Placing his English and Korean names side by side symbolises Lee's voice as a multicultural and bilingual filmmaker.

The Descendant was entirely written, directed, photographed, edited, sound designed, and mixed by Lee. This marks his first film shot in South Korea, with all of post-production completed in Australia.

"I was visiting South Korea in December 2024 and just in case, packed a single camera, a tripod, and a mic. I wanted to make the most of my time in Korea, so I used just that gear to shoot 'The Descendant' with Daniel Kim, who played a large part in making this possible. The film was actually all shot within a single day in Seoul, including at Gyeongbok Palace (the king's palace), This was also during the snowing and freezing winter; Daniel and I were lucky to have made it out alive...

I achieved 3 of my filmmaking goals with this film:

1. Shooting a film in Korea.
2. Filming at Gyeongbok Palace.
3. Making a 사극 영화 (Korean period piece).

'The Descendant' is all about how a lineage can fall apart through generations and how acting out of fear can realise our true nightmares." - Sam

## DANIEL KIM

### The King & The Descendant

Having previously worked with Sam Sungmin Lee on the short films 'One Minute in Hell' (2023) and 'White Lies' (2024), this is Kim's third collaboration with Lee. Kim is an emerging actor with acting experiences in Australia and South Korea.





## SPECIFICATIONS

Project Type: Short  
Genre: Period Drama, Psychological Thriller  
Runtime: 6:20 Minutes  
Languages: Korean

Country of Origin: Melbourne, Australia  
Shooting Format: Digital – Panasonic Lumix GH5  
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1  
Film Colour: Colour and Black & White



