



이효원 최은서 이승연 박인철 박영덕
감독 이찬호

Hyo-won LEE Eun-seo CHOI Seung-yeon LEE In-cheol PARK Young-duk Park
Director Chan-ho LEE

[연기를 하신 분들]

유준석 홍정호 서나경 윤희리 김혜경 윤여성 김학재 최은율 박충준 성병훈 김하늘 오지연 김세희 정다원 서한들
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[만든 이 들]

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Designer] 박종훈 [Studio Manager] 정진영 [DI Digital Intermediate] 그레이존 [Lab Supervisor] 이철민
[DI Supervisor] 박상수 [Colorist] 이철정 [Assistant Colorist] 피여정 [번역] Junhee Kim [번역감수]
Heather Hong [크레딧] 이승재

Water Lilies (수련_Su Ryeon) - Consolidated Press Kit

1. Overview

Title: Water Lilies (수련_Su Ryeon)

Duration: 119 minutes

Genre: Drama

Year: 2024

Production Company: Second Wind Pictures

Distribution Company: Water Release Pictures

Support Projects:

- Gyeonggi Content Agency Film Support Project
- Seoul Film Commission Independent Film Support Project Project
- Seoul Film Commission, Seoul-Background Independent Film Production Support Project

2. Synopsis_Logline_Director's Statement_About the Film <Water Lilies>

The story follows Hyo-won, who dreams of becoming an actress, and Eun-seo, who seeks to build a new life through employment in the city, as they embark on a fresh start in Seoul. Their struggles, aspirations, and evolving relationship unfold in this delicately crafted emotional drama.

Synopsis

: Hyo-won, who dreams of becoming an actress, runs away to Seoul with Eun-seo, a high school dropout. The two girls step into the sprawling city with their fragile hopes, clutching at its promises like lifelines. Their first home is a basement room, dim and shabby, the air thick and heavy, but to them, it is a sanctuary, a nest of possibilities.

Eun-seo begins working odd jobs to keep them afloat, while Hyo-won, drawn by her dream, takes on menial tasks at a theater company. They are buoyed by their own visions of tomorrow, their dreams threading through the cracks in the worn walls.

Soon, Hyo-won starts taking acting lessons from Suy-eon, a lead actress at the theater. Suy-eon's voice is steady, her words sharp:

"Acting is the art of embodying another's suffering."

Hyo-won listens, but the weight of those words eludes her. She cannot yet grasp the depths of Eun-seo's pain, nor can Eun-seo fully see hers.

The two drift, parallel yet apart, their lives entangled by need and longing but marred by unspoken distance.

For them, life is an unanswered question.

Logline

The water lilies bloom, even in the filthiest waters.

Amid the mire of selfish desires and the indifference to others' suffering,

hope begins to bloom anew in the fleeting moment when we recognize the humanity within one another.

Director's Statement

I am a film director. I believe that being a director is about articulating one's thoughts and visions through words to the crew and collaborating with them to bring those ideas to life. Together, we shape these fragments into a completed work. And only when this creation meets its audience and fosters communication does the film director's journey truly come full circle.

Watch my film. Feel and think freely. All that you perceive becomes your theme, your story, your dialogue, and your beauty.

Then, through our exchange, let us complete the film together, making it whole. This is the message I offer as a film director.

About the Film <Water Lilies>

Water Lilies is, on a broader level, a story about the glass ceiling faced by the younger generation. Many young people strive to realize their dreams, only to find themselves up against immense and invisible barriers. The workings of power, laced with human selfishness, may be creating walls that feel insurmountable to them.

In the film, Hyowon simply wants to become a stage actress—even if only for a minor role. Eunseo merely wishes to earn minimum wage through part-time work. These are fundamental, modest human desires. Yet the moment these desires are denied for reasons they cannot understand, these young people are plunged into the depths of despair.

Still, I chose to believe in their resilience. That belief is what led me to create **Water Lilies**.

The film is also a meditation on *pain*. Human beings can never fully understand another's suffering. This inability makes communication difficult and often leads to hurting and being hurt. Yet sometimes, just one small step toward opening our hearts can bring us closer to someone else's pain—and in doing so, offer a sliver of healing. This is how people meet, part ways, and carry on with their lives.

The real problem is that pain induced by society gets transferred from one person to another—until it becomes a cycle of suffering. In **Water Lilies**, this transmission and chain of pain unfolds like a Möbius strip—endless and interconnected.

And yet, the protagonists possess resilience.

They endure together. They offer each other quiet, gentle acts of recovery. These may be small, even insignificant to some—but to them, they are sacred. They do not force love upon one another, nor do they desperately plead for their pain to be seen. They simply smile when they look into each other's eyes.

They are *water lilies*—flowers that bloom by purifying the murky water they grow in.

3. Director - Chanho Lee



: Director Chan-ho Lee, a graduate of the Department of Film at Dongguk University and a master's degree holder in Film and Visual Studies (Directing major) from the same university, has continued to explore the art of cinema through various short and feature films.

With experience as an assistant director for 'Alive', he now presents his first feature-length film, 'Water Lilies.' His work reflects a deep understanding of human emotion and societal challenges.

His major directorial works include *The Chair that Loved Me* (2008), *The Visible Darkness* (2009), *The Apprentice* (2012), *Who's gonna Save Me* (2012), and *Flamenco Nina* (2013). Notably, *The Apprentice* addresses the issue of alienation in modern society, where materialism takes precedence over human relationships, while *Save Me* draws attention to the vicious cycle of violence and poses questions about its inevitable nature.

Flamenco Nina (2013) highlights the labor issues faced by high school students and the reality of capitalist society, telling the story of a protagonist who seeks to prove her existence through flamenco dance.

Director Lee also gained valuable on-set experience as the assistant director for the feature film *ALIVE* (2015, directed by Park Jung-beom), and has been consistently dedicated to independent filmmaking and direction. His filmmaking philosophy revolves around creating films that "show respect for the characters," a principle he holds dear in his work.

4. Tech Info

Format : DCP

Aspect Ratio : 1.85:1

Sound : Dolby Digital 5.1 CH

Running Time : 119min.

Color : Color

5. Main Cast



가. 이효원 (Hyo-won LEE)(Role of Hyo-won)

Role: Plays Hyo-won, a young woman navigating personal struggles and dreams.

Comment: I performed, thinking of it as a metaphor for the times and pain I've personally experienced. (cheerfully) Please remember me, Lee Hyo-won~~!



나. 최은서 (Eun-seo CHOI)(Role of Eun-seo)

Role: A bold and determined character who drops out of high school, leaves behind her hometown and grandfather, and sets out to carve a new path in life.

Lines from the film: 내가 일해서 돈 벌고 언니 지켜주잖아. 나 버릴 거야? 나 버릴 거냐고! 나한테서도 도망칠 거야? 내가 나쁜 거야? 지금 내가 나쁜 거냐고!!



다. 이승연 (Seung-yeon Lee)(Role of Su-yeon)

Role: Lead actor in the play and mentor to new actors/actress playing a pivotal role in driving the film's central conflict.

Comment: 연기도 그러하지만 영화는 다른 사람의 고통을 체현하는 예술인 것 같아요. 영화 수련은 그것을 해냈어요. 저 또한 그런 마음으로 수연役に 몰입했습니다.



라. 박인철 (In-cheol PARK)(Role of In-cheol)

Role: An aspiring theater actor who lives his life through labor and symbolizes the film's theme of resilience.

Lines from the film: 아무도 널 돌봐주지 않을 거야. 힘들어도 내색하지 말고... 특히 힘든 거 있냐고 묻는 사람이 있으면 절대 없다고 해야 돼. 그거 다 떠보는 거다. 별로 진심이없어. 요새 사람들은... (중략)... 난 요새 옛날 사람 “



마. 서나경 (Na-kyung SEO)(Role of Na-kyung)

Role: The character who ignites the conflict in the play. An aspiring theater actor and theater staff member.

Lines from the film: 이 의상들. 수선집에 맡기고 와. 여기 옷핀 꽃힌 거 보이지? 이거 빠지면 치수 다시 재야 한다. 그리고 너. 학원비 안 내? 너만 안 냈어. 하. 내가 이런 것까지 신경 써야 돼?

* <Water Lilies> main staff list

Director	Chan-ho LEE
Screenplay	Jung-bum PARK, Chan-ho LEE
Producer	Ji-yoon OH
Camera	Nak-won HWANG
DI	Cheol-min LEE
Editor	Hyun-ju JO
Sound Designer	Seong-jun HONG(Innerbit Sound)
Sound Mixer	Soo-yong CHOI
Production Designer	Byung-ho YUN

6. Awards and Film Festivals <Water Lilies>

Feature Film <Water Lilies> (2024. 119M. Color. DCP)

International Film Festival Screening & Award LIST

- 제12회 목포국도1호선독립영화제 12th MOKPO National Road Independent Film Festival, 2025
- 19th Ayodhya Film Festival (2nd Best Feature Film International, 2025)
- 13th Chain NYC Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 6th International Film Festival of Crete & Awards (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 8th West Sound Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 8th Festival of Cinema NYC (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 2th The Vermont Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 4th International Imago Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 2th Pickering Canada International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 6th Turicine Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 18th Festival Internacional de Cine Bajo la Luna de Islantilla (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 18th Cine del Mar (Best Script Winner, Best Actress Winner, 2025)
- 1th Athens Indie Film Festival (feature film official selection, Nominee, 2025)
- 10th Encuentro Internacional de Cineastas (EIC) (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 15th Social World Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 3th Zion International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 22th Universe Multicultural Film Festival (Best feature film Winner, 2025)
- 7th Bridges Loutraki International Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 21th International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 5th Kaminari Japan Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 5th Niagara Canada International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025) 캐나다
- 16th Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025) 캐나다
- 4th iDEAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (Best Director Award, Best feature film Award(Foreign Film), 2025)
- 13th Nice International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 10th INCA IMPERIAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 6TH Madrid Film Awards - MADFA (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 5th Independent and Experimental Film Festival of Kerala (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 4th Washington Film Award -Spring (BEST INTL Feature Film, 2025)
- 23th Cine Pobre Film Festival (feature film NOMINEE, 2025)
- 15th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival (feature film Honorable Jury Mention, 2025)
- 4th Beyond Hollywood International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 2th Indie Vegas Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 9th Firm Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 47th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) (Out-of-Competition Program, RUSSIAN TRACE, 2025)
- 2th New Bedford Film Festival (Best Director Winner, Feature Film, 2025)
- 10th Las Cruces International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 6th Aravali International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 15th Capital City Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 9th ORION International Film Festival (Finalist, Feature film official selection, 2025)
- 5th Greece International Film Festival (feature film Honorable Mention, 2025)
- 10th NEZ International Film Festival (Best Director Winner, Feature Film, 2025)
- 13th CEBU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL(Best in Long Narrative Award Winner, 2025)
- 5th International Star Film Festival Awards (2nd Best Feature Film Foreign, 2025)
- 9th Indian World Film Festival(feature film, Special Festival Mention, 2025)
- 3th Palermo International Film Festival(feature film official selection, 2025)
- 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFeS)(feature film Asian Competition, 2025)

- 22th Oxford Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 3th Kashmir International Film and Cultural Festival(feature film official selection, 2025)
- 11th Chauri Chaura International Film Festival(2nd Best Feature Film International, 2025)
- 8th NEW DELHI FILM FESTIVAL (Top 7th Feature film Nominee, 2025)
- 15th Arraial Cine Fest (Best Fiction Feature Film Winner, 2025)
- 2th Film Festival of Mumbai (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 26th DC Independent Film Festival (FEATURES SELECTED IN COMPETITION, 2025)
- 12th Noida International Film Festival (Feature film Best Director Award, 2025)
- 7th Indian Panorama International Film Festival (IPIFF) (Official selection feature film, 2025)
- 6th Nepal Cultural International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025)
- 5th London Director Awards (Finalist, feature film 2025)
- 10th Caribbean Sea International Film Festival (Official selection feature film, 2025)
- 12th FILUMS International Film Festival (Official selection feature film, 2025)
- 4th Arjuntala International Film Festival (Best Asian feature film Winner, 2024)
- 6th Hill Film Festival (International Competition Best feature film Winner, 2024)
- 13th Athens International Digital & Film Festival (AIDFF) (International Competition Honorable Mention AWARD, 2024)
- 30th Kolkata International Film Festival KIFF (Official SELECTION: ASIAN SELECT(NETPAC AWARD), 2024)
- 78th Salerno International Film Festival (Official selection feature film, 2024)
- 13th WRPN Women's International Film Festival (DRAMA SECTION Excellence Winner)
- 36th Girona Film Festival (Official selection feature film, 2024)
- 17th International Moving Film Festival (Finalist, feature film 2024)
- 9th Salto Independent Film Festival (Official selection feature film, 2024)
- 15th Louisville's international festival of film (Official selection feature film, 2024)

2025 scheduled

- 6th Roshani International Film Festival (RIFF) (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 16th Santander International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 10th Newark International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 11th International Film Festival of Shimla (IFFS) (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 10th Royal Starr Film Festival (RSFF) (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 23rd Oakland International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 8th Montana International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 18th Mosaic World Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 2th Giddy Island Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 8th Caorle Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 21th Vox Popular Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 19th Kanazawa Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 19th I Will Tell International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 11th Mario Puzo Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 10th Ferrara Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 47th Semana de Cine de Lugo (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 5th Worcester Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 19th Red Rock Film Festival -Utah (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 11th Glendale International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 6th Love & Hope International Film Festival - Barcelona (L'HIFF) (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 8th Mystic Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 1th malabo international music & film festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 24th Urban Mediamakers Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 13th Chania Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 7th Pembroke Taparelli Arts and Film Festival (PTAFF) (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)
- 27th Rehoboth Beach International Film Festival (feature film official selection, 2025 scheduled)

7. Visual Highlight

This scene captures Hyo-won (left) and Eun-seo (right) supporting each other's aspirations. The serene yet melancholic backdrop underscores the core themes of resilience and human connection that define 'Water Lilies'.



8. Character Moment

This scene captures a deeply emotional interaction between Su-yeon (left) and Hyo-won (right). The intensity of their expressions highlights the film's exploration of human vulnerability and connection.



9. Character Highlight: Hyo-won

In this scene, Hyo-won is captured in a moment of quiet introspection. Her expression reflects the emotional depth and inner struggles that define her character throughout 'Water Lilies'.



10. Character Highlight: Eun-seo

This moment captures Eun-seo as she navigates the streets, mirroring her internal struggles and quiet resilience. Her gaze reflects the uncertainty and determination that drive her character's journey in 'Water Lilies'.



11. Character Highlight: Hyo-won (Reflection)

This still captures Hyo-won in a moment of exhaustion and reflection. The setting emphasizes her struggles and the weight of her journey, mirroring the film's core themes of resilience and survival.



12. World Sales Company <WaterRelease Picture>



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