

“Mr. Wayne in Seoul”: A Cinematic Journey with AI

“Mr. Wayne in Seoul” is an AI-assisted dramatic short film that masterfully transforms a poetic monologue into a cinematic meditation on estrangement. Inspired by Camus’ *L’Étranger* and subtly echoing Steinbeck’s displaced wanderers, the film merges AI-generated characters with authentic Seoul street footage. This hybrid approach delves deep into themes of loneliness, fragmented memory, and the universal search for belonging in an unfamiliar world.



The Artistic & Technical Fusion: An Overview

This document outlines the complete technical and artistic pipeline that brought "Mr. Wayne in Seoul" to life, spanning pre-production, production, and post-production. It serves as a comprehensive "recipe" detailing the innovative application of AI at every stage, adhering strictly to the festival's Creation Charter. The narrative explores the delicate balance between cutting-edge technology and profound human emotion, pushing the boundaries of storytelling.



AI-Assisted Narrative

Crafting profound stories with artificial intelligence.



Hybrid Realism

Blending AI visuals with real-world cinematography.



Creative Charter

Innovating within artistic and technical guidelines.



Pre-Production: Laying the Foundations with AI

The journey began in pre-production, where AI tools were instrumental in shaping the film's core identity. From conceptualizing the narrative to visualizing Mr. Wayne's journey, AI provided a powerful collaborative partner, allowing for rapid iteration and deep exploration of ideas.

1

Concept Development

ChatGPT designed the narrative tone, philosophical framing, and character psychology, focusing on Wayne's emotional arc of detachment and longing.

2

Visual Research

Midjourney v7 generated dozens of stylized concept images of Mr. Wayne, exploring various lighting, expressions, and Seoul-inspired moods.

3

Story & Structure

A 12-sequence outline was crafted using ChatGPT and Notion AI, developing the "city as emotional mirror" structure.

4

Storyboarding

AI-generated stills were used as provisional storyboard frames, combined with real-location photographs to map transitions.



Production: Bringing Mr. Wayne to Life

During production, AI transformed abstract concepts into tangible cinematic elements. Character creation, animation, and atmospheric transitions were all augmented by AI, ensuring Mr. Wayne's nuanced portrayal and the film's unique visual texture.

Character Creation & Animation

Mr. Wayne's primary look was generated in Midjourney, with facial consistency refined through prompt engineering and reference image locking. Heygen was used for realistic lipsync and micro-expressive animation of his monologue, with a voice model adjusted for existential calm.



Dynamic Environments & Transitions

Transitional atmospheric clips were generated using Kaiber, Kling, and Veo, creating drifting camera shots, soft slow motion, and abstract memories. Real Seoul B-roll was seamlessly integrated with AI-generated environmental shots, enhanced by Runway motion brushes for 3D-like parallax effects.



Post-Production: Refining the Narrative

The final stages of "Mr. Wayne in Seoul" saw AI tools elevate the polish and impact of the film. From intelligent editing to sophisticated color grading and immersive sound design, AI ensured every frame and sound contributed to the overarching emotional landscape.

Editing & Composition

Premiere Pro's AI-assisted cut detection facilitated seamless layering of AI sequences with real footage, achieving hybrid realism.



Color Grading

DaVinci Resolve AI Color and custom LUTs from Midjourney references stylized night scenes, reflecting the film's existential mood.

Sound & Music

AI tools enhanced atmospheric ambience, while Adobe AI denoising and spectral repair refined dialogue and sound for clarity and depth.



Upscaling & Restoration

Topaz Video AI was used for 4K upscaling, enhancing face detail, and refining motion, ensuring a pristine final output.



Challenges and Breakthroughs in AI Filmmaking

Integrating AI into the filmmaking process presented unique challenges, pushing the team to innovate and adapt. Overcoming these hurdles led to significant breakthroughs, demonstrating the potential of AI as a creative partner rather than just a tool.



Facial Consistency

Maintaining Mr. Wayne's facial features across diverse AI models and scenes was a complex task, requiring meticulous prompt engineering.



Lip-Sync Alignment

Achieving precise lip-sync with the poetic rhythm of the monologue demanded intricate adjustments and iterative refinements.



Uncanny Valley

Blending AI footage with live-action without creating uncanny artifacts required careful artistic judgment and technical finessing.



Color Variance

Managing color consistency and stylistic cohesion between different AI models and real footage was a continuous balancing act.



Improvised Transitions

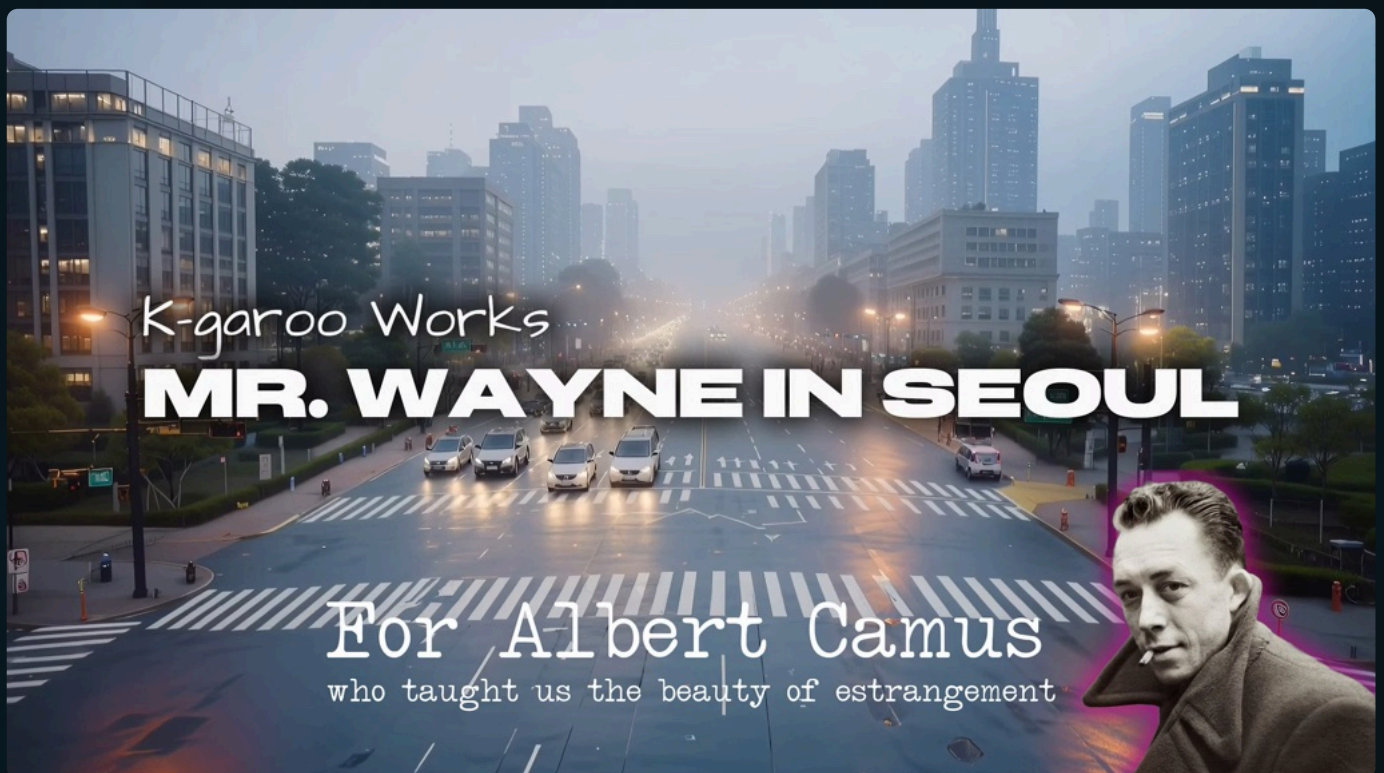
Creative transitions were improved through multiple AI iterations, allowing for fluid and emotionally resonant scene changes.

The Heart of the Story: Themes and Inspirations

"Mr. Wayne in Seoul" draws deeply from philosophical and literary roots to explore the human condition in a modern, AI-augmented context. The film is a poetic exploration of identity, memory, and the struggle to find meaning amidst urban anonymity.

Inspired by Camus' *L'Étranger*, the film delves into existential themes of absurdity and detachment, reflecting Mr. Wayne's emotional journey through an indifferent city.

Echoing Steinbeck's displaced wanderers, the narrative subtly touches on the universal search for belonging and a lost sense of "home" in a world that often feels alien.



Final Output: A Glimpse into the Future of Film

The culmination of this ambitious project is a short film that stands as a testament to the creative power of AI when guided by human artistry. "Mr. Wayne in Seoul" not only tells a compelling story but also sets a new benchmark for AI-assisted filmmaking.

120+

AI Images

Total AI-generated still images used throughout the production.

40+

AI Video Clips

Individual AI-generated video segments enhancing the visual narrative.

3:50

Run Time

The concise yet impactful duration of the final short film.

4K

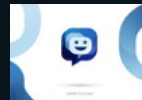
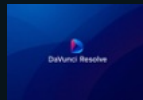
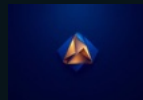
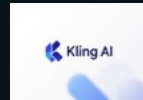
Resolution

High-definition output, ensuring crisp visuals for the audience.



The Arsenal of Innovation: Tools Utilized

A diverse suite of cutting-edge AI and traditional filmmaking tools was employed to realize the vision for "Mr. Wayne in Seoul." Each tool played a critical role in weaving together the film's complex tapestry of AI and live-action elements.

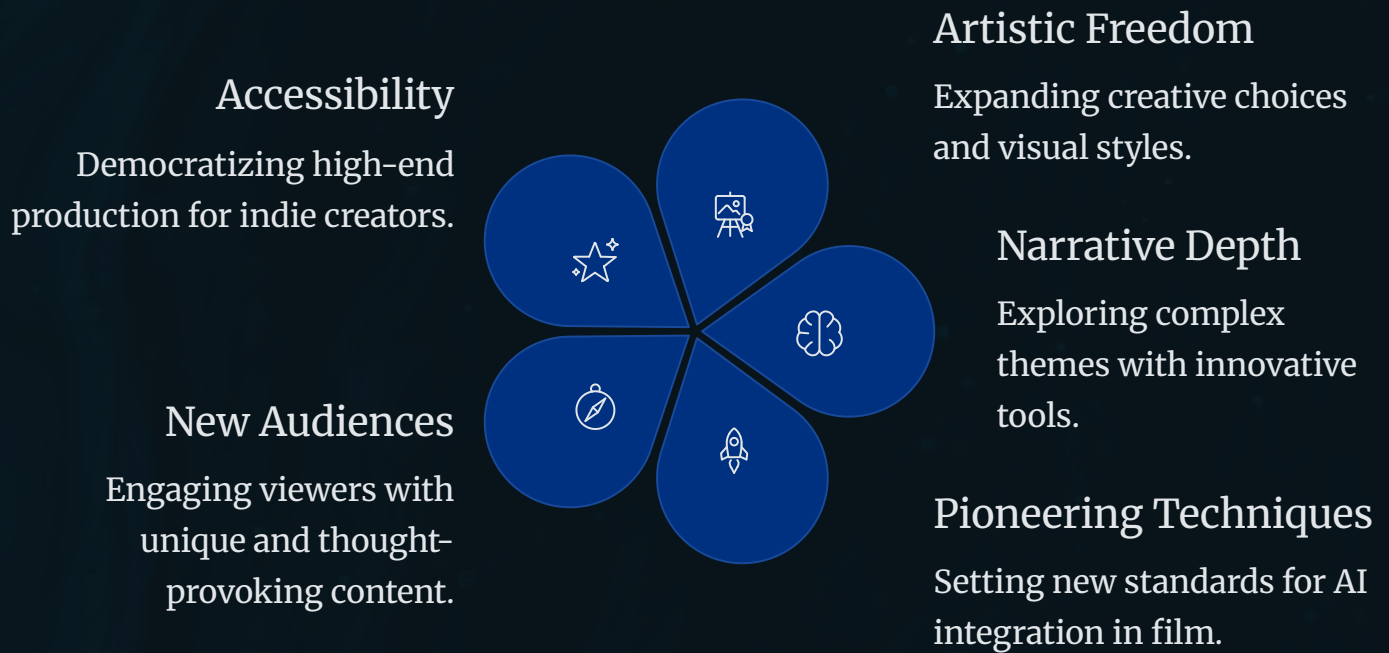


This comprehensive toolkit allowed for unprecedented creative control and efficiency, proving that the synergy between human creativity and artificial intelligence can unlock new frontiers in cinematic expression.



Beyond the Screen: The Future of AI in Indie Film

"Mr. Wayne in Seoul" is more than just a short film; it's a blueprint for the future of independent cinema. It demonstrates how AI can empower filmmakers to achieve ambitious artistic visions with limited resources, opening doors for new narratives and aesthetic possibilities.



We invite filmmakers and technologists to explore these new frontiers, pushing the boundaries of what's possible and redefining the art of storytelling for a new generation. The journey of Mr. Wayne is just the beginning.