

BEASTS CLAWING AT STRAWS



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FILMS

BEASTS CLAWING AT STRAWS

A film by Kim Yong-hoon



*Winner: Special Jury Award
2020 International Film Festival Rotterdam*

2020 / 108 minutes / Crime Thriller, Noir / South Korea / Korean with English subtitles

ASSETS:

Productions Stills: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p8tzrmi5snb4oy7/AABb04KrGGt4rRBMn2UDMLZla?dl=0>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQFyCvDgL7Q>

Feature Film Screener: <https://vimeo.com/433750530>

PW: ART0629

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: @Artsploitation

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

A wild crime thriller about a bag of money left in a sauna and the eight strangers who, spurred by blinding greed, become intricately and dangerously involved with each. A fast-paced Coen-meets-*The Grifters* tale.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A Louis Vuitton bag stuffed full of cash sends a group of hard-luck lowlifes on a desperate chase for the fortune in this pitch-black neo-noir crime thriller. Fish-mongering gangsters, a greasy cop, an “innocent” gym cleaner, a young prostitute, her wife beater of a husband, her ruthless boss and her clueless boyfriend all violently scheme to get their hands on the elusive bag. First time director Kim Yong-hoon's witty thriller is a beautifully constructed puzzle that with each double-cross, the pieces fall into place. Starring Jung Woo-sung from *Asura: City of Madness* and Jeon Do-yeon, award winner in Cannes for her lead role in *Secret Sunshine*.



CAST

Do-Yeon Jeon as **Yeon-Hee**, the hard-as-nails brothel owner

Do-yeon Jeon is considered one of the greatest actresses in modern Korean cinema. Acting awards include Best Actress at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, making her the first and only Korean ever to win an acting award at the prestigious film festival. Other awards include Best Actress Award at the 1999 Chungryong Awards ceremony and Best Performance by an Actress at the 1st Asia Pacific Screen Awards for her performance in Lee Chang-dong's 2007 film *Secret Sunshine*. Born in 1973, she made her debut in the 1992 television drama series *Our Paradise*, with her film debut in the 1997 film *The Contract*. She has since gone on to take a wide variety of roles, from her performance as a schoolgirl in *The Harmonium in My Memory* to that of a wife having an adulterous affair in *Happy End* as well as the tough-talking "Sunglasses" in Ryu Seung-wan's *No Blood No Tears* and also starred in E J-yong's *Untold Scandal*, based on the famous French novel *Dangerous Liaisons*.



Jung Woo-sung as **Tae-Young**, the crooked customs inspector

Jung Woo-sung (born in 1973) is one of South Korea's biggest stars. Jung started his career as a fashion model, rising to stardom and teenage cult figure status with the gangster movie *Beat* (1997), a performance that won him the Best New Actor prize at the 17th Korean Association of Film Critics Awards. He is known for his acting versatility in such films as the box office hits *Steel Rain* (2017), *The King* (2017), *Asura: The City of Madness* (2016), *The Divine Move* (2014), *Cold Eyes* (2013); martial arts: *Reign of Assassins* (2010); fantasy: *The Restless* (2006); dramas: *Don't Forget Me* (2016), *City of the Rising Sun* (1999); erotic thriller: *Scarlet Innocence* (2014); romance: *Daisy* (2006), and historical epic *Musa* (2001). His critically acclaimed film *Innocent Witness* (2019) won him the Best Actor Prize at the 40th Blue Dragon Film Awards and the Daesang (Grand Prize) for Film at the 55th Baeksang Arts Awards.



CAST

Bae Seong-woo as **Jung-Man**, the scheming gym attendant

Forty-eight-year-old Bae Sung Woo is a South Korean actor who made his acting debut in the 2007 television drama “*Conspiracy in the Court*.” He has since had a prolific career mostly in films, including *Inside Men* (2015), *Remember You* (2016), *My New Sassy Girl* (2016), *Because I Love You* (2017) and *The King* (2017). Bae Sung Woo’s brother is popular television personality Bae Sung Jae.



Shin Hyun-bin as **Mi Ran**, the greedy prostitute

Shin Hyun-bin made her acting debut in the film *He's on Duty* (2010) where she played a Vietnamese worker who struggled with racism in South Korea. She won the Best New Actress in the 47th Baeksang Arts Awards for the same film. She is best known for her roles in *Warrior Baek Dong-soo* (2011), *Mistress* (2018), *Confession* (2019) and *Hospital Playlist* (2020).



Jung Man-sik as **Du Man**, the ruthless crime boss

Jung Man Sik made his acting debut in the film *Smells Like the Gun* (2001) and then went on to appear in almost 50 features including *She's on Duty* (2005), *Soo* (2007), *Moby Dick* (2011), and *Rampant* (2018). He has also appeared in numerous South Korean TV shows. He was the winner of the 2014 Korea Culture and Entertainment Awards Excellence Award, Actor in a Film (*Kundo: Age of the Rampant*.)



FILMMAKER

Kim Young-hoon – Writer/Director



After studying film at Kookmin University, Kim Young-hoon worked for several years at the Korean film production/distribution company CJ Entertainment. There, he had an opportunity to work as assistant director for several films by Jang Jin including *Righteous Ties* (2006) and the horror film *Black House* (2007) among others. His short film *Do You Wish to Delete?* (2015) screened at the Asiana International Short Film Festival. *Beasts Clawing at Straws* is his writing and directorial debut.

BEASTS CLAWING AT STRAWS

Original Korean title: *Ji-pu-ra-gi-ra-do jap-go-sip-eun jim-seung-deul*

A KIM YONG-HOON FILM

Written by

KIM YONG-HOON

Starring

JEON DO-YEON, JEONG WOO-SUNG, BAE SUNG-WOO, YOON YEO-JEONG, JEONG MAN-SIK,
SHIN HYUN-BIN

CREW

Music	KANG NENE
Sound Design	KANG HYE-YOUNG
Costume Design	KIM YUN-SUK CHO HEE-RAN
Make Up	LEE EUN-JU
Production Design	HAN AH-RUM
Editor	HAN MEE-YEON
Lighting	KIM KYEONG-SEOK
Cinematographer	KIM TAE-SUNG
Executive Producer	KIM JIN-SUN

Based on the novel "Waranimosugaru Kemonotachi" by Keisuke Sone, published by
Kodansha Ltd.

