

T'aegûkgi huinallimyô/ *Taegukgi*



Synopsis

Jin-tae shines shoes in order to save money to send his younger brother Jin-suk to university. Their mother runs a noodle shop, wishing the best for her two sons even though things have been tough since her husband has passed away. Sending Jin-suk to university has become the shining light in their everyday routine. At the start of the Korean War (25th June 1950), Jin-suk is unwillingly conscripted into the war. Jin-tae joins the war to save his brother and send him back home. Without money or influence, the only hope to save his brother is for Jin-tae to enlist in suicidal missions in order to earn the Medal of Honour. The medal will guarantee Jin-suk's release. Jin-suk fails to understand his brother's actions and misinterprets them as a dangerous mix of patriotism and obsession with fame and glory. The two brothers get slowly alienated as the war goes on. During this time, Young-shin, the future wife of Jin-tae who stayed with the mother and the other three little siblings, is enrolling many events organised by the North Korean communist occupant, in order to get food for the family. When Seoul is liberated, the two brothers come back separately, just to see Young-shin taken away and judged as a communist traitor. She is killed in front of them and their violent resistance bring them to jail. Jin-tae is liberated but later the prison is set on fire. He thinks his younger brother has been killed and out of rage, he joins the North Korean army and becomes a furious warrior. Jin-suk who has been actually saved by chance, understands the misunderstanding made by his brother, and goes to the front to meet him and reveal him his mistake. It is only at the fatal end that Jin-suk realizes the truth of his brother's sacrifice. But it will take him more than fifty years to discover that Jin-tae died at the very spot he left him, trying to protect his escape... (Source: KOFIC)

Data sheet

Director: KANG Je-kyu (강제규 / 姜帝圭) (DOB 1962)

Main Cast: JANG Dong-gun (Jin-tae), WON Bin (Jin-suk), LEE Eun-joo (Young-shin)

Release Date: FEB 6 2004

Genre: Action / War

Production: MK PICTURES

Executive Producer: KANG Je-gyu

Producer: CHOI Jin-hwa, KIM Woo-taek, JEONG Tae-sung

Screenplay: KANG Je-gyu, KIM Sang-don, HAN Ji-hoon

Cinematography: HONG Gyung-pyo

Editing: PARK Gok-ji

Lighting: YOO Yong-jong
Music: LEE Dong-joon
Art Director: SHIN Bo-kyoung

Production Budget: US\$15M
Distribution: Showbox/Mediaplex, Inc.
140 mn, 35mm, Color
Rate: Over 15
Box-office results: 11,746,135 nationwide on 110 screens (1st position).

Pictures

