



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
UN CERTAIN REGARD  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

The choices we must live with

Does anyone know this girl?

# MADONNA

A FILM BY SHIN SU-WON

PRESS KIT



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# MADONNA

## MAIN CREDIT

Sansoo Ventures Inc. and LittleBig Pictures present

in association with **CJ E&M**

a **JUNE FILM** production

written and directed by **SHIN Su-won**

starring **SEO Young-hee, KWON So-hyun, KIM Young-min, YOO Soon-chul, BYUN Yo-han**

produced by **Francis LIM**

cinematographer **YUN Ji-woon**

gaffer **KANG Seong-hun**

sound recording **JO Woo-jin**

production design **LEE Shin-hye**

make-up **KIM Jeong-mi**

editing **LEE Do-hyun**

sound design **KIM Soo-hyun**

music **RYU Jae-ah**

visual effects **KIM Nam-sik**

di colorist **Eligio KIM**

line producer **LEE Sun-young**

assistant director **JUNG Ho-ik**

world sales **FINECUT**

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## TECH INFO

Format | DCP

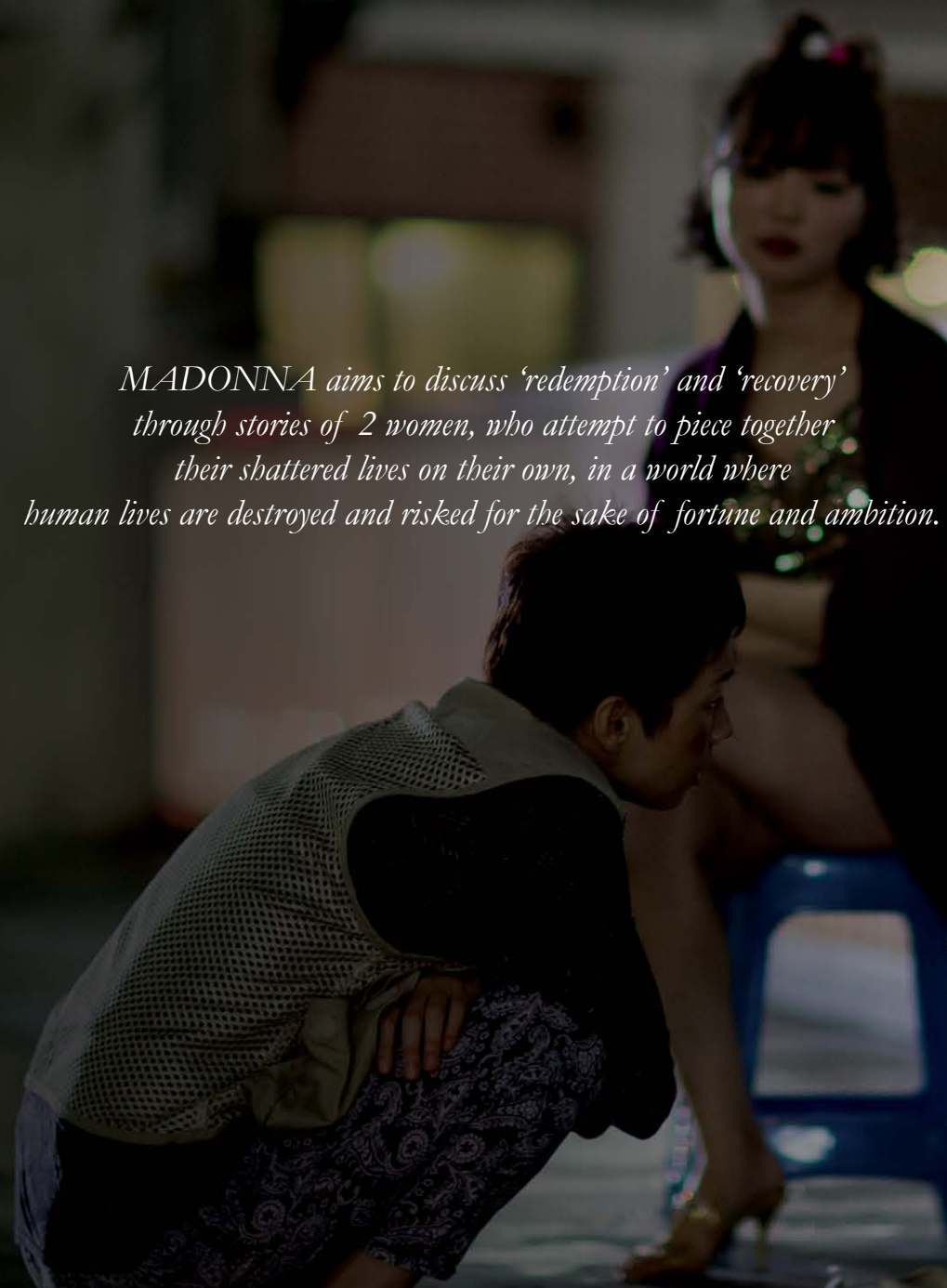
Shooting Format | Digital 2K

Aspect Ratio | 2.35:1

Sound | 5.1 Surround

Running Time | 120 minutes





*MADONNA aims to discuss 'redemption' and 'recovery' through stories of 2 women, who attempt to piece together their shattered lives on their own, in a world where human lives are destroyed and risked for the sake of fortune and ambition.*

## SYNOPSIS

Waking up from a nightmare, an assistant nurse Hye-rim reports to the hospital on her first day. She is assigned to the VIP ward and her main task is to take care of a paralyzed old man named Chul-oh. Despite being new to the facility, she senses that something a bit weird about the hospital and the way things are run. Not only does the VIP ward has extremely tight security protocols, but the nurses and staff members act like they too are VIPs.

Chul-oh is the primary investor of the hospital and he has been kept alive by a series of organ transplants in the past 10 years. On behalf of his father Chul-oh, Kim Sang-woo has been overseeing the hospital operations and lives like an emperor. He knows fully well that once his father passes away, the entire family fortune will be given away to charities and other social causes as per the will. It's in his interest to keep his father alive as long as possible, so that he can maintain a comfortable life and enjoy the power that he wields and orders continuous organ transplants. But Chul-oh's latest heart is rejected by his body and the only way to extend his life is to find him a new heart.

One day, Hye-rim is assigned to a brain-dead, pregnant patient, who is supposedly Chul-oh's relative. But Hye-rim finds out that the girl was brought into the ER, has no next of kin, and that she was a prostitute who went by the nickname 'Madonna'. Sang-woo orders Hye-rim to find Madonna's family and get them to sign an organ donation form to prevent any legal issues that may arise. She begins her search from where the girl was found and visits Madonna's old school, office, factory and even a red light district. Hye-rim discovers that Madonna was once an ordinary office clerk, and ultimately tracks down her grandmother. In the process of uncover the girl's past, Hye-rim feels sympathetic towards and vows to save Madonna and her baby at any cost and is forced to confront her own dark and harrowing past.





## DIRECTOR

### SHIN Su-won

#### Biography

Born in 1967, director SHIN studied screenplay at Korea National University of Arts, and made her feature debut in 2010 with *PASSERBY #3*, which won the Best Asian-Middle Eastern Film Award at the Tokyo Int'l Film Festival.

As an acclaimed Korean female director, SHIN has gained international recognition with her short film *CIRCLE LINE* (winner of Canal+ Prize at 2012 Cannes Critic's Week) and second feature *PLUTO* (winner of Special Mention in Generation 14 plus at 2014 Berlin Int'l Film Festival).

#### Selected Filmography

##### 2015 | MADONNA

- 68th Cannes Film Festival – Official Selection, Un Certain Regard

##### 2014 | DREAM OF A SINGLE MOM (documentary)

##### 2013 | PLUTO

- 63rd Berlin Int'l Film Festival – Generation 14 plus (Special Mention Prize)  
- 11th Florence Korea Film Fest (Jury Prize)

##### 2012 | CIRCLE LINE (short)

- 51st Cannes Critic's Week (Canal+ Prize)

##### 2011 | WOMEN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA (documentary)

##### 2010 | PASSERBY #3

- 12th Jeonju Int'l Film Festival (JJ-Star Award)  
- 23rd Tokyo Int'l Film Festival – Winds of Asia – Middle East (Best Asian-Middle Eastern Film Award)

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

A long ago, I heard a story of an exhibitonist bulimic female laborer, and a pregnant prostitute. Seeing people like them, who are so far removed from ourselves, felt like a tragic byproduct of a post-capitalist society.

Then one day, I saw a homeless woman in her 20s come into a café. As she entered, she brought in unbearable stench. She sat down on a chair, put her head on the table and fell asleep. I felt sympathetic towards her, but at the same time fear swept over me, thinking that my life could take a turn for the worst like her at any moment. Images of her left lasting impression on me and began writing *MADONNA*.

An assistant nurse Hye-rim works at a VIP hospital for the privileged. 29-year old prostitute Mina is given the nickname 'Madonna' for having big breasts. She was once full of hope and worked hard to create her own future. But her life made a disturbing turn, and her society choked life out of her little by little and forced her to work the streets as a prostitute. Hye-rim is living a similar life, one that is stable now but like Mina, it could turn for the worst at any given moment. Although they are different but similar in many ways, as they desire to redeem their lives in the ruins.

In their own way, they are both Madonnas.





### SEO Young-hee as Hye-rim

Living a meaningless life as an assistant nurse, Hye-rim is given a dangerous task by the son of her patient. She is to look deep into the life of a woman nicknamed 'Madonna' and find her next of kin to sign off an organ donation form. She slowly uncovers Madonna's tragic past and she must decide where her moral compass sides with.

#### Selected Filmography

**2013** | ROUGH PLAY (dir. SHIN Yeon-shik)

**2010** | BEDEVILLED (dir. JANG Cheol-soo)

Best Actress Award at 2011 Fantasporto

– Oporto Int'l Fantastic Film Festival

Best Actress Award at 2010 Austin Fantastic Fest

Best Actress Award at 2010 Puchon Int'l Fantastic Film Festival

**2008** | THE CHASER (dir. NA Hong-jin)



### KIM Young-min as Sang-woo

Once his father dies, Sang-woo's family fortune and inheritance evaporate as per the will. In a desperate attempt to keep his father alive, he's been looking for an organ donor and when an unidentified woman arrives at the hospital, Sang-woo cannot lose his chance.

#### Selected Filmography

**2014** | ONE ON ONE (dir. KIM Ki-duk)

**2013** | HWAYI: A MONSTER BOY (dir. JANG Joon-hwan)

**2003** | SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER AND SPRING  
(dir. KIM Ki-duk)

## CHARACTER & CAST



### KWON So-hyun as Mina (aka Madonna)

Mina wanted nothing more than a regular and stable life.

Due to her body shape and appearance, she's given the nickname 'Madonna' and is teased mercilessly by her colleagues. She is shunned by her friends, family and by her society. She faces the point of no return when her innocence is attacked and she is cajoled by those around her.

#### Feature Debut



### BYUN Yo-han as Dr. Lim

Working as a doctor between VIP ward and emergency room, he walks the fine line between life and death, and his duty and wealth. His personal moral compass is forced to take the backseat, as he is caught in something that is bigger than himself. And he sees himself in this situation and falls into a grave despair. Not wanting to lose his patient, he makes an ultimate decision.

#### Selected Filmography

**2015** | SOCIALPHOBIA (dir. HONG Seok-jae)

**2013** | COLD EYES (dir. KIM Byeong-seo, CHO Ui-seok)

**2012** | THE NIGHT OF THE WITNESS (dir. PARK Beum)



## COMPANIES

### FINANCIERS

#### SANSOO VENTURES

Sansoo Ventures Inc. manages USD 87 million of funds including the one and only fund specialized in independent film in South Korea. It provides capital for entertainment content and media businesses committed to value growth of the industry and joining the great culture venture business going forward globally. Professionals with profound expertise in entertainment business source and manage the projects including independent films such as NIGHT FLIGHT (directed by LEESONG Hee-il, 2014), GYEONGJU (directed by ZHANG Lu, 2014), ALIVE (directed by PARK Jung-bum, 2014) which were invited to prominent international film festivals.

#### LITTLEBIG PICTURES

LittleBig Pictures was founded in October 2013 in order to reform an irrational industry system and build a fair film business model. 10 most representative film production companies, including CAPER FILM, CHUNGEORAHM FILM, FILMMAKER R&K, JUPITER FILM, MYUNG FILMS, REALIES PICTURES, SAMGEORI PICTURES (in alphabetical order), CINE21, CANDLEMEDIA, KFPA(Korean Film Producers Association) have come together to form LittleBig Pictures. It aims to respect the creative spark and rights of the production companies, and work towards creating an industry that allows rational and fair contract process and profit sharing.

In 2014, LittleBig Pictures began its first full year by distributing several notable films including MOURNING GRAVE, CART, and HOW TO STEAL A DOG. In 2015, it released SHOOT ME IN THE HEART, which was based on the bestselling novel by JEONG You-jeong, and Berlinale/Cannes favorite auteur IM Kwontaek's 102nd film REVIVRE.

At this year's Cannes Film Festival, LittleBig Pictures is proudly representing 2 films: MADONNA in Un Certain Regard and OFFICE in Midnight Screening.

### PRODUCTION COMPANY

#### JUNE FILM

JUNE Film was founded in part to produce director SHIN Su-won's debut film PASSERBY #3 (2010). Francis LIM later joined the company as a producer and collaborated on SHIN's CIRCLE LINE (2012) and PLUTO (2013), in addition to TV documentary features like WOMEN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA (2011) and DREAM OF A SINGLE MOM (2014) and helped define director SHIN's unique vision.

With the start of MADONNA's production, Francis LIM became the head of JUNE Film in 2014. Not only does it plan to continue exploring director SHIN's cinematic world, it'll develop and produce a wide variety of films that highlights filmmakers' creativity, and ones that best communicate with the audience. It is currently developing director SHIN's next film and a project by a newcomer.

## WORLD SALES COMPANY

### FINECUT

FINECUT is a film company specialized in international sales and marketing, production, financing and acquisition of high-end films, set up in 2008 by Youngjoo SUH, the founder of Cineclick Asia, who has represented many works of the best known Korean filmmakers such as LEE Chang-dong (POETRY), KIM Ki-duk (PIETA), HONG Sangsoo (IN ANOTHER COUNTRY), PARK Chan-wook (OLD BOY), and BONG Joon-ho (THE HOST). SUH has represented not only Korean films but also a wide variety of international films such as TUYA'S MARRIAGE (China) winner of Golden Bear Award in Berlin Int'l Film Festival, OPIUM WAR (Afghanistan) winner of Golden Marc'Aurelio Critics Award in Rome Int'l Film Festival, Pablo TRAPERO's LION'S DEN (Argentina) and CARANCHO (Argentina) both invited to Cannes Film Festival.

Since its launch, Finecut has represented many acclaimed works including SUH's own producing titles LION'S DEN and CARANCHO directed by the Argentine director Pablo TRAPERO and both invited to Cannes Official Selection in 2008 and 2010, POETRY (dir. LEE Chang-dong) winner of the 2010 Cannes Best Screenplay Award, HAHAA (dir. HONG Sangsoo) winner of 2010 Un Certain Regard Prize, ARIRANG (dir. KIM Ki-duk) winner of 2011 Un Certain Regard Prize, PIETA (dir. KIM Ki-duk) winner of Golden Lion at 2012 Venice Film Festival, OUR SUNHI (dir. HONG Sangsoo) winner of Best Director at 2013 Locarno Int'l Film Festival, and most recently HAN GONG-JU (dir. LEE Sujin) winner of Golden Star for Best Film at Marrakech Int'l Film Festival and winner of Hivos Tiger Awards at 2014 Int'l Film Festival Rotterdam. In 2014, it represented three films at Venice Film Festival: REVIVRE (dir. IM Kwontaek) in Out-of-competition, HILL OF FREEDOM (dir. HONG Sangsoo) in Orizzonti Competition, and ONE ON ONE (dir. KIM Ki-duk) as the Opening Film of Venice Days.

On the commercial side, it presented genre successes such as THE CHASER (dir. NA Hong-jin), BEDEVILLED (dir. JANG Cheol-soo), I SAW THE DEVIL (dir. KIM Jee-woon), NEW WORLD (dir. PARK Hoon-jung), MIRACLE IN CELL NO.7 which recorded over 12.8M admissions, THE ATTORNEY (dir. YANG Woo-seok) over 11.3M admissions, and HIDE AND SEEK (dir. HUH Jung) the No.1 Korean Thriller of all times. It also represents feature animation such as THE FAKE which own Best Animated Feature Film Award at 2013 Sitges Int'l Fantastic Film Festival. Its recent film HAEMOO was the 2015 official South Korean Oscar® entry.

FINECUT also focuses on participating in co-production and financing for director-driven edgy projects from worldwide in support of directors, producers, financiers and aims to develop many international projects for its pipeline. And in 2014, the company launches its talent agency business under the label 'Finecut Entertainment' that will represent actors, writers, directors aiming to be global artists.

### BUSINESS SECTORS

International Sales / Production / Distribution / Financing / Acquisition / Talent Agency



