

The King and the Clown (Wang ui Namja)

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An off-the-scale hit in Korea (it's the country's highest grossing film ever), this vivid historical drama pushes some very unexpected buttons. Sixteenth Century Korea is going to the dogs under the tyrannical misrule of King Yeonsan, and street entertainers Jang-Saeng and Gong-Gil (the latter always in drag) earn more than usual with a vulgar satire of the monarch's shortcomings. Their lèse majesté gets them arrested, but they escape execution by coaxing a laugh from the king himself. No sooner are they installed as court jesters, though, than the deliciously feminine Gong-Gil starts receiving urgent summonses to the king's private rooms... Next thing, they're in a jealous impasse, with the queen and the possessive Jang-Saeng in one corner and the king and his new favourite in the other. Lee Jun-Ik (hitherto better known as a producer) gets spirited performances from his cast and stages and cuts with great brio. In many ways, the film that *Farewell, My Concubine* wanted to be.

We are sorry to announce the cancellation of this film. We hope to be able to arrange a screening for a later date in the Festival and will announce this as soon as we can.

Tony Rayns

Cast and Credits:

Directed by Lee Jun-Ik
Written by Choi Suk-Hwan
With Kham Woo-Sung, Jung Jin-Young, Kang Sung-Yeon
Country South Korea

Year of Production 2005

Running Time 119 minutes

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