

## CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

**The King and the Clown***Wang-ui namja***JUN-IK LEE****South Korea, 2005, 120 minutes, Color**

Lavish and raucous, dramatic and absorbing, this rousing drama of royal skullduggery in the 16th century Chosun Dynasty appeals to a broad



range of audiences both at home and in South Korea, where last year it became the country's highest grossing film of all time. After performing an acrobatically lewd spoof of domineering King Yonsan (Jeong Jin-yeong) and his conniving consort Nok-su (Gang Seong-yeon), male traveling acrobats Jang-seng (Kam Woo-seong) and Gong-gil (Lee Jun-gi), the latter of whom specializes in female roles, are arrested. Eventually earning their release, the pair is endangered again when the king becomes obsessed with Gong-gil, provoking the violent ire of Nok-su. Moving from a lusty physicality in the first hour to a Hamlet-like complexity in the second, this is an ambitious, broad-ranging adventure about the have-nots thumbing their noses at the haves. "The king's bed," we're reminded, "is where the money is." - *Eddie Cockrell*

***In Korean with English***[Official website](#)**Friday April 20 8:45 PM Wisconsin Ave Cinemas****Saturday April 21 6:30 PM Wisconsin Ave Cinemas****Print Source:**

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