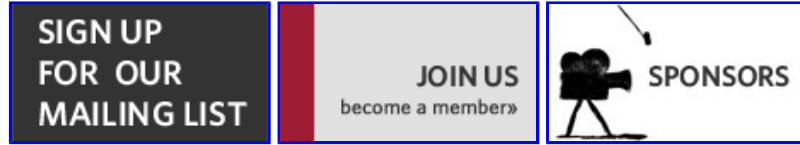


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San Francisco - March 15-22  
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 San Jose - March 23-25



## King and the Clown

*Wangae Namja*

### credits:

**Director:** Lee Jun-Ik  
**Producers:** Chung Ji-wan, Lee Jun-ik  
**Writers:** Choi Suk-Hwan, Kim Tae-woong  
**Cast:** Karm Woo-sung, Jung Jin-young, Kang Sung-yeon, Lee Joon-gi

**South Korea 2005 | 119 mins | 35mm | Korean w/E.S.**

Until Bong Joon-ho's *THE HOST* sprung from the depths to terrorize Seoul, this vibrant period piece held claim to the box-office throne as the highest grossing domestic film in South Korea's history, and the first to top 12 million viewers. Equal parts ribald comedy, historical epic and melodramatic love story, Lee Jun-ik's movie is popular filmmaking at its finest: ambitious, entertaining and thoughtful.

At the height of the 16th-century Chosun Dynasty, a pair of rural male actors—boisterous, macho Jang-seng and quiet, feminine Gong-gil—travel to Seoul and team up with a struggling acting troupe. When their irreverent show—complete with enough bawdy humor and gender-bending to make a contemporary audience blush—mocks the famously hedonistic king, they get more than they bargained for. After being promptly arrested, they're given a chance to spare themselves if they can make the king laugh. To everyone's surprise, the ecstatic monarch loves the show and names the actors official court jesters, giving them more extravagant food and shelter than they'd ever imagined. But the king's attentiveness to Gong-gil makes it quickly apparent that humor isn't the only thing motivating his generosity. The king's mistress, the country's ministers and Jang-seng soon grow suspicious, and jealousy and anger spring from all sides.

A prime piece of popular entertainment, *KING AND THE CLOWN* succeeds as a finely tuned drama that's both funny and meaningful, offering a nuanced view of two issues that a lesser film would gloss over: free speech and homosexuality.

—Jonathan L. Knapp

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## SCREENINGS

Sun 3/18 2:45 PM

Castro Theatre

KING18

DAY OF SHOW  
BUY TICKETS IN PERSON

Sat 3/24 2:00 PM

Camera 12 Cinemas

KING24

DAY OF SHOW  
BUY TICKETS IN PERSON

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