



MASTER OF DIVINITY

A FILM BY EUGENE SUEN

AN ALMOND TREE FILMS PRODUCTION

STARRING

JUN KIM, JENNIFER SOO, JOHNNY KWON, STEVEN LIM

DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER

EUGENE SUEN

PRODUCERS

LEE ISAAC CHUNG, HEEJEON KIM, CRAIG TOVEY

USA, SOUTH KOREA/20 MINUTES/ENGLISH/COMEDY/2019



Cast Credits

Jun Kim - Josh

Jennifer Soo- Irene

Johnny Kwon- Pastor Lee

Steven Lim- Franky

Naomi Kim Yoon- So-Young

Jo Sung- Elder Cho

Eunyoung Kim- Shin-Nae

Andy Lim- Prayer Meeting Member

Jayne Kim- Prayer Meeting Member

Ivy Lam- Prayer Meeting Member

Cathy Lim- Prayer Meeting Member

Tiffany Suen- Prayer Meeting Member



Crew Credits

Writer, Director, Producer: **Eugene Suen**

Producers: **Lee Isaac Chung, Heejeon Kim, Craig Tovey**

Director of Photography: **Irvin Liu**

Editor: **Daniel Raim**

Music: **Bryan Senti**

Co-Producers: **Samuel Gray Anderson, Daniel W. Long**

Script Supervisor: **David Chien**

Assistant Camera: **Charlene Wang**

Assistant Directors: **Craig Tovey, Ben Cassil**

Sound Mixer: **Blake Christian**

Colorist: **Alastor Arnold, Fotokem**

Re-Recording Mixer: **Alex Gerbrandt**

Score Mixer: **Justin Moshkevich**

Special Thanks: **Justin Chang, Arvin Chen, Steve Chen, Christina Chou, Davy Chou, Mike Gan, Jacky Goldberg, Justin Guerrieri, Vicci Ho, Brian Hu, Alice Huang, Louis Kang, Joanne Kim, Neville Kiser, In-Ah Lee, Justin Lerner, Andrew Neel, Teng-Kuang Ng, John and Michelle Park, Douglas Seok, Thabo Wolfaardt, Jason Wong, Dean Yamada, Edmund Yeo, Donny Yoo, Jane Yoo, David Zellner**



Synopsis

Short: Josh is a struggling filmmaker and ex-seminarian living in LA's Koreatown. All is well- relatively speaking- until one night, his deeply religious wife Irene tells him that God is calling her to quit her job. Starring Jun Kim ("West 32nd", "Late Autumn") and Jennifer Soo ("For Izzy"), edited by Oscar-nominated director Daniel Raim ("Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story"), and produced by acclaimed filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung ("Munurangabo"), "Master of Divinity" is an incisive contemporary comedy about the complicated nature of religious beliefs and human relationship. Written and directed by Eugene Suen in his directorial debut.

Long: Josh is a neurotic filmmaker and ex-seminarian who spends his days writing at home. His wife Irene works a tough day job in order to keep the couple financially afloat. Together, they attend prayer meetings at a small Koreatown church in Los Angeles. At the church, practices like group prayers and prophecies provide its members with much-needed emotional support. Josh, however, merely puts up with this and finds the gatherings nearly intolerable. Everything comes to a head when, one night, Irene tells him that God has given her a prophetic confirmation to quit her job, and she's determined to follow through. Distraught about what this could mean for their financial situation and frustrated with his wife's perceived gullibility, Josh must figure out what to do. Featuring compelling turns by Jun Kim ("West 32nd", "Late Autumn") and Jennifer Soo ("For Izzy"), edited by Oscar-nominated director Daniel Raim ("Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story") and produced by acclaimed filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung ("Munurangabo"), "Master of Divinity" is an incisive contemporary comedy about the complicated nature of religious beliefs and human relationship. Written and directed by Eugene Suen in his directorial debut.



Director's Statement

"Master of Divinity" marks my debut as a director and writer, and the making of this short comedy allowed me to accomplish three creative goals: One, make a film about religion and set it in the world of Asian-American Christianity, which is an essential part of many Asian-Americans' social and spiritual life, but one that has remained mostly ignored on screen. Two, tell a story about an ex-seminarian like myself who, as is the case with most of us, struggles with beliefs, skepticism, and angst, particularly in the context of personal relationships, as well as in regards to what is going in the world at large. Three, work with my friends and favorite performers and have a good time in the process. In short, this is a personal film that deals with some fairly serious ideas, but does so in what I hope is an entertaining manner. The film is also, at its core, a story about a husband and a wife and the act of faith that is marriage.

- Eugene Suen



Crew Biographies

Eugene Suen (Writer, Director, Producer) is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker. He was born and raised in Taiwan and moved to the U.S. as a teenager. He's produced several award-winning films, including "Abigail Harm" by Lee Isaac Chung and starring Amanda Plummer and Will Patton, which was an official selection at Busan, Torino, and winner of the Grand Jury Prize and Best Director at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. He attended seminary and has worked in film development and as an English-Chinese film consultant. "Master of Divinity" is his directorial debut.





Lee Isaac Chung (Producer) is an award-winning filmmaker. His latest film “Minari” won the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Chung’s 2007 film “Munyurangabo” premiered at Cannes to great acclaim and was an official selection at Berlin, Toronto, Rotterdam, Busan, and AFI Fest, where it won the top prize. His 2010 film, “Lucky Life”, was developed at Cannes and premiered at Tribeca and Torino. His 2012 film “Abigail Harm” was an official selection at Busan, Torino, and won the Grand Jury Prize and Best Director at the L.A. Asian Pacific Film Festival.

Heejeon Kim (Producer) is a film executive and filmmaker. She was formerly a senior executive at CJ Entertainment in South Korea, having served as Senior Vice President of International Sales and the head of International Film Festivals and Marketing. She was most recently the VP of Distribution at CJ Entertainment America. In those roles, she worked with leading directors on such notable films as Lee Chang-dong’s “Secret Sunshine”, Bong Joon-ho’s “Mother”, Kim Jee-woon’s “The Good, the Bad, and the Weird” and “The Age of Shadows.” She has also worked as a TV producer at Joongang Broadcast Corporation and as a program coordinator for the Busan International Film Festival.





Craig Tovey (Producer) is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and performer. Aside from writing and directing comedy, he is an entirely adequate musical improviser, boxer, bassist and guitarist. He holds a potentially useless Master's degree in Communication... time will tell.

Irvin Liu (Cinematographer) is a Los-Angeles based cinematographer. His credits include the narrative feature “For Izzy”, winner of the 2018 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival Grand Jury Award and the Audience Awards for Best Narrative Feature at Frameline 42 Film Festival, Asian American International Film Festival 2018, and Ashland Film Festival. He has participated in Sundance Directors Lab as a gaffer and is a recipient of Film Independent’s Project Involve Cinematography Fellowship.



Daniel Raim (Editor) is an Oscar-nominated director. He received an Oscar nomination for Best Short Documentary with "The Man on Lincoln's Nose," a film about Alfred Hitchcock's legendary production designer Robert Boyle. His critically acclaimed feature documentary, “Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Story,” was an official selection at Cannes, Rotterdam, Edinburgh, and other leading film festivals.



Bryan Senti (Music) is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, producer, and recording artist. His films have premiered at festivals around the world, including Sundance and the Venice Biennale, and have been distributed by Lionsgate, HBO, and Magnolia, among others. He recently co-scored the Sky TV series “Save Me”, which has been called “The Best TV Drama of the Year” by the Telegraph. He is also a frequent artist collaborator and has shared the stage with Mark Ronso, Boy George, Andrew Wyatt, Alison Mosshart, Dustin O’Halloran, Sean Lennon, Jonathan Pierce, and Samantha Urbani, among others.



Cast Biographies

Jun Kim (Josh) is an Korean-American actor who grew up in Hong Kong and studied at the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art. He is fluent in English, Korean, Mandarin and Cantonese, and worked as a stockbroker before becoming an actor. He has acted extensively in South Korea and in the United States. He made his American debut as the co-lead in the 2007 film “West 32nd” and has appeared in such Korean movies and television series as “Late Autumn,” “The Scam,” “Love Exposure,” “No Tears for the Dead” and “Lobbyist.”

Jennifer Soo (Irene) was born and raised in New Jersey and moved to Los Angeles after spending her early twenties in NYC performing in small theaters. Despite being an East Coaster, she has been completely seduced by the palm trees, beaches, and the thriving theater scene in LA. Favorite theater credits: “Hot Cat”, “D Deb Debbie Deborah”, “Dry Land”, and “Gloria”, which was recently mentioned by the LA Times as one of the best of LA theater. TV: “Parks & Rec”, “LA to Vegas”, “Reverie”. Her passion project, the feature film “For Izzy”, is currently on the festival circuit and was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.



Johnny Kwon (Pastor Lee) is a graduate of Yale School of Drama and has acted professionally in film, television and theater. His recent work has been behind the camera shooting documentaries on subjects ranging from California's endangered coastal birds to the impeachment of South Korea's first female president, Park Geun Hye. Johnny's narrative feature as a director, "Always Be Boyz," won the Special Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and the Special Jury Award at CAAMFest.

Steven Lim (Franky) is an old man, but a young actor. This Baltimore native and graduate of the University of Southern California currently studies at the Elizabeth Mestnik Acting Studio and trains in improv comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade theatre. He is a fan of comedy and has extensive experience working behind the scenes producing live shows such as Kollaboration and The Comedy Comedy Festival: A Comedy Festival. With the urging of his parents, he had once considered becoming a doctor, but lost all motivation for med school once he realized that laughter is the best medicine.



CONTACT INFO

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