

The Institute for Korean Studies presents

## Film Screening: *The Bacchus Lady* with Director E J-yong



Monday, April 3, 2017  
6:30-7:30 pm- Reception  
7:30-10:00 pm- Screening  
Gateway Film Center  
1550 N High St

### Special Screening and Q&A with Director E J-yong

**Synopsis:** So-young makes a meager living by selling herself to old men. She is a “Bacchus lady”, an elderly prostitute who approaches potential clients with a bottle of the popular Korean energy drink Bacchus and the phrase “Care for a drink?” As a young woman, she used to sell herself to American soldiers. Perhaps driven by the painful memory of giving up her half-black infant son for adoption, she is unable to ignore the motherless Korean-Filipino child she meets while visiting the hospital. Despite help from her social outcast neighbors like Madame Tina, her transgender landlady, or Do-hoon, a poor young man with a prosthetic leg, she struggles to care for the child. One day, Jae-woo, a former client, informs her that Song, another regular, has been hospitalized following a stroke. She visits the hospital to discover the man completely paralyzed. Song begs her to end his life, a request that causes her both bewilderment and dismay.

**Director Bio:** Director and screenwriter E J-yong graduated from the Korean Academy of Film Arts in 1991. His films include: the debut feature, *An Affair* (1998), recognized for its visually unique minimalism and the deep emotions it conveys; the joint Korean-Japanese made film *Asako In Ruby Shoes* (2000); his remarkable adaptation of the classic French novel *Les Liaisons dangereuses* in the Joseon Dynasty-set film *Untold Scandal* (2003); *Dasepo Naughty Girls* (2006), a film about high school students with cartoon-like imaginations; *The Actresses* (2009); *Behind the Camera* (2012); *My Brilliant Life* (2014); and *The Bacchus Lady* (2016). He is well regarded in the Korean film industry for his stylistic choices, his carefully crafted visuals, and for his diverse array of works which explore the boundary between fiction and non-fiction.

*This screening is part of a five-university tour with events at Penn State University (April 1), University of Wisconsin-Madison (April 5), University of Minnesota (April 6), and Michigan State University (April 7). The event at OSU is made possible by the Korea Foundation, the Korea International Trade Association, and by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.*