

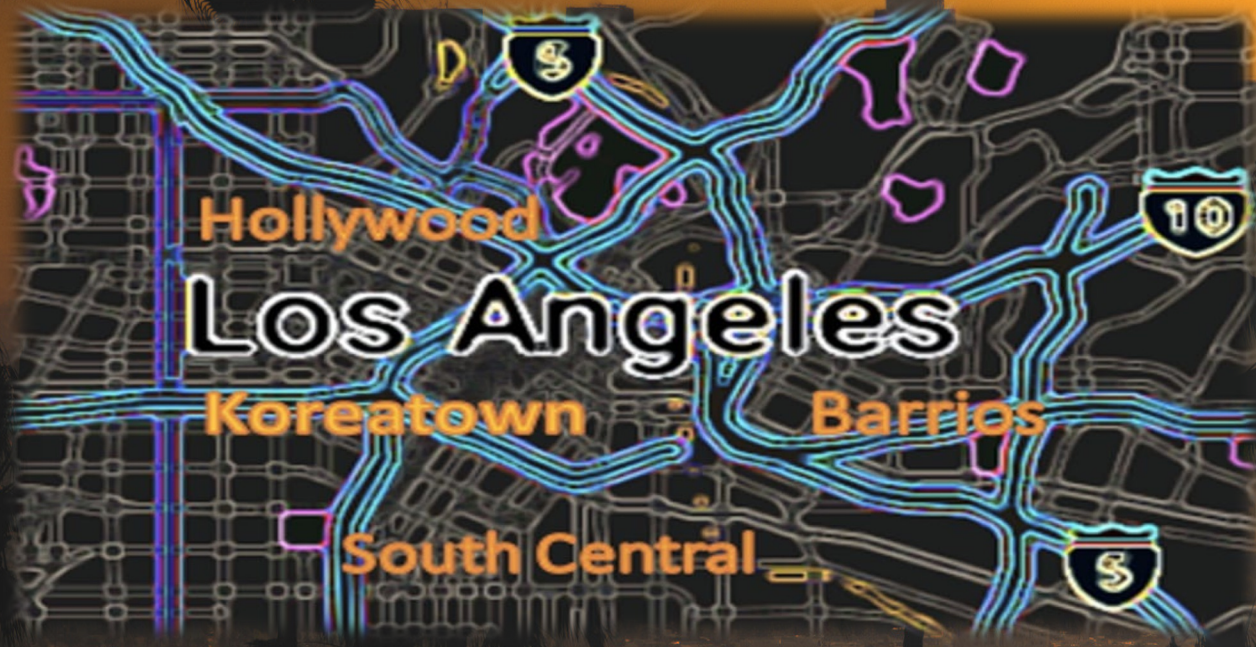
K-TOWN BLUES

In the Heart of the American Dream

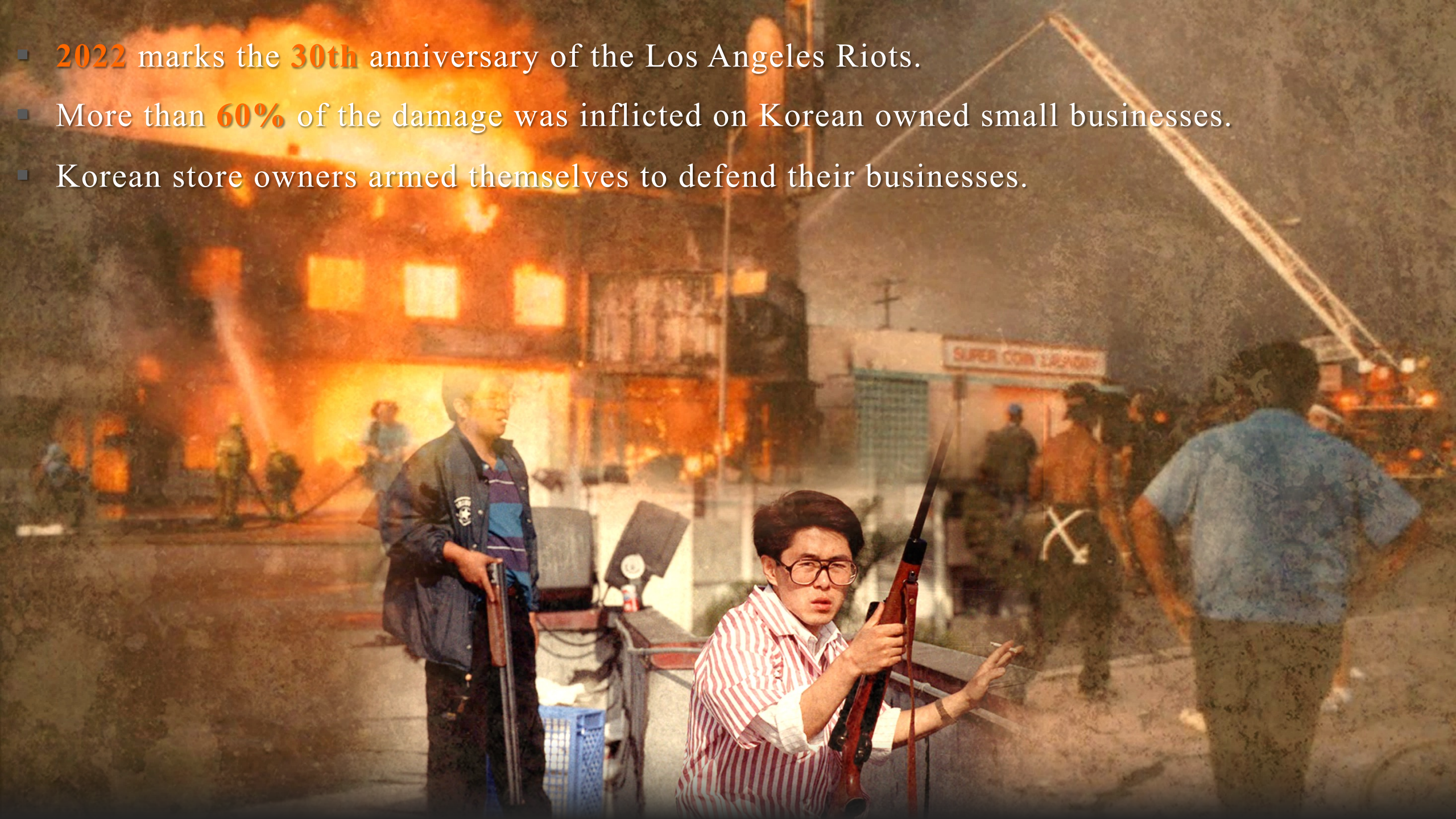


a period social drama feature

LOS ANGELES 1992



- **2022** marks the **30th** anniversary of the Los Angeles Riots.
- More than **60%** of the damage was inflicted on Korean owned small businesses.
- Korean store owners armed themselves to defend their businesses.



SETTING

The setting, in a Korean restaurant in Koreatown, forms a microcosm of a community's struggle and tension among minorities in the days before the **1992 riots**.





LOGLINE

Just before the L.A. Riot, a troubled young Korean-American takes over managing her father's body shop after a violent robbery, but ends up falling for the Latino head mechanic, against her bigoted father's opposition.

SYNOPSIS

Koreatown Blues is a father-daughter story, underscoring an unlikely love affair between a young Korean-American woman and an undocumented Latino mechanic leading up to the L.A. Riot.

Jackie (22) dropped out of college after her mother's death and steals money for drugs from her father Park (50), who runs an auto body in Koreatown, bordering Latino and Black neighborhoods.

After a violent robbery, Jackie, guilty by association, takes over managing the body shop but ends up falling for Fernando (25), a streetwise Mexican head mechanic.

When Park returns from the hospital, he accuses his workers of the robbery. Tension builds, and discovering his daughter's love relationship with Fernando throws Park into a homicidal rage. Jackie elopes with Fernando.

On their way out of L.A., Jackie sees the Riot in the news and returns to the body shop where her father is wielding a shotgun to protect his business. During her plea to go home, they get helplessly trapped in the fire. Fernando shows up, risking his life in the process of saving them.



C H A R A C T E R S

JACKIE PARK, 22

A natural beauty, with sad eyes. Raised to be American, deprived of Korean language and culture.

She has lost direction since her mother died, dropped out of college, became a slacker.

When she encounters a real-life challenge/crisis, she struggles morally and spiritually in search of the real meaning of her life and love relationship.

*This is only a concept book for illustrating the filmmaker's ideas and no cast is yet attached to the project.



FERNANDO, 20s

The head mechanic at the auto body shop, handsome with thoughtful eyes.

A leader of the pack, streetwise, spiritual, insightful and proud. A reformed former gang member who fled from Mexico after his little brother was killed by a rival gang. Learned to speak basic Korean as a survival tool. Understands Jackie's troubles and cares for her.

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MR. PARK, 58

A proud Korean immigrant. A gruff, self-made businessman, his body shop is his proud American Dream.

Stubborn, bigoted, hot-tempered, authoritarian towards his daughter and his employees.

A former Marine (in Korea), he grieves over the death of his wife, values loyalty and kinship and is devoted to caring for his aging mother. His daughter Jackie, a college dropout, has become a source of constant annoyance and disappointment, in contrast to his proud son, ambitiously pursuing a career in law.

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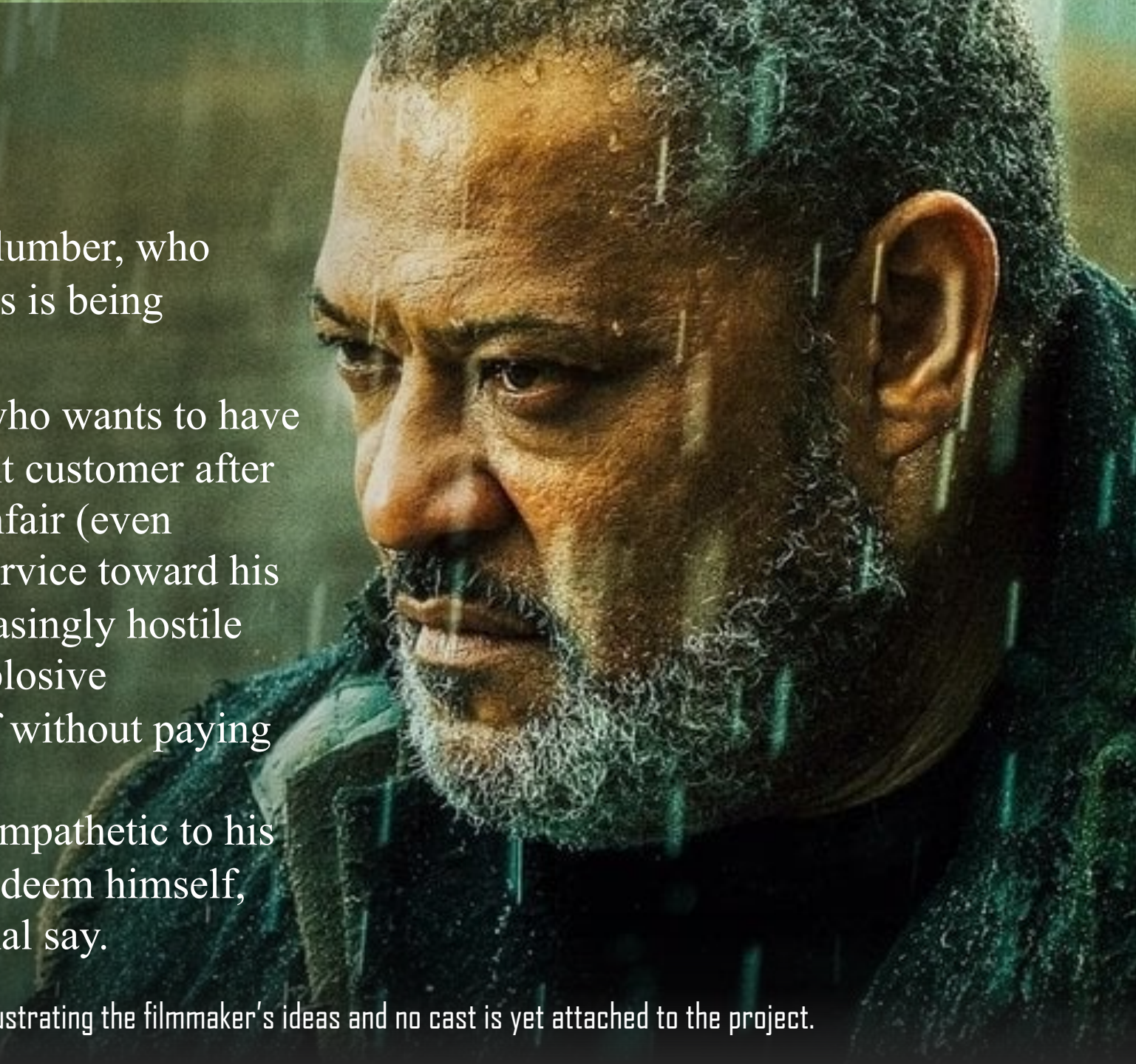
ARTHUR, 56

A hardworking middle-class Black plumber, who feels his self-made plumbing business is being impacted by new immigrants.

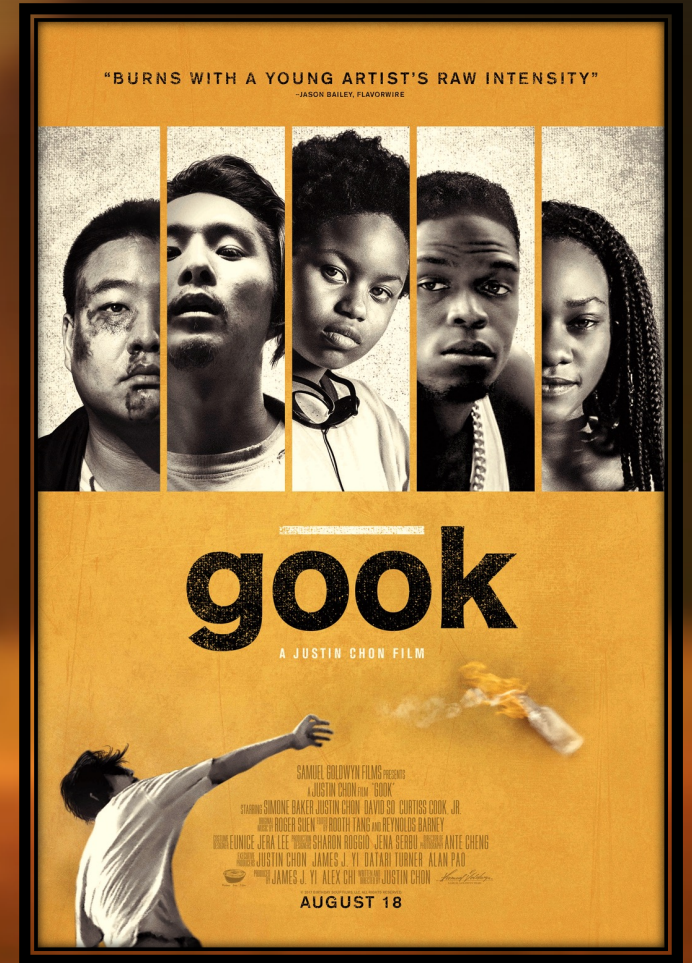
A proud, no-nonsense businessman who wants to have the final say, becomes Park's reluctant customer after an accident in Koreatown. Feeling unfair (even paranoid) about Park's preferential service toward his Korean customers, he becomes increasingly hostile toward Park, leading to a racially explosive confrontation. He drives his truck off without paying for the repair.

When the Riot erupts, he becomes sympathetic to his fellow businessman and decides to redeem himself, only to realize he doesn't have the final say.

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COMPARABLE FILMS





KYUNG-JA (KJ) LEE

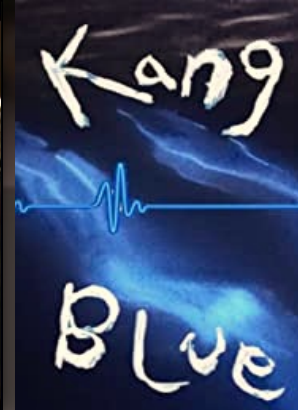
Writer/Director

Lee obtained her Master's degree in psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, and a Master's degree in directing at AFI with an award winning short film "*Halmani*."

Lee continued her independent filmmaking career and received numerous awards and fellowships, including Rockefeller Foundation Asian Artist Fellowship, Sundance Screenwriters Lab, Producers Guild of America Diversity Project Fellowship, Shanghai International Film Festival Co-FPC Showcase, Film Independent' Project Involve, and was in development with HBO Pictures as Writer/Director of a feature project "*Koreatown Blues*."

Lee is currently developing several feature/short projects including a supernatural thriller, "*The Calling*", a Korean adoptee's struggle with her birthmother's "shaman calling." In 2021, she was a fellow in ARRAY's Inaugural Master class and was awarded a California Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship.

T E A M B I O





CHARLES BURNETT

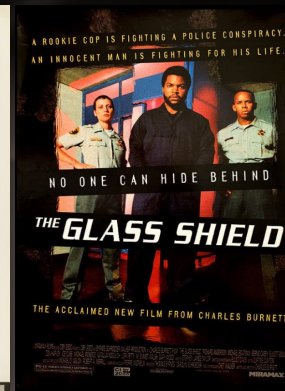
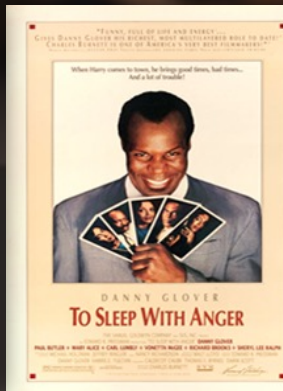
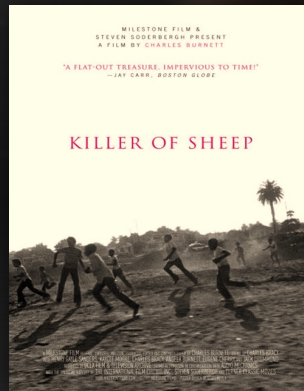
Executive Producer

Called "one of America's very best filmmakers" by the Chicago Tribune and "the nation's least-known great filmmaker and most gifted black director" by The New York Times.

Recipient of MacArthur Fellowship, Getty Foundation and the Guggenheim Fellowship. Received an "honorary Oscar" from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Two of his films have been selected for the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress: *Killer of Sheep* (1978) and *To Sleep with Anger* (1990).

TEAM BIO





WRITER/DIRECTOR STATEMENT

My stories are inspired by real historical events and cultural traditions which reflect the trials and tribulations of interactions between different minority groups.

I want to tell stories that transgress cultural boundaries and lead to a greater understanding between various ethnicities.

As a Korean-American filmmaker, my objective is to express a unique vision through my bicultural background, telling impactful stories about the Asian American experience in particular.





PRODUCTIONS

CONTACT US

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