



THE CALLING

Supernatural Horror Thriller

LOGLINE

A Korean adoptee, a medical resident at a private hospital that is engaged in an illegal organ harvest, struggles with her inherited shaman calling as she fights for her innocence and for justice for the ghosts of the victims.



KOREAN SHAMANISM

Many ethnic traditions are increasingly endangered by global modernization, but Korean shamanism, mostly passed on by women, maintains its deeply rooted spiritual influences.

SHAMAN (MUDANG)

The role of the mudang is to act as intermediary between the spirits or gods and humanity in order to solve hitches in the development of life, through the practice of "gut" rituals.

THE CALLING (SHIN-BYONG)

The possession from a god that a chosen shaman candidate manifests symptoms of physical pain and psychosis which may only be cured through acceptance of and full communion (Narim gut) with the spirit.



SYNOPSIS

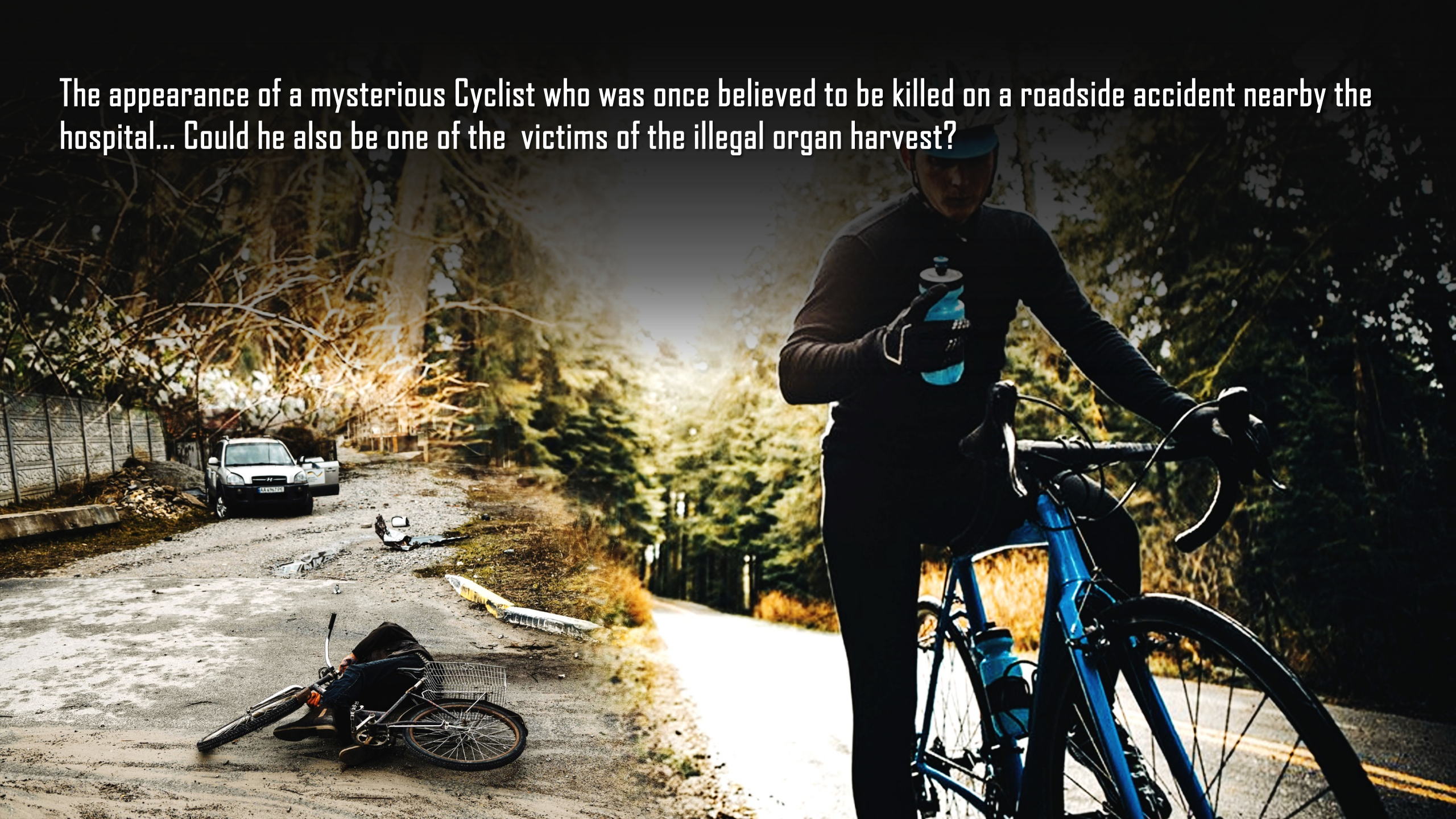
A Korean adoptee, a medical resident in California, faces an accusation of a failed organ transfer from the hospital engaged in an illegal organ harvest.

While fighting for her innocence, she receives the "shaman calling."

With the help of a Korean Nurse and Master Shaman, her resistance to "the calling" changes to acceptance (her birthmother's shaman root) as her paranormal power leads to the clues of the atrocities, which proves her innocence and ultimately brings justice to the ghosts of the victims.



The appearance of a mysterious Cyclist who was once believed to be killed on a roadside accident nearby the hospital... Could he also be one of the victims of the illegal organ harvest?



SHAMAN'S RATTLE BELLS –
a tool to call the spirits



WRITER STATEMENT

"The Calling" takes a unique approach, combining issues of cultural identity, alienation and mysticism with horror and suspense.

For many years, I've been fascinated with the intensity and the beauty of the Korean shaman ritual, which offers healing and consolation for the living and the dead.

It possesses not only inherent dramatic elements but also a unique physical expression that involves dancing barefoot on a pair of machete blades as proof of connection to the spiritual world.

This fantastic occult phenomenon inspired me to craft a supernatural thriller laden with horror elements.



CLAIRE REILLY. 25

A Korean adoptee, an aspiring surgeon, is trapped into an illegal organ harvest scheme which could jeopardize her life-time dream of becoming a surgeon. She then experiences her diseased birthmother's shaman calling, and sees the haunted spirits of the victims.



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

NURSE KIM. 35

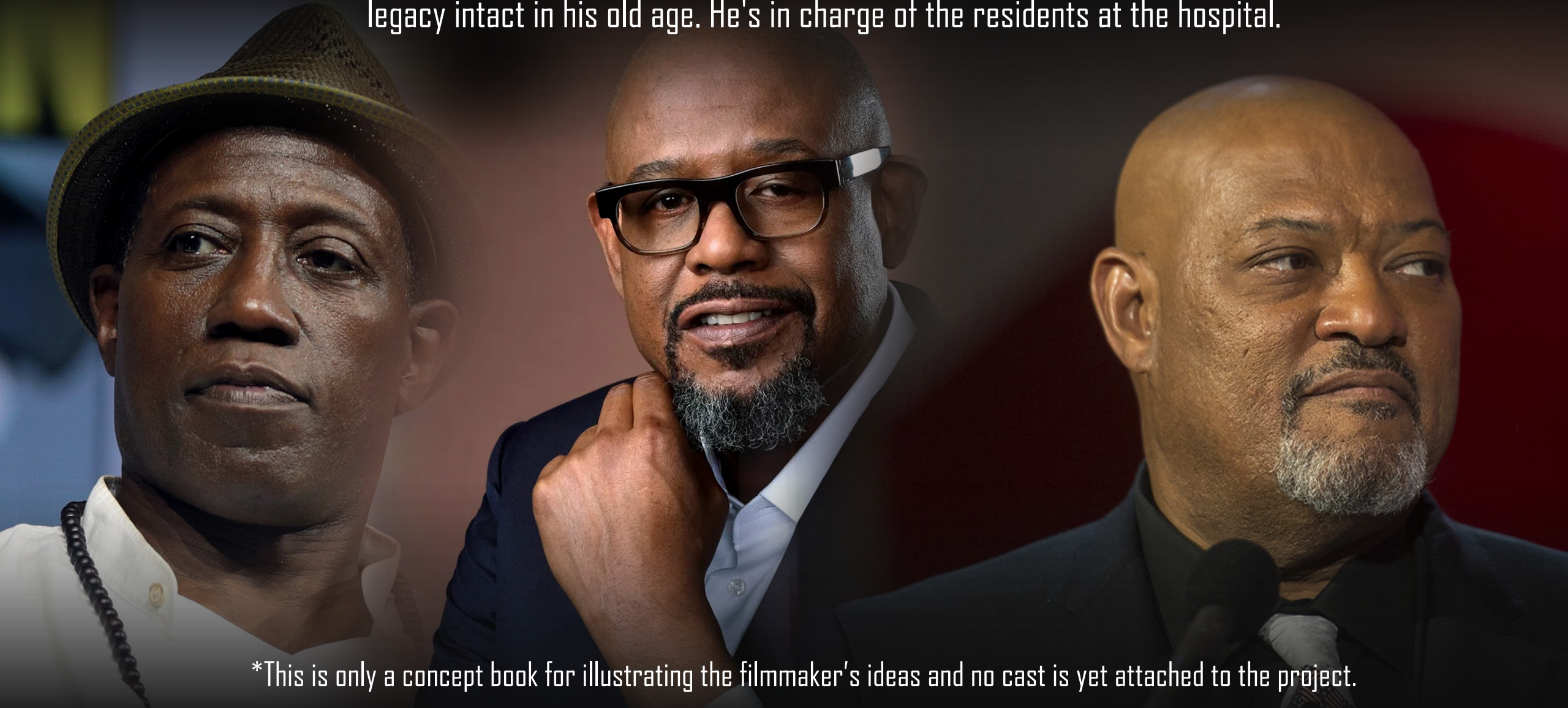
A no-nonsense head nurse of the hospital surgical unit. A Korean immigrant who notices Claire's symptoms of the shaman calling and helps her lead to Master Shaman. A proud Korean who bravely stands up for the unjust.



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DR. THOMAS ADAMS, 02

One of the leading organ transfer surgeons in the nation, who struggles to maintain his legacy intact in his old age. He's in charge of the residents at the hospital.



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DIRECTOR HOLDEN. 50

The Director of the hospital, well known for organ transplants, has been engaged in organ harvesting scheme.



JACK REILLY, 32

Claire's adoptive brother is intellectually challenging and lacks a moral compass with erratic and violent behavior.



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MASTER SHAMAN. 07

A Korean Shaman practices in Koreatown, in Los Angeles. She believes it's her shaman duty to help her fellow shaman's daughter, Claire understand and accept her spiritual connection (the calling) to her shaman birthmother and shows the path to her spiritual journey.

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COMPARABLES



KYUNG-JA (KJ) LEE

Writer/Producer

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 a ward 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 social drama, *"K-Town Blues,"* a supernatural thriller, *"The Calling,"* and the contest-winning short screenplays, *"Little Tokyo Story"* and *"The Comfort Woman."*

In 2021, Lee was a fellow in ARRAY's Inaugural Master class and was awarded a California Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship.



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