



*Little Tokyo
Story*

short drama

Comfort Woman

Sexual slavery by Imperial Armed Forces of Japan during the WWII.



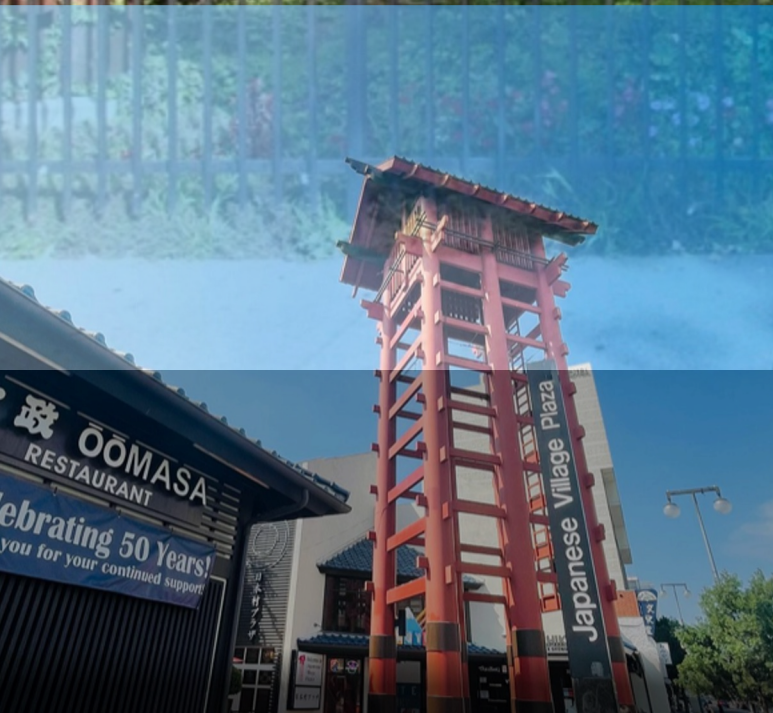
Logline

At a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, a Korean elderly woman and her Japanese caregiver confront their racial animosity when they discover a shared tragedy from the past.



Setting

Little Tokyo Towers (senior apartment) in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles and Comfort Woman's Peace Monument in Glendale, near Los Angeles



The story is based on the real-life vandalism of the Comfort Woman Statue in 2019.





Synopsis

In a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, a Korean woman with a disability is haunted by the tragic history of Japanese occupation during WWII. She struggles to accept help from a Japanese caregiver, who discovers clues about her mother's history as a Comfort Woman. As they bond over their shared past and overcome racial prejudices, an unlikely friendship forms between the Korean woman and her Japanese caregiver.

Sun-Hai Kim, 78

A Korean woman harbors strong resentment towards Japanese people due to her mother's suffering during the Japanese occupation. She is a fiercely independent woman who refuses to acknowledge her need for care. When her only son is relocated to New York City, she chooses to remain in her senior apartment in Little Tokyo in L.A. There, she must confront her aging and prejudice when her son hires a Japanese caregiver.



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

Naomi Saito, 65

A Japanese Caregiver, facing a dire financial situation, accepts a job caring for a Korean senior resident despite her prejudice. While looking after her Korean client, she learns about the history of Korean Comfort Women, which leads her to discover her "family's shameful secret": her mother was also a comfort woman during WWII.



Jai-Min Kim, 48

A Korean American banker who respects his mother's independent lifestyle while being concerned about her physical and psychological well-being.



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Writer's Statement

My stories explore universal themes of trauma, aging, forgiveness, and friendship. They weave together layers of poetic moments and metaphors, such as the Comfort Woman's Statue symbolizing tragic oppression and the yellow butterfly representing freedom.

I yearn for a peaceful resolution and believe friendship between former enemies could be a step toward ending the cycle of hatred. Using the actual event of the vandalized Comfort Woman Statue as the catalyst, I envisioned the setting for such a possible friendship at a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, where Korean and Japanese elders reside.

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 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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CONTACT

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