

Interview: From Norman Bates to ‘Mother’ With Director Bong Joon-ho

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on March 25, 2010 - 3:47pm

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CHICAGO – The masterful young director of “Memories of Murder” and “The Host,” two of the best films of the ’00s, has done it again with the incredible thriller “Mother,” opening in Chicago tomorrow, March 26th, 2010. He recently called over to discuss his new film and its inspirations, along with upcoming work with “Thirst” director Park Chan-wook and even a sequel to “The Host”.

The title character in “Mother” is played by an icon in Bong’s home country, the fantastic Kim Hye-ja. Kim plays a woman who’s mentally handicapped son is accused of murder and the film tracks her search for the answers that will set him free. Twisting and turning, the film is a brilliant examination of the crucial ties of family and the way they can be as damaging as they are healing.



Bong Joon-ho on the set of Mother
Photo credit: Magnolia Pictures

Family is a theme that Bong has explored before in the excellent montser movie “The Host,” but he does so in his own unique way. As he says, “My films revolve around families but unlike typical filmmakers, I’m not so much of a fan of portraying “always sticking together” or happy endings. I just think that out of all the human relationships, family is the most basic and most instinctual. I really wanted to portray how those simple relationships play out in complicated ways.”