

조혜자의 음악

The Music of Jo Hyeja

21 min. | Color | 1.78:1 | South Korea | 2012

A young woman, haunted by the music of an old woman living upstairs from her, stumbles onto a horrifying, dark secret.



Synopsis: "The Music of Jo Hyeja" is South Korea's first film adaptation of H.P. Lovecraft's work, setting his story "The Music of Erich Zann" in a grungy suburb of Seoul. In it, a young woman named Miju (Bunhong Lee) finds herself captivated by the strange music of an old woman named Jo Hyeja (Yunnam Park), who is living in poverty upstairs from her. Her investigations into the music reveal secrets so dangerous, so horrifying that her sanity may be the price she pays for listening to the music of Jo Hyeja.

About The Film: This film is South Korean director Jihyun Park's debut; instead of Lovecraft's xenophobic dread, "The Music of Jo Hyeja" explores the tensions of marginality, poverty, and sexism in South Korean society today, through the lens of Lovecraftian cosmic horror. The script, written by SF author Gord Sellar, manages to be faithful to the original tale while both adapting it to a modern sensibility and to the South Korean context, and the film's haunting imagery is the work of cinematographer Minchul Sung.

The score features the *haegeum*, a traditional Korean musical instrument; all of the music played by the elderly female character Jo Hyeja are performed by Bomi Park, the *haegeum* player in the Korean music group Jambinai (whose song "Naburak" is also featured in the film).

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