



The Comfort Woman Statue

SHORT DRAMA



Comfort Woman

Over 200,000 women of Asian descent, mainly from Korea, were forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.



Peace Monument

In memory of more than 200,000 Asian and Dutch women who were removed from their homes in Korea, China, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, East Timor and Indonesia, to be coerced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan between 1932 and 1945.

And in celebration of proclamation of “Comfort Women Day” by the City of Glendale on July 30, 2012, and of passing of House Resolution 121 by the United States Congress on July 30, 2007, urging the Japanese Government to accept historical responsibility for these crimes.

It is our sincere hope that these unconscionable violations of human rights shall never recur.

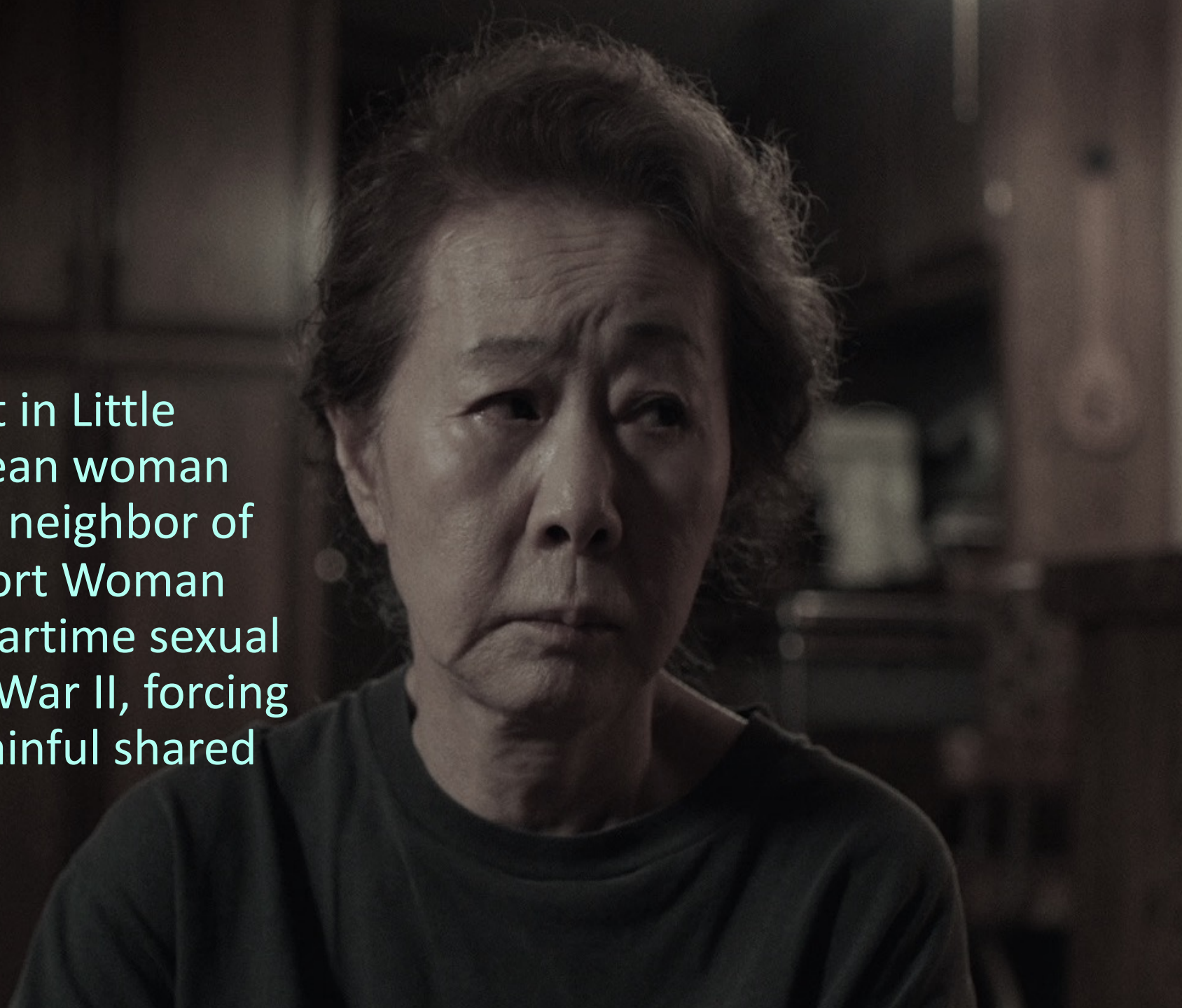
July 30, 2013.

Based on the real-
life 2019 vandalism
of the Comfort
Woman Statue.



Logline

At a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, an elderly Korean woman accuses her Japanese neighbor of vandalizing the Comfort Woman Statue, a symbol of wartime sexual slavery during World War II, forcing them to confront a painful shared history.



Little Tokyo Towers, a senior apartment community in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, and the Comfort Women's Peace Monument



Setting

Little Tokyo Towers, a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, and the Comfort Women's Peace Monument in nearby Glendale, California.



Remove The
Comfort Woman Statue!



Comfort Woman is a hoax!





Synopsis

An elderly Korean woman whose late mother endured the trauma of being a Comfort Woman during World War II becomes convinced that her Japanese neighbor vandalized the Comfort Woman Statue.

As she pursues her own amateur investigation—despite her son's warnings—her long-held resentment toward the Japanese blinds her to the truth and leads to a wrongful accusation.

When her neighbor faces a medical emergency, the two women are brought together by an unexpected act of compassion. Through their shared experiences of loss, grief, and aging, they discover a friendship that helps heal wounds carried across generations.

Comfort Woman is a hoax!

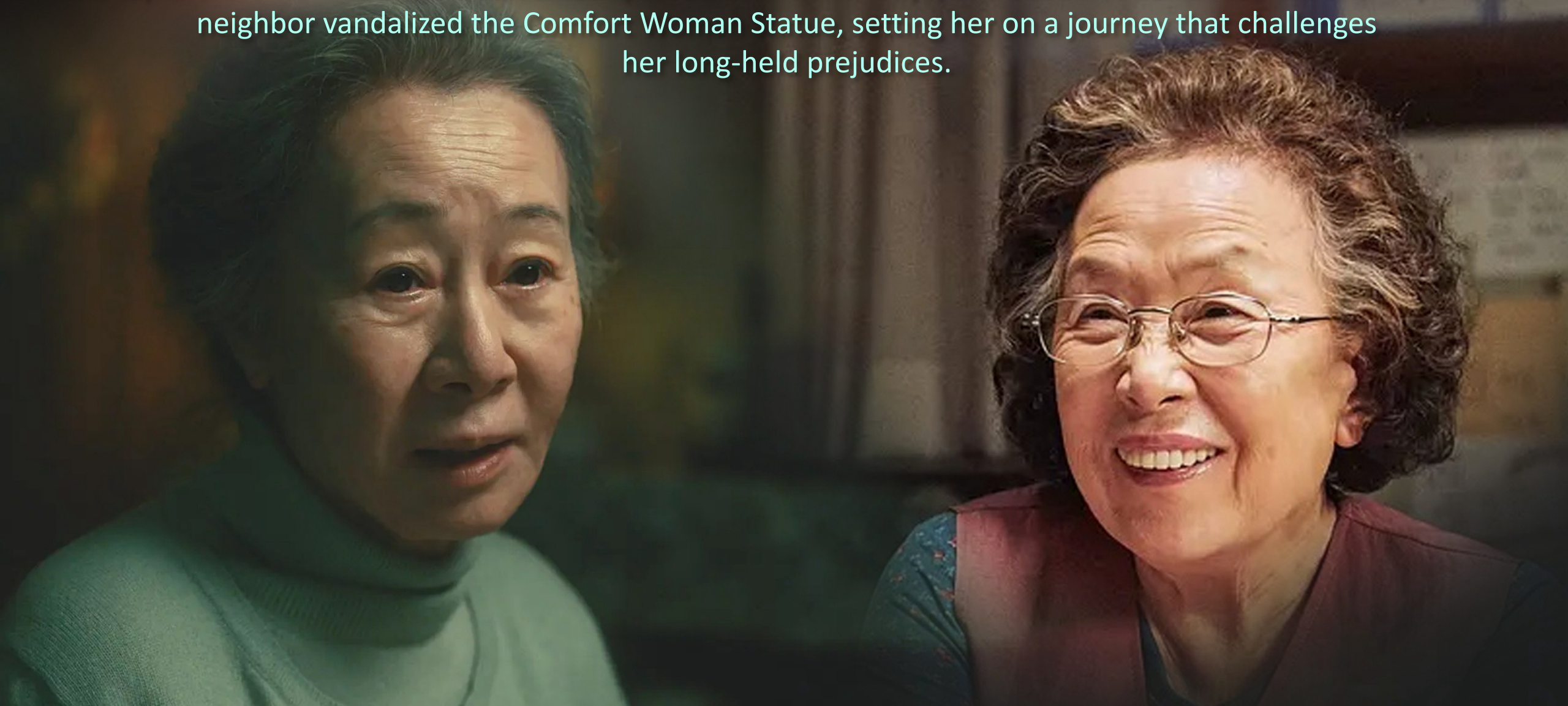


Remove The
Comfort Woman Statue!



Moon-Ja Kim, 72

A fiercely independent Korean widow whose mother's wartime trauma left her with deep resentment toward the Japanese. After moving into a senior apartment in Little Tokyo, she becomes convinced that her Japanese neighbor vandalized the Comfort Woman Statue, setting her on a journey that challenges her long-held prejudices.





Fumiko Saito, 78

A proud Japanese widow living in a senior apartment in Little Tokyo. Having lost her father, a decorated Imperial Army soldier, during World War II, she rejects the historical narrative surrounding the Comfort Women and joins protests against the statue. An unlikely friendship with her Korean neighbor challenges her long-held beliefs.



Jai-Min Kim, 48

A successful Korean American banker whose strained relationship with his aging mother is complicated by her disapproval of his childless marriage. Refusing to inherit the bitterness of the past, he tries to stop her from pursuing reckless accusations against her Japanese neighbor and becoming consumed by decades-old grievances.

Comparable Films



My work explores universal themes of trauma, aging, forgiveness, and friendship. In *The Comfort*

Writer's Statement

My work explores universal themes of trauma, aging, forgiveness, and friendship.

In *The Comfort Woman Statue*, I use visual motifs such as the Comfort Woman Statue—a symbol of historical suffering—and the yellow butterfly, a symbol of freedom and healing, to explore how painful memories can be carried across generations.

Inspired by the real-life vandalism of the Comfort Woman Statue in 2019, I imagined a story in which two elderly women from opposite sides of history are forced to confront their prejudices and discover a shared humanity.

Set in a senior apartment community in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, where Korean and Japanese elders live side by side, the film reflects my belief that friendship and compassion can help break cycles of resentment and create space for reconciliation.

Peace Monument
In 1937, more than 200,000 Asian and
Pacific Island women were taken to Japan, the Philippines,
Thailand, to be forced into sexual slavery by
the Japanese military. In 1978, the United States
Congress passed a resolution of Japan between
and 1945.
And in celebration of proclamation of
"Comfort Women Day" by the City of
Glendale on July 30, 2012, and of passing of
House Resolution 121 by the United States
Congress on July 30, 2007, urging the
Japanese Government to accept historical
responsibility for these historical
crimes.
It is our sincere hope that these
crimes will not recur.
July 30, 2013



KYUNG-JA (KJ) LEE

Writer/Director



Lee is a Korean American filmmaker who believed thunder was caused by a giant serpent, a childhood tale her mother told. After immigrating to the U.S., her sense of mysticism deepened in her new multicultural environment.

She graduated from AFI with an award-winning short film and earned several honors, including the Rockefeller Foundation Asian Artist Fellowship and a spot in the Sundance Screenwriters Lab. After years of caring for her ill mother, Lee returned to filmmaking and directed her fifth short film, "KANG BLUE," which won the "Outstanding Female Director" award at the KATRA Film Series. Lee's recent short screenplay, THE COMFORT WOMAN STATUE, has been recognized with the Slamdance, Cinequest, the Santa Barbara Short Screenplay Award, and the Outstanding Screenplay Mentorship Award.

Lee has completed two feature scripts: "KIM'S MONEY TREE," a social drama set during the L.A. Riots, The Grand Prize winner at Emerging Screenwriters Screenplay Competition and THE CALLING, a supernatural horror thriller.

(Lee's short films and upcoming projects are at kj-film.com) In addition, Lee helps people facing homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse at a transition home. (She also holds a master's in psychology from Columbia University.)

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