

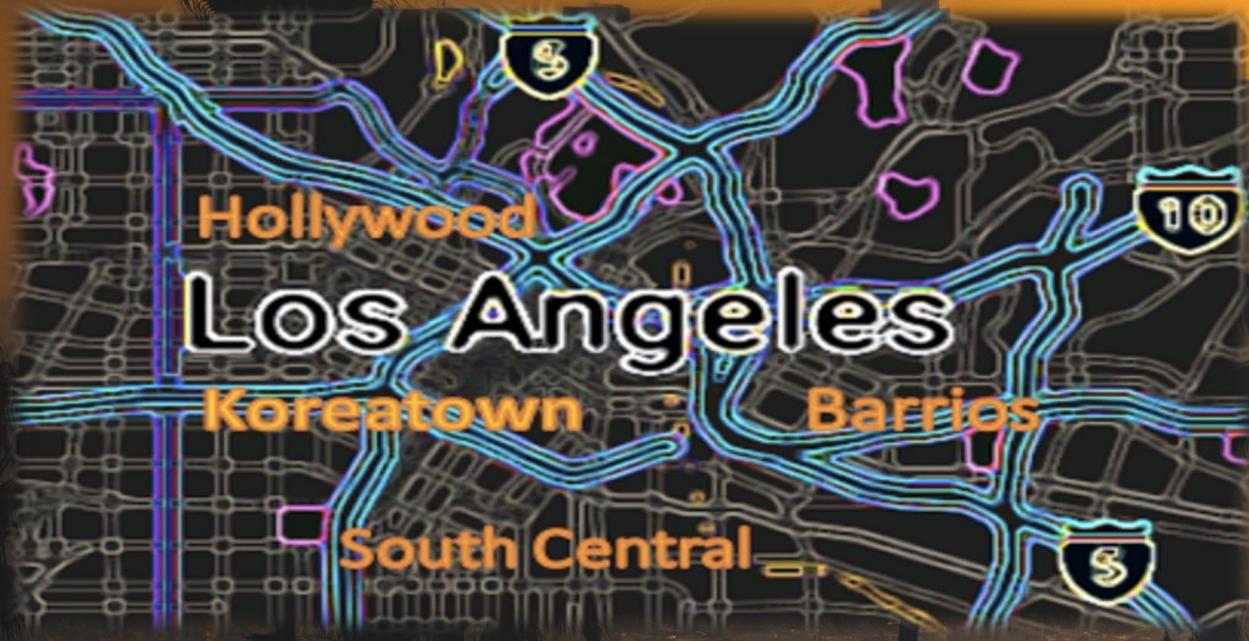
K-TOWN BLUES

In the Heart of the American Dream

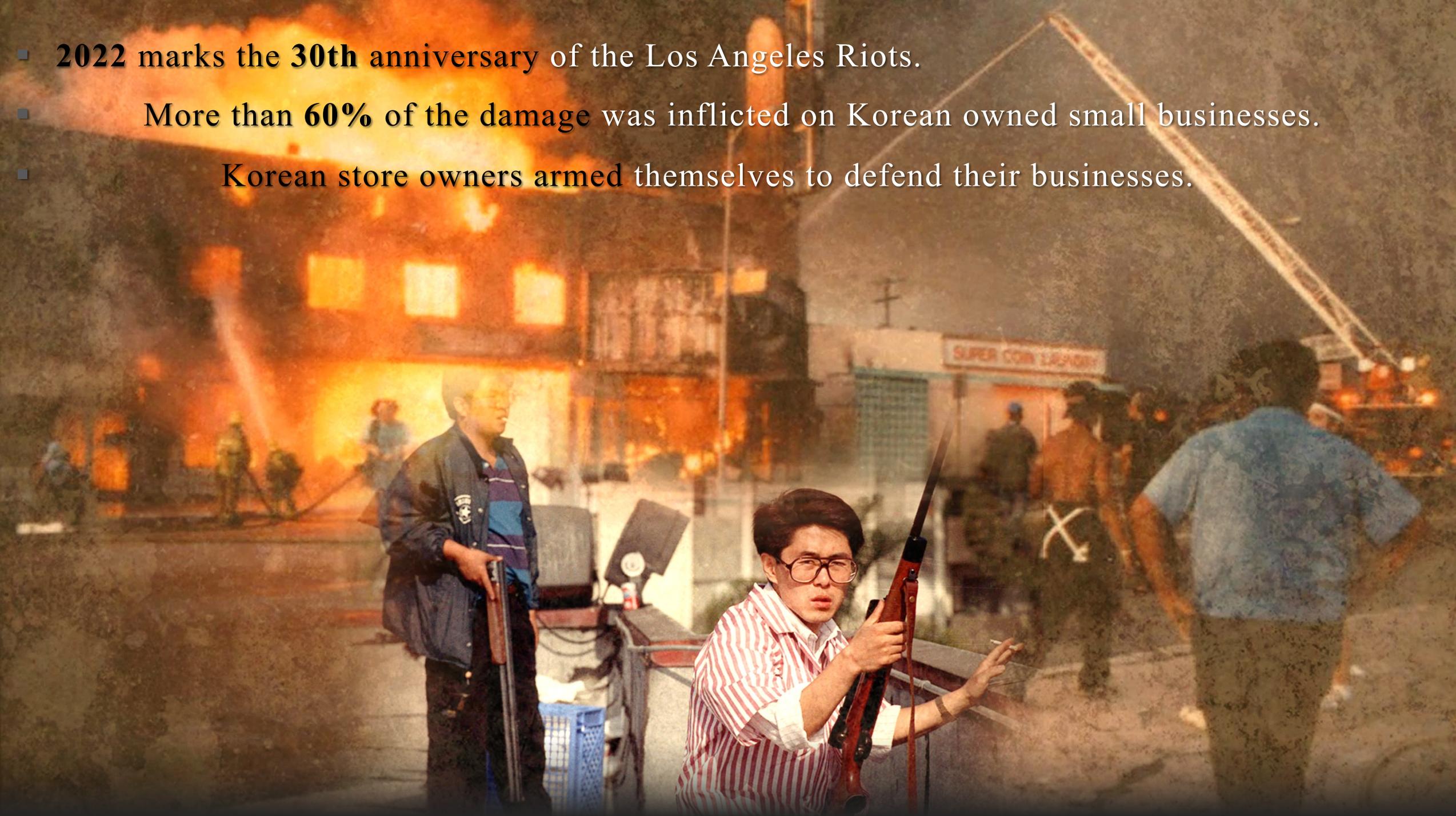


a period social drama feature

LOS ANGELES 1992



- **2022** marks the **30th** anniversary of the Los Angeles Riots.
- More than **60%** of the damage was inflicted on Korean owned small businesses.
- Korean store owners armed themselves to defend their businesses.



SETTING

The setting, in a Korean restaurant in Koreatown, forms a microcosm of a community's struggle and tension among minorities in the days before the **1992 riots**.





LOGLINE

Just before the L.A. Riot, a grieving young Korean-American woman takes over her parents' restaurant after a violent robbery, but falls for a Mexican chef despite her father's opposition.

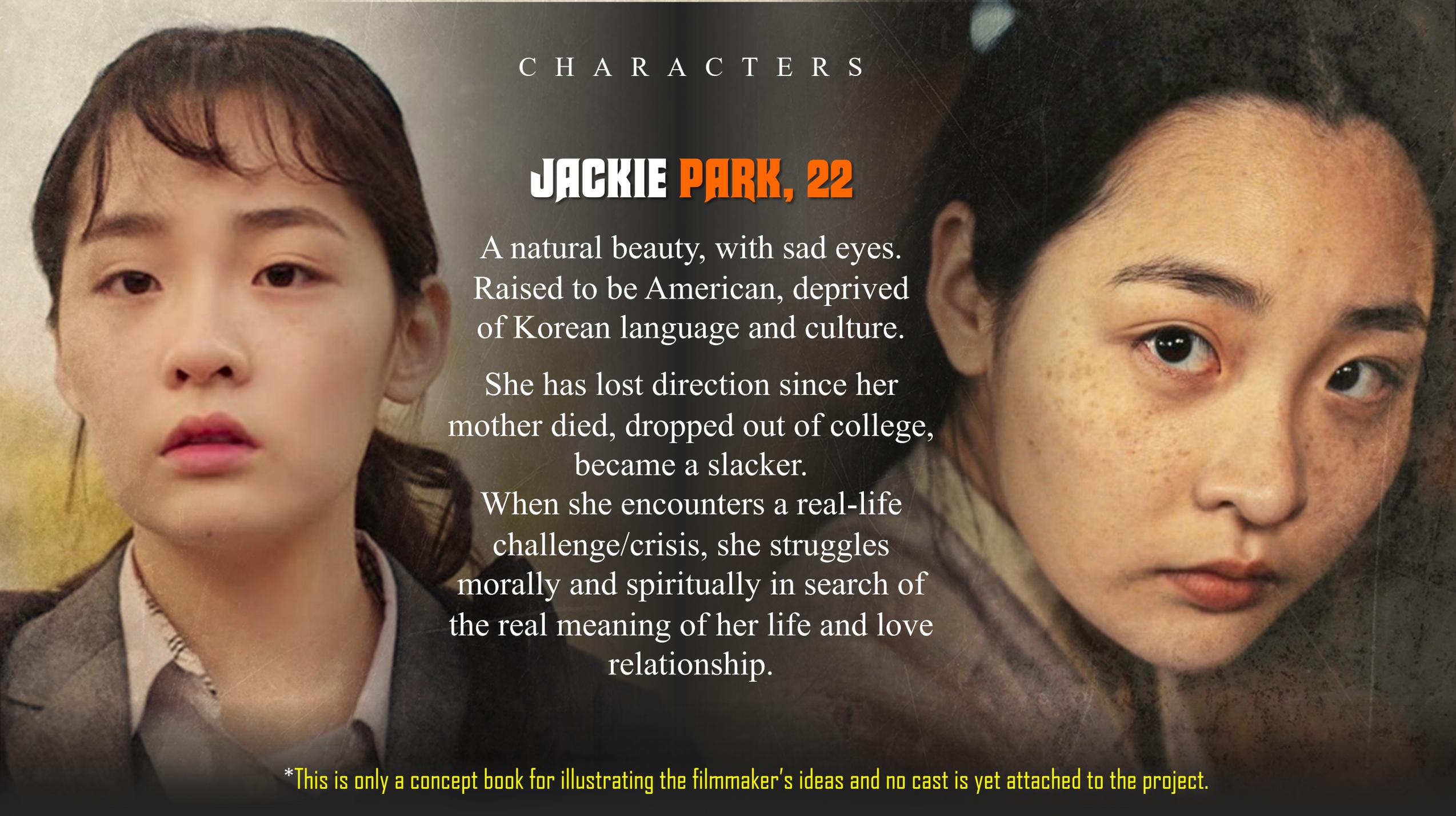
SYNOPSIS

"K-Town Blues" is a story about a father and daughter, highlighting an unexpected romance between a young Korean-American woman and an undocumented Mexican chef leading up to the L.A. Riot.

Helen (22) drops out of college after her mother's passing and steals money for drugs from her father Park (50) who runs a Korean restaurant in Koreatown, bordering Latino and Black communities where racial tensions are escalating.

After a violent robbery resulting in her father's hospitalization, Helen takes over managing the restaurant, where Carlos (25), a streetwise Mexican chef, teaches her the Korean menu, her mom's legacy.

On a tumultuous road to redemption, she discovers her talent and passion for cooking, saves the family restaurant, and falls for Carlos despite her father's opposition.



C H A R A C T E R S

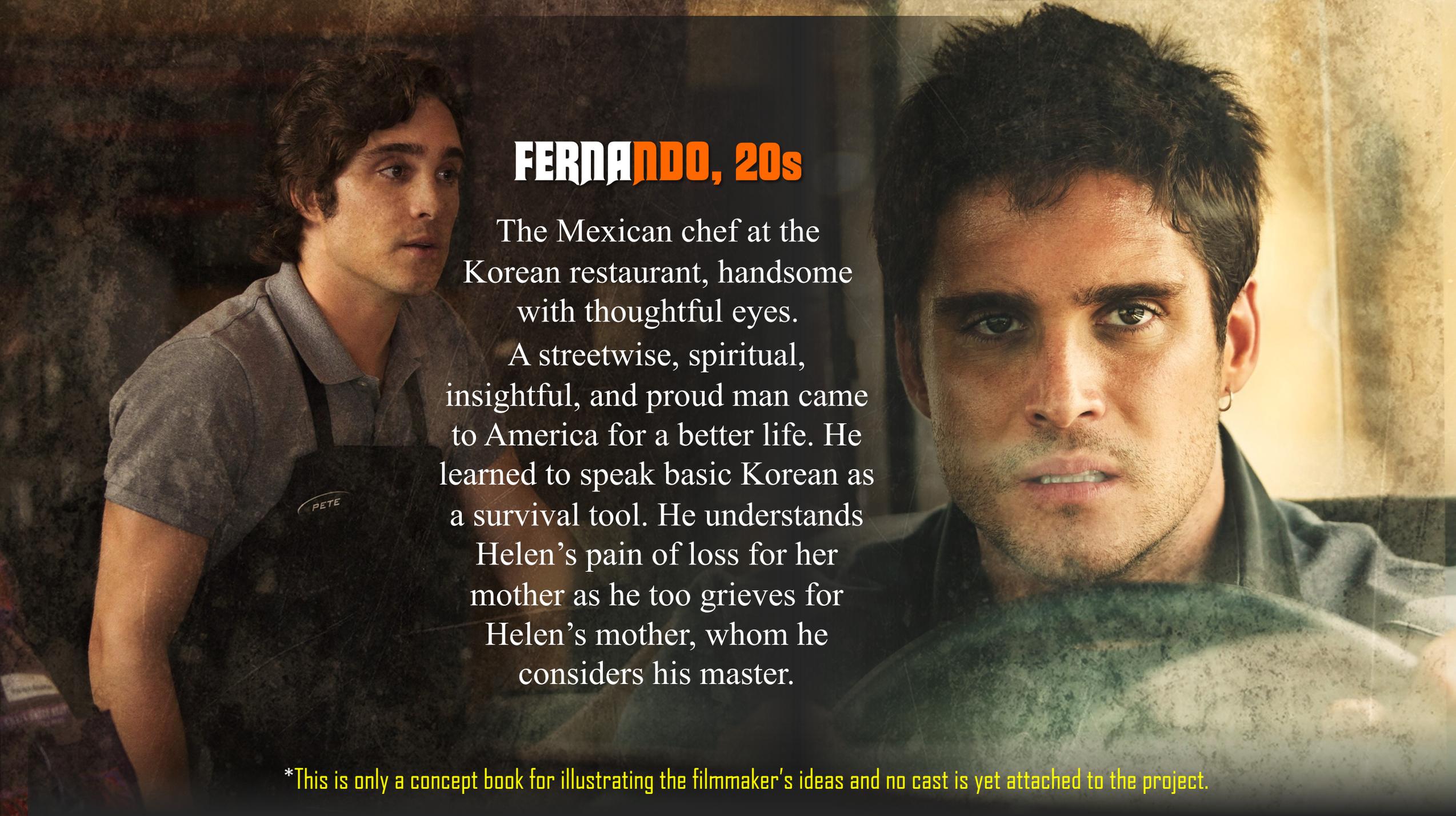
JACKIE PARK, 22

A natural beauty, with sad eyes.
Raised to be American, deprived
of Korean language and culture.

She has lost direction since her
mother died, dropped out of college,
became a slacker.

When she encounters a real-life
challenge/crisis, she struggles
morally and spiritually in search of
the real meaning of her life and love
relationship.

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



FERNANDO, 20s

The Mexican chef at the Korean restaurant, handsome with thoughtful eyes.

A streetwise, spiritual, insightful, and proud man came to America for a better life. He learned to speak basic Korean as a survival tool. He understands Helen's pain of loss for her mother as he too grieves for Helen's mother, whom he considers his master.

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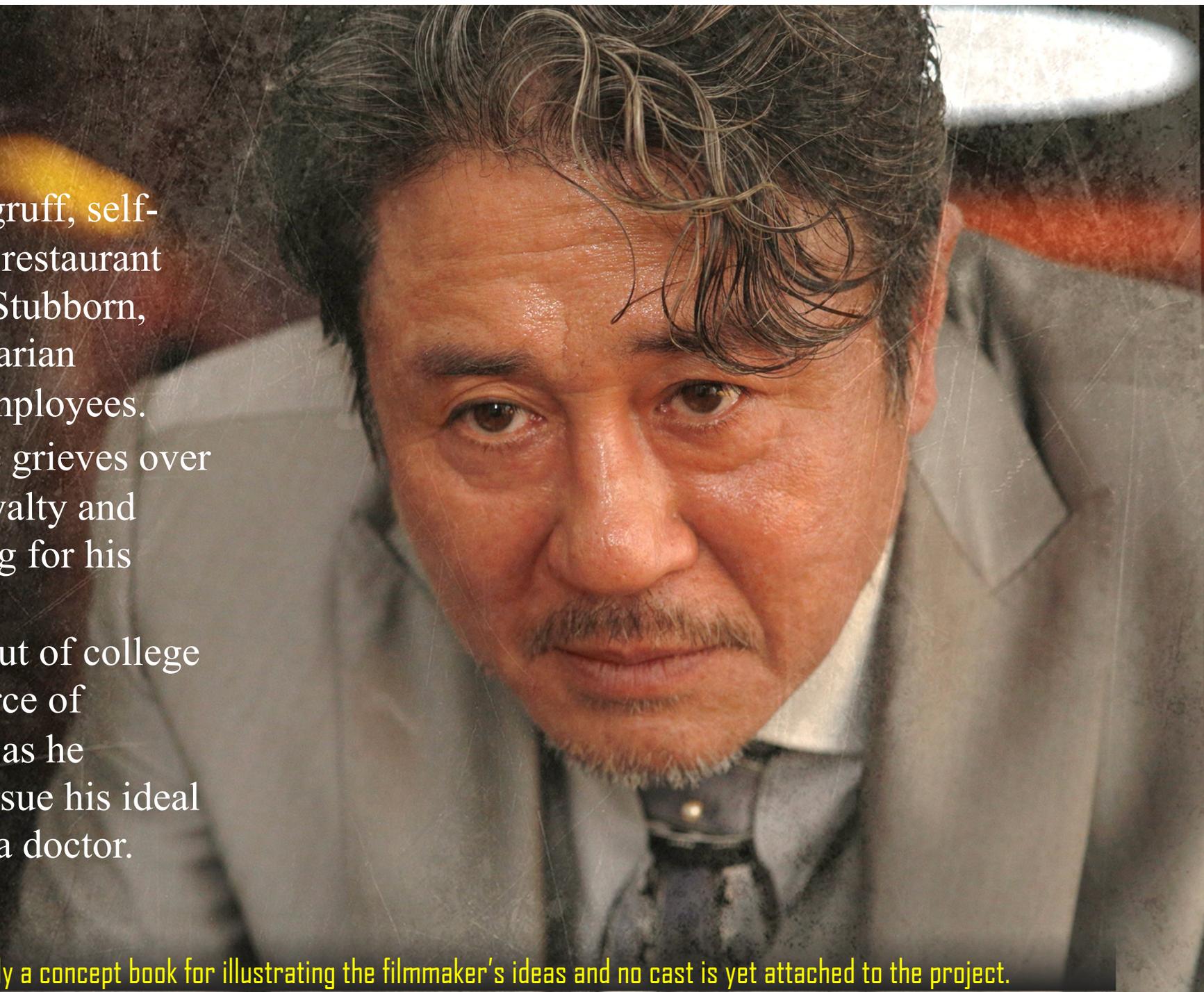
MR. PARK, 50

A proud Korean immigrant. A gruff, self-made businessman, his Korean restaurant is his proud American Dream. Stubborn, bigoted, hot-tempered, authoritarian towards his daughter and his employees.

A former Marine (in Korea), he grieves over the death of his wife, values loyalty and kinship and is devoted to caring for his aging mother.

His daughter, Helen, dropped out of college and has become a constant source of annoyance and disappointment as he continues to pressure her to pursue his ideal American Dream of becoming a doctor.

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ARTHUR, 56

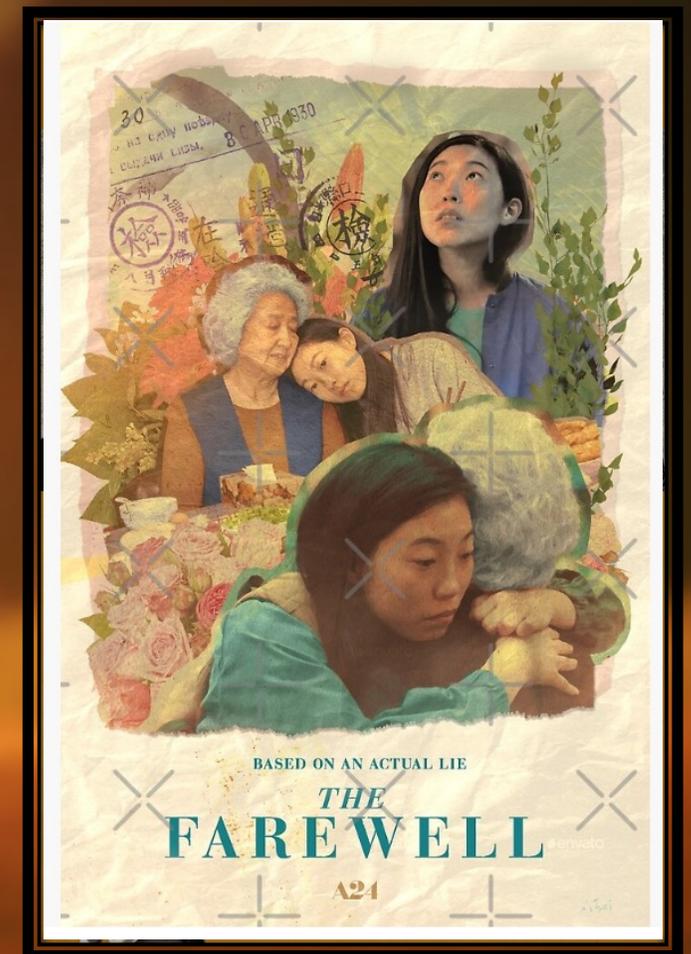
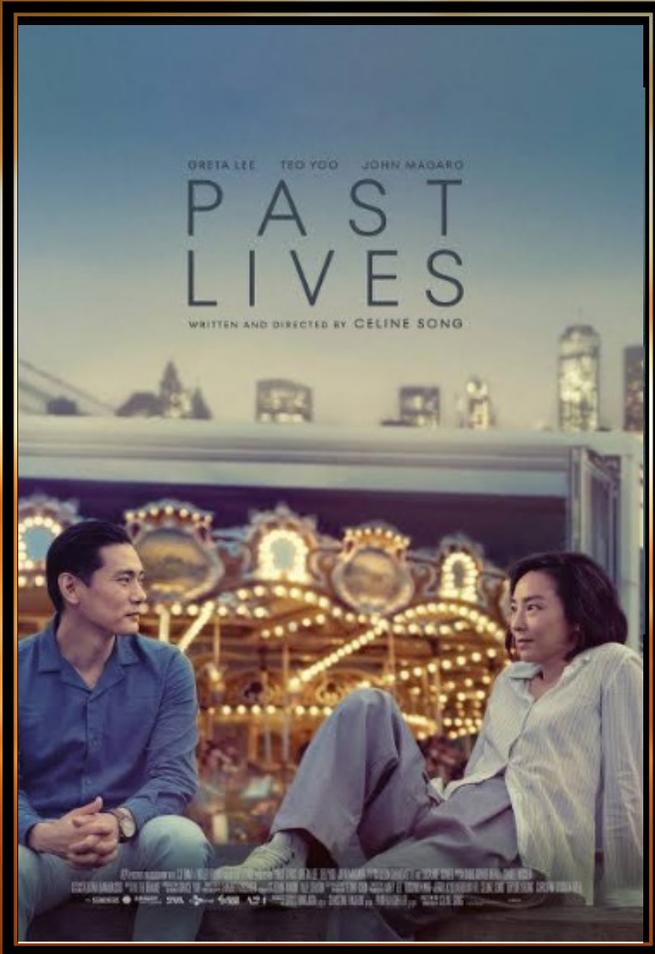
A hardworking middle-class Black plumber, who feels his self-made plumbing business is being impacted by new immigrants.

A proud, no-nonsense businessman reluctantly becomes Park's plumber. Feeling unfairly targeted because of Park's racial prejudice toward Blacks, he becomes increasingly hostile, leading to a racially charged confrontation. He takes away Park's most precious possession and memory of his wife: their money tree presented at their restaurant grand opening. When a riot breaks out, he begins to empathize with the Korean business community's suffering and decides to return the money tree.

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COMPARABLE FILMS





KYUNG-JA (KJ) LEE

Writer/Director

Lee obtained her Master's degree in directing at AFI with an award 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, Film Independent' Project Involve, and was in development with HBO Pictures as Writer/Director of her 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 several contest-winning short screenplays, "Little Tokyo Story" and "The Comfort Woman."

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

T E A M B I O





CHARLES BURNETT

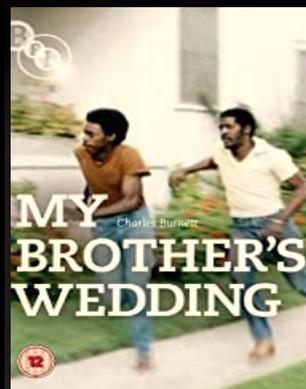
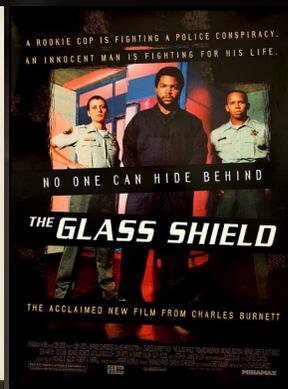
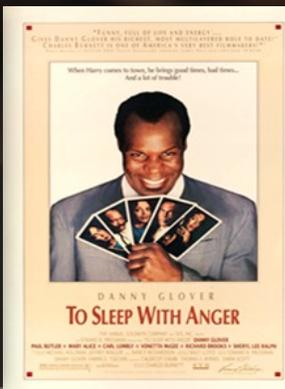
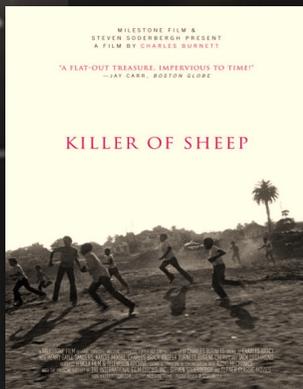
Adviser

Called "one of America's very best filmmakers" by the Chicago Tribune and "the nation's least-known great filmmaker and most gifted black director" by The New York Times.

Recipient of MacArthur Fellowship, Getty Foundation and the Guggenheim Fellowship. Received an "honorary Oscar" from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Two of his films have been selected for the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress: *Killer of Sheep* (1978) and *To Sleep with Anger* (1990).

TEAM BIO





WRITER/DIRECTOR STATEMENT

My stories are inspired by real historical events and cultural traditions which reflect the trials and tribulations of interactions between different minority groups.

I want to tell stories that transgress cultural boundaries and lead to a greater understanding between various ethnicities.

As a Korean-American filmmaker, my objective is to express a unique vision through my bicultural background, telling impactful stories about the Asian American experience in particular.



CONTACT US

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