



THE HANDMAIDEN

(Ah-ga-ssi)

Spring
Season
2017

Release: 2015

Cert (UK): 12A

Language: In Korean and Japanese with English subtitles.

Runtime: 2 hr 24 mins

Director: Chan-wook Park

Writers: Seo-kyeong Jeong, inspired by the novel "Fingersmith" by Sarah Waters

Cinematographer: Chung-hoon Chung

Cast: Min-hee Kim, Jung-woo Ha, Jin-woong Jo



'Set in the Japanese-occupied Korea of the 1930s, it concerns the larcenous and libidinous goings-on within a secluded and secret-filled rural mansion. Young Korean maid Sookee arrives there to work for Japanese heiress Hideko, who lives with her authoritarian uncle Kouzuki, a collector of erotic rarities and dark thoughts.

Sookee is really in the employ of con artist Fujiwara, a bogus count planning a marriage scam – but the count didn't count on Sookee and Hideko striking real sparks' – Peter Howell, Toronto Star

Taken from the novel 'Fingersmith' by Sarah Waters, but set in Japanese occupied Korea of the 1930s, the resulting film is a twisting, turning thriller where '...nothing is what it seems..., and the things that aren't what they seem aren't quite what they don't seem to be, if that makes any sense at all (and if it doesn't right now, trust me: it will)' - Matt Zoller Seitz, Roger Ebert.com. Presented in 3 'chapters', each from a different point of view, the plot twists are redefined each time.

Chan-wook Park, the director, was previously known for quasi-horror, revenge movies such as 'Oldboy' (shown here at the 2005 Festival), 'Stoker' and 'Lady Vengeance'. Here, with the help of his long-time cinematographer, Chung-hoon Chung, he has produced a beautiful, sumptuous, erotic period drama.

