

Film Screening of "Paradise" (2023)

with Special Guests:

Producer Todd A. Henry

Director Minki Hong

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Podemos Building, Lecture Room 1A20, Eighth College

"Paradise" revisits South Korea's era of authoritarian development (1970s-1980s) through the lens of queer livelihood. Despite the harsh realities of successive dictatorships, compulsory military service, and expectations of marriage and childbirth, six elderly gay men reveal how they converted second-run theaters and nearby bars into popular sites of erotic liberation, same-sex friendships, and romantic encounters. Using rare footage of Seoul's only extant second-run movie house, visual archives, and historical animation, "Paradise" documents South Korea's vibrant gay underground before the solidification of democracy and the introduction of the internet in the 1990s. Along the way, it follows the pain and joy of queer citizens, whose stories appear for the first time in this empowering film of self-discovery and community building.



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