Intangible Asset No. 82

Australia – South Korea / 2009 / Color / 90 min. / 1.78:1 / In English and Korean w/English subtitles

An Alive Mind Cinema Release from Kino Lorber Inc.
333 W. 39th St. Suite 503
New York, NY 10018
(212) 629 – 6880

Press Contact: Matt Barry
Kino Lorber Inc.
(212) 629-6880 ext. 35
mbarry@kinolorber.com
Short Synopsis

**Intangible Asset Number 82** tells the story of an acclaimed jazz drummer and his search for an elusive South Korean shaman and grandmaster musician. The journey becomes a rite of passage as he meets engaging and exotic characters, and overcomes cultural obstacles and the march of time to eventually meet the master only days before his death.

Long Synopsis

When Australian drummer **SIMON BARKER** heard a rare recording of Korean shaman **KIM SEOK-CHUL** - a grand master in his seventies playing with immense energy and complex technique he knew immediately he was listening to one of the world’s great improvisers. Simon commits to find and learn from the enigmatic shaman. Yet Kim Seok-chul proves elusive, despite the shaman being officially recognized as South Korea’s 82nd Intangible Asset.

After seven years of setbacks and obstacles, with the shaman now in his eighties, Simon’s commitment has intensified and he returns to Korea for the seventeenth time. Imbued with a sense of destiny, the journey becomes a rite-of-passage, as Simon has transformative encounters with the engaging and exotic characters who will eventually lead him to the shaman.

Simon and the artists who have become immersed in his journey discover their growing influence on each other and naturally move towards collaboration. A true testimony to the universal language of music and its transformative power.
Credits

Directed By
Emma Franz

Produced By
Emma Franz

Camera and Sound
Emma Franz

Edited by
Daniel Kerr & Bill Murphy, A.S.E.

With
Simon Barker
Kim Seok-chul
Kim Dong-won
Bae Il-dong
Featuring the Music of
Simon Barker
Band of Five Names
  Showa 44
  Kim Seok-chul
  Kim Dong-won
  Bae Il-dong
  Daorum

Featured Korean Artists
  Kim Dong-Won
  Bae Il-Dong
  Park Byong-Chon
    Jin You-Rim
    Kim Seok-Chul
    Kim Jeong-Hee
    Kim Young-Hee
    Kim Dong-Yeon
    Kim Dong-Eon
    Kim Dong-Yeol
    Jeong Yeon-Lak
    Park Jong-Hwan
      Jo Jonghun
      Kang Sun-Il

Featured Australian Artists
  Simon Barker
  Carl Dewhurst
  Paul Grabwosky
    Vince Jones
  Matt McMahon
    Philip Rex
  Mark Simmonds
    Phil Slater
    Scott Tinkler
    Ben Wapes
    Julien Wilson
Music in the Film

**Daorum**
(Simon Barker, Carl Dewhurst, Matt McMahon, Phil Slater, Kim Dong-Won, Bae Il-Dong)
Tracks: Sinawi, Calling
From the Album: Calling

**Band of Five Names**
(Simon Barker, Matt McMahon, Phil Slater)
Tracks: Image, Tenth Mountain, Three Word Poem, Third Bubble
From the Album: Severence

**Showa 44**
(Simon Barker, Carl Dewhurst)
Tracks: Ormus, Orbital, Cyclonic, Event
From the Album: Ormus

**Showa 44**
(Simon Barker, Carl Dewhurst)
Tracks: Hill End
From the Album: Showa 44

**Matt McMahon Trio**
(Matt McMahon, Jonathan Brown, Simon Barker)
*Tracks: Carls Coat*
From the Album: Ellipsis
SIMON BARKER

"The most persuasive and individual voice in drumming in Australia.”
-Paul Grabowsky

Simon Barker is a drummer who specializes in jazz and improvisation on the western drum kit. Simon plays and tours extensively with many of the finest Australian and international talents including Elvis Costello, Paul Grabowsky, Sheila Jordan, Vince Jones, & the Australian Art Orchestra. His peers consider him among the best in his field. He is an adept and sensitive musician, constantly pushing musical boundaries and developing new styles. Simon is an unlikely but likeable lead character with a slight awkwardness and humility that belies his wonderful talent and depth.

As an innovator in his field, Simon is dedicated to the exploration of music, continually striving to expand upon his skills, knowledge, and sources of inspiration.

Simon’s fascination with Korea goes beyond a love of the music and philosophies. He is envious of a music that engages the whole community and has utilitarian purpose. Insights into his thoughts provide an intimate examination of what it means to live the life of an artist in contemporary Western Society. This documentary is not about a westerner looking for a quick fix of Asian spirituality. Simon Barker is a true aficionado and perpetual student of music, and his respect for other musicians is evident throughout the piece and in his contextual narration.

KIM DONG-WON

Kim Dong-won is a skilled and respected performing artist who regularly tours the world with Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Project. He is also a professor of traditional music at Wonkwang University in Seoul and Kim Duk-su’s Samulnori School in Buyeo. The particular journey that we follow in this film was sparked by Simon’s introduction to Kim Dong-won, who proves to be an excellent guide and teacher, describing concepts and philosophies in poetic terms with deceptive simplicity and resonance.
BAE IL-DONG

Bae Il-dong built his vocal strength by living on a rock by a waterfall for seven years. His home was a makeshift hut of branches and reeds. Through heat, rain and snow, he sang 16 hours a day, breaking and callusing his voice against the noise of the rapids. Here is one of the most intriguing and committed artists one could meet.

After Bae Il-dong is introduced to Simon, he takes him to the waterfall on Chiri Mountain, where he was taught in the oral tradition epic songs of up to eight hours in duration from his grand-master. Although his style of singing, pansori, continues today, Il-Dong is one of the last of a long line of pansori singers to endure so many years of hardship and endurance to learn his art. Although they can’t speak in a common tongue, Simon and Bae Il-Dong discover that they share a strong connection through music.

KIM SEOK-CHUL

Kim Seok-chul is a Shaman and grand-master drummer, and South Korea’s officially designated (Intangible Asset Number 82). At the time of filming he was eighty-four years old, living a hard life in the mountains of the eastern seaboard. There is scant documentation about Kim Seok-chul’s complex improvisational style, even though he has been declared a National Asset and his rhythmic vocabulary is considered one of the most advanced and unique in Korea. Mr Kim is featured on only eight recordings. At the time of filming, no transcriptions or information about his music were available. All Simon had learnt about the Shaman’s music had been through his own transcriptions and from the oral tradition of teachers in Korea.

Kim Seok-chul passed away a few days after the filming of his meeting with Simon. This film is an invaluable record of the master, his music, his community, and his last ever ceremony.
Reviews & Festivals

“...genuinely affecting.”
-Variety

“Fervently embracing the concept of music as a universal language...”
-Variety

“...a quite rewarding way to spend an hour and a half.”
-efilmcritic.com

“[Intangible Asset Number 82] is a testament to the power of music and mysticism.”
– Justin Mover (Washington City Paper)

Official Selection
2009 South by South West Film Festival (SXSW)

Official Selection
2009 Egypt International Film Festival

Official Selection
2009 Hot Docs International Film Festival

Official Selection
2008 Mostra - São Paulo International Film Festival

Official Selection
2009 Durban International Film Festival

Official Selection
2009 Silver Docs