Im Kwon-Taek
The Making of a Korean National Cinema

By Roald H. Maliangkay

W hat sets this work apart from other books on Korean film that have recently come out in Western languages is the fact that it explores the work of Korea’s foremost director, Im Kwon-Taek, head-on, without first trying to explain every single detail about Korean culture. It looks into the ideas behind Im’s films and sheds light on the director’s unique position in Korean cinema. The book consists of nine articles, an interview with the director, a filmography, a handy list of important political and cultural events, a useful three-page bibliography of related sources in English, and an index. Twenty-odd black-and-white photographs that allow us to envisage the scenes are also discussed.

The first chapter recounts Im’s role in the history of Korean cinema. Kyung Hyun Kim talks of the significance of Im’s family background, the grim Hyun Kim talks of the significance of Im’s family background, the grim

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