

Second-generation Korean Argentinian filmmaker wins Locarno International Film Festival's Best Emerging Director Award

Director Cecilia Kang's debut feature film, 'The Eldest Son,' tells story of immigrant family



Cecilia Kang, a second-generation Korean Argentinian director

Argentinean media outlet Pagina 12 reported on Aug. 16 that Cecilia Kang, a second-generation Korean Argentinian director, won the Best Emerging Director Award at the 78th Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland for her debut feature film, "Hijo Mayor" (The Eldest Son).

Director Kang received the Best Emerging Director Award in the Directors of the Present competition section, which features the first and second films by emerging directors.

Born in 1985 in Buenos Aires, Kang studied at Argentina's National School of Experimental Film and Video Production (ENERC).

She debuted in 2015, when her short film "Videojuegos" (Videogames) was nominated in the Generation section at the Berlin Film Festival. She also gained recognition in Korea for her documentary film "The Ship That Left From Me," which addresses the issue of Japanese military comfort women.

"The Eldest Son" is director Kang's first feature film, based on the story of her own family, who immigrated to Argentina.

According to Pagina 12, Kang explained, "The Eldest Son' begins from memory, or rather, from the place from which we choose to remember. It is the romantic trace of a man who chose a path different from expectations and a work that shows how that path became the inescapable beginning of his new life."

She explained that it differs from the film "Minari," which is also about immigrants, in that it views her father's experience as the eldest son migrating to Argentina through the eyes of his teenage daughter.

In a written interview with Yonhap News four years ago, Kang expressed her desire to live as a storyteller, saying, "I want to tell stories that move people, make them ask questions and see the world in unexpected ways," rather than setting grand goals as a filmmaker. 🌐

