



THE PROPAGANDA GAME

SPAIN/FRANCE 98 MIN

ALVARO LONGORIA

WINCHESTER
FILM SOCIETY

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SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

North Korea, formerly known as the hermit kingdom, is perhaps the largest source of instability as regards world peace. Its border is one of the most militarized in the world. The lack of impartial information, both inside and coming out of the country, is the perfect setting for a propaganda war, which will be analyzed in the film through numerous examples of the surprising way in which information is manipulated, in and about North Korea. Alejandro Cao de Benos, the sole foreigner who works for the DPRK Government, and many locals will show us their vision of the reality in North Korea. The other side of the story will be reflected through interviews to South Korean citizens, human rights advocates, diplomats, propaganda experts, etc.

imdb.com

Like most smash-and-grab raids, Alvaro Longoria's *The Propaganda Game*, a documentary about North Korea, gets no further than the shop window. But you still admire the adroit use of a brick and gloved hands. The film takes away a lot, even with access only to the country's display areas.

Helped by being Spanish, Longoria received permission to film from the regime's only foreign-born "official", fellow Spaniard Alejandro Cao de Benós, founder of the Korean Friendship Association. Accompanied by Benós and an obligatory government minder, the director visits the picturesque parts of Pyongyang — there are some — plus the border's demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas, plus a co-operative farm provided to represent the entire countryside.

The insanity of this supervised snoop is soon obvious, except apparently to the supervisors. Nothing can be believed when all is controlled. In an impressive subway station — late Stalinist style — a bystander is quizzed about life under Kim Jong Un, with nervous sweat pouring from his brow as he hews to the hoped-for party line. Meanwhile, cutaways to interviews with outside experts and observers put the prosecution case. Executions; concentration camps; party purges; and poverty the length and breadth of a country piling its lucre into defence. If it's not a comprehensive sweep of the nation's horrors and follies, it's the best we'll get until the place, by violence or volition, is opened up to the world.

Nigel Andrews, *Financial Times*

WRITERS: Álvaro Longoria **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Diego Dussuel, Rita Noriega
Rajiv Narayam Himself (former East Asia researcher, Amnesty International)

MUSIC: Fernando Velázquez

VOTING FOR *The Club* A25 | B22 | C12 | D1 | E4 | Rating 74.6% | Attendance 66

Our next screening | *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* | Tuesday 7 March 2017. 8.00pm

'... a wayward boy finds his place in the world after embarking on an adventure with a curmudgeonly guardian...'



KIM JOO IL

INKAHRD

(International North Koreans' Association for Human Rights and Democracy)

Unit 5, Wyvern Industrial Estate,
Beverley Way,
New Malden,
Surrey KT3 3PE

E-mail: ifreenk@gmail.com | Web: www.ifreenk.com

Motivation for fleeing North Korea

A former captain in the North Korean People's Army, Kim Joo Il grew to abhor the North Korean military dictatorial system in which 300 million innocent people are starving to death and there is no freedom nor democracy. Joo Il Kim decided to flee the country and risk his life to fight against the Kim Jong-il's 'Military First' dictatorship. He arrived in the UK in 2007 and sought political asylum. He is currently the President of INKAHRD, the International North Koreans' Association for Human Rights and Democracy.

Activities

- Organised and managed North Korean organizations within the UK and Europe
- Organised a campaign in front of the North Korean embassy in the UK demanding for human rights and to disband political prison camps in North Korea.
- Organised a campaign in front of the embassy of the People's Republic of China in the UK calling upon China to stop its forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees.
- Gave testimonies at the several hearings on North Korean human rights held by parliament of England, European Parliament, or United Nations office at Geneva.
- Organised seminars to help people understand the reality in North Korea correctly.
- Demanded Choi Tae-bok, then chairman of Supreme Assembly of North Korea, who was visiting the UK, to confirm whether 254 prisoners in Yodok Political Prison Camp are alive.
- Carried out a 10 thousand signature campaign to support disbanding of North Korean political prison camps.
- Carried out enlightenment movements for North Korean people in the means of media including radio and news paper.
- 2011 – 2013 Published FreeNK online/offline paper newspapers (www.ifreenk.com)
- 2012 Organised North Korea Freedom Week in London
- 2013 Organised and hosted North Korea Freedom Week in Europe
- 2013 Founded INKAHRD (International North Koreans' Association for Human Rights and Democracy)
- 2014 Hosted the 3rd North Korea Freedom Week in Europe (Emphasised the necessity of North Korean government in exile and alternative power to the international society)
- 2015 Carried out FreeNK newspaper distribution business within North Korea
- 2015 Organised the 1st Conference of Representatives of North Korean Defectors' Organizations Around the World.

