

# Mother

Review of the movie  
By Hans Sherrer

*Mother* is a South Korean movie that tells the tale of a young man arrested for the murder of a teenage girl in a small town. The morning of the murder the young man and a friend had a run-in with some men at a golf course but they were released by the police without being charged. A golf ball is found near the murdered girl and he was seen in the area, so the police are convinced he is guilty.

The only person convinced of the young man's innocence is his mother. She is a hard working woman who lives modestly and has saved the money necessary to hire a lawyer for her 27-year-old son – who is normal physically, but somewhat mentally slow. When the mother realizes the lawyer is not going to help her son prove his innocence, she sets out to find evidence he was framed.

The mother runs into some dead-ends, but she keeps forging ahead with a quiet intensity and single-mindedness that nothing is going to stop her from finding proof her son is innocent.

*Mother* has a gritty feel, and its unexpected plot twists are reminiscent of *Lady Vengeance*, a 2005 South Korean movie about a

woman wrongly convicted of kidnapping a child. The main character in *Mother*, like the lead character in *Lady Vengeance*, shows a degree of uncompromising proactiveness that isn't portrayed in U.S. movies about a wrongly accused or convicted person.

*Mother* is filmed primarily in dark tones that almost give it the feel of a black and white movie, it has unglamorous actors, it is subtitled in English, and there are no special effects, so it is unmistakably a foreign film that makes no effort to mimic a Hollywood movie. What *Mother* has is a powerful story about what can happen when hands-on involvement seems like the only course of action available to a concerned person when the legal system is lined-up against a person they believe is innocent.

The viewer doesn't learn until the end if the mother's determined quest to prove her son's innocence is successful – or is there a twist to solving the girl's murder?

*Mother* had a very limited release in major U.S. cities in January 2010, so few people saw it in a theater. However, U.S. critics loved it with [95% positive reviews](#) on Rottentomatoes.com.

*Mother* was honored during the 2010 Asian Film Awards (the Asian equivalent of the U.S. Academy Awards) with the awards for Best Film, Best Actress, and Best Screenwriter.

*Mother* is [available on DVD](#) and Blu-ray.



Watch *Mother*'s 2-minute [trailer by clicking here](#).

*Mother*

Stars: Hye-ja Kim (mother) and Bin Won (son).

Director: Joon-ho Bong

Writers: Joon-ho Bong (story) and Eun-kyo Park (screenplay).

128 minutes

U.S. theater gross, \$547,292 (IMDb.com)

Released to theaters in South Korea in 2009, and the U.S. in January 2010.

## Asante cont. from p. 10

official language is English, and its legal system is rooted in the English Common Law, the same as the United States. [Asante told](#) *The Mirror* in an interview that his case of being convicted and imprisoned though innocent wasn't unique: "there were countless other people in jail who did not deserve to be there but the system had made them convicts."

On February 17, 2017 [Asante filed a petition](#) with the Ghana Education Service to reinstate him as a teacher, and for the payment of salary arrears and other allowances due him from February 1, 2005 to the date of his reinstatement. The petition also requested that the GES consider promoting him to an appropriate teaching rank that he would have achieved if he had not been wrongly convicted and incarcerated.

Asante's exoneration was the first in Ghana attributable to post-conviction DNA test-

ing. Historically there are few DNA exonerations outside the U.S. The [Innocents Database](#) documents there were only seven known DNA exonerations outside the United States during the five years from 2012 to 2016, and only 39 since 1989.

Note 1: The exchange rate was .217 Ghana Cedi to 1 US dollar on February 26, 2017.

Sources:

[DNA exonerates Ghanaian man](#) jailed 15 years for defiling 14-year-old girl, *AfricaNews.com*, January 28, 2017

[Wrongfully jailed 12-years](#) for defilement; teacher freed after DNA test, *Citifmonline.com* (Ghana), January 26, 2017

[DNA proves man innocent](#) after 10 years in prison, *Graphic Online* (Ghana), November 20, 2015

[Eric Asante petitions GES](#) for reinstatement, *Graphic Online* (Ghana), February 24, 2017

[When the justice system fails](#): the Eric Asante story, *Graphic Online* (Ghana), February 3, 2017

When the justice system fails: the Eric Asante story, *Graphic Online* (Ghana), February 3, 2017

[Wrongfully jailed](#): Man freed after DNA test proves his innocence, *Graphic Online* (Ghana), January 26, 2017

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