



## BURNING (Beoning)

20th  
Year!

Spring  
Season  
2019

**Release:** 2018

**Cert (UK):** 15

**Country:** South Korea

**Language:** In Korean with English subtitles

**Runtime:** 2 hour 28 mins

**Director:** Chang-dong Lee

**Writer:** Jungmi Oh and Chang-dong Lee

**Cinematographer:** Kyung-pyo Hong

**Cast:** Ah-in Yoo, Steven Yeun, Jong-seo Jun



The South Korean film industry has become more and more important over the last few years, from the dramatic, almost horrific 'Oldboy' to the beautiful and thought-provoking 'Poetry'. 'Burning' is the latest from the director of 'Poetry', so we are at the beautiful, thought-provoking end of the spectrum today.

Jongsu yearns to be a writer, but is looking after his father's farm. When he runs into Haemi - an old school friend he has not seen for years - he falls hook, line and sinker for her wistful love of life. He agrees to look after her cat while she is off adventuring in Africa, but when she returns, she has with her Ben, a rich man whose job is "playing". As the trio spend time together, Jongsu is more and more unsettled by Ben, but are his fears justified or is he just jealous?

At one point 'Haemi...dances on the patio... Both Jongsu and Ben are frozen in their seats, as they watch her fluid gestures, her primal openness to the beauty of her own experiences... By the end of the dance, she is in tears. Jongsu now knows that Ben is, apparently, an enthusiastic amoral arsonist. There's a serious and alarming sense of danger, only you can't really point to its source. The whole of 'Burning' feels like this' - Sheila O'Malley, RogerEbert.com.



'Lee plays the actors off one another to create a compelling exploration of human nature. South Korea's official Oscar submission, 'Burning' culminates in a finale so astonishing that it will sear itself into viewers' memories for years to come' - Sonia Rao, Washington Post.