

# Jinyoung Lee

- Filmmaker, Writer

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## Filmography

### *Songs of Love from Hawaii (2024)*

- Wrote, produced, and directed a premium 4K DCI feature film in collaboration with world-renowned musicians, including Richard Yongjae O'Neill, Chee-Yun, Iggy Jang, and Keola Beamer.
- Premiered at the **43rd Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF)**; acquired by **PBS Hawaii** for statewide broadcast.
- Nationwide theatrical release in Korea through **CJ Entertainment**.
- Exhibited at the **Incheon Metropolitan Museum**, integrating the film with a photography exhibition
- Global release on Amazon **Prime Video** for US and UK (January 2026).

### *Words of Wisdom from the Rainbow State (2021)*

- Wrote, narrated, produced, and directed; world premiere at the **41st Hawaii International Film Festival**, and screened at **eight international film festivals**, including the Portugal International Film Festival.
- Featured at the **2022 World Korean Community Leaders Convention** in South Korea, including a keynote presentation with former Big Island Mayor Harry Kim.
- Selected for official archiving by the **National Archives of Korea** in recognition of its cultural and historical significance.
- Reproduced in **exhibition form** for a special display at the **Museum of Korea Emigration History**.

## Education & Work Experience

- **Founder & Executive Director**, *Now Production Films* — Honolulu, HI (2012–Present)  
Established and lead a nonprofit film studio dedicated to producing socially impactful films that preserve history and share meaningful stories with global audiences.
- **Executive Producer**, *Now Academy* (2025) — Developed a free educational platform featuring Korean diaspora films for learners worldwide.
- **Board Member**, *Hawaii Symphony Orchestra* — Honolulu, HI (Present)  
Contribute to organizational strategy, community engagement, and cultural programming to strengthen the orchestra's role in Hawaii's arts landscape.
- **News Anchor & Reporter**, *KBFD-TV* — Honolulu, HI (2011–2021)  
Anchored daily newscasts, conducted live interviews, and reported on local and international news stories, serving Hawaii's Korean-speaking community.
- **University of Hawaii at Manoa** — Graduate Studies, Department of English (Completed coursework)
- **Ewha Womans University**, Seoul, Korea — B.A. in Journalism & Media Arts (2003)

## Accomplishments

- Secured a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the *Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation* to produce a Korean heritage documentary.
- Awarded the **Korean American Foundation Hawaii Grant** three times; additionally received funding and support from the *Academy of Korean Studies*, the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea*, and other cultural institutions.
- Invited to present films at **100+ screenings** across the U.S. and South Korea, engaging audiences at high schools, universities, and cultural organizations.
- Received the **Public Diplomacy Grant** from the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea*.
- **Authored** six books, including *Songs of Love* production diary and a bestselling collection of Hawaii travel essays.

## Awards

- **Best First Time Filmmaker Award** — Liberty International Movie Festival (2021)
- **Best Debut Filmmaker Award** — Tagore International Film Festival (2021)
- **International Literary Award for Overseas Koreans** — Overseas Korean Foundation (2015)
- **Dongseo Literary Award** - Dongseo Foundation (2012)