

BLURB: Today we're going to be talking about the 2002 movie *Emergency Act 19*. If you haven't heard of this idol-heavy film, tune in to learn what it is and why we think it should eventually be considered as a cult film.

--

Check out our website!

kpopsunbaes.com

--

Our Script

<https://tinyurl.com/SSEA19>

--

Where To Find Us

Twitter: [kpopsunbaes](https://twitter.com/kpopsunbaes)

Instagram: [k.pop.sunbaes](https://www.instagram.com/k.pop.sunbaes)

Tumblr: [kpopotd](https://www.tumblr.com/kpopotd), [kpopotd2](https://www.tumblr.com/kpopotd2), [kpopsunbaes](https://www.tumblr.com/kpopsunbaes)

Facebook: [The K-Pop Sunbaes](https://www.facebook.com/TheKPopSunbaes)

TikTok: [kpopsundae](https://www.tiktok.com/@kpopsundae)

YouTube: [The K-Pop Sunbaes](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkpopotd)

Our Main Podcast: [K-Pop Sundae](https://www.kpopundae.com)

--

Attributions

Music by Joystick - <https://www.joystick.org>

--

Check out our main podcast on any podcast platform! Search *K-Pop Sundae* for group breakdowns, the history of things like award ceremonies, and much more!

—

Intro (0:00)

The Plot (In Our Own Words) (0:19)

Basic Info (0:53)

Notable Actors/Idols of Note (3:23)

Why should people watch this? (5:28)

What was enjoyable? (11:41)

Why should it be a cult film? (20:23)

OST (23:09)

Conclusion (24:51)

Ending (25:11)

A. Intro (0:00)

- a. Welcome to a new Single Scoop episode. I'm JR, and I'm joined by my co-host, OldR. Our topic for today is the movie *Emergency Act 19* from 2002. While we are going to explain what it's about, we also hope that by putting a spotlight on it, it will eventually become a cult film. So, let's get into it.

B. The Plot (In Our Own Words) (0:19)

- a. The plot follows a world where major celebrities are becoming politicians across multiple countries. Certain people in Korea become upset by this, and enact *Emergency Act 19* (긴급조치 19호), which involves the military rounding up and detaining all idols. Dozens of idols appear throughout the film, but the two main protagonists are soloists Hong Kyungmin and Kim Janghoon. They team up with high school student, and Hong Kyungmin fangirl, Minji, who helps hide them. Together, they become part of the resistance and eventual downfall of *Emergency Act 19*.

C. Basic Info (0:53)

- a. This satire movie was released on July 19th, 2002, and [rated 15+](#) in Korea. It was directed by Kim Tae Gyu, who also did [The Last Defense](#) in 1997.
- b. According to Naver, the film was written by 4 people: the screenwriters were Kim Seongdong, Lee Seung-guk, and Kim Euntae; and the adaptation was by Park Junyeong. Kim Euntae is especially interesting because they are listed as the original author in addition to screenwriter because (allegedly) they also wrote a [play](#) (코메디 죽이기) which multiple people have claimed *Emergency Act 19* plagiarized (or at least parodied).

- i. Also, I say allegedly because when doing research on Kim Euntae, people weren't really listing the play as being one of their works as it's not a movie, and I highly doubt that two people with the same name worked on the same project, but maybe I'm wrong and will find the link, like, a month after this is released.
- c. It was distributed by S1 Cinema, which was established by Seo Sewon, who is a [notorious](#) ex-comedian and ex-pastor.
- d. Exact box office figures are disputed, but it did make a substantial amount of money due to fans going to see their idols. The closest numbers I got were from a [Yeonhap News article](#) that came out a few days after the film's release. A distribution committee said there were about 15,000 people who attended, while S1 Cinema claimed there were about 40,000 moviegoers. As there's a massive difference between those numbers and I never found a final official tally, we know that at least it did well enough to remain in theaters and eventually become available for home video – and at one time was available on DVD, as we found a listing for it on [Amazon](#).
- e. As you may have guessed by now, it wasn't exactly a popular or well-liked movie. There are a couple of reasons for this, including that it appears to reference/parody the demonstrations during the [Park Chunghee administration](#), the distortion of Korean law, and that it's a dumpster fire. At the end of 2002, *Emergency Act 19* was voted as being the [worst movie of the year](#) by netizens. It was also given the [Best Picture award](#) at the Ready-Stop Film Festival, which is basically the Korean version of the [Gold Raspberry Awards](#) – meaning, it was really bad.

D. Notable Actors/Idols of Note (3:23)

- a. Now that you have a grasp of what the movie was about, let's talk about who was in it.
- b. Hong Kyung-Min played one of the main protagonists and idols who rebels against the crackdown. He is a legendary singer, known for songs like "Shaky Friendship", "[Tonight](#)", and various OSTs, but most people outside of Korea are probably more familiar with his various appearances on variety shows. One of his close friends is actor Cha Taehyun, who was also the person who told him to [try appearing in the movie](#), then later admitted to feeling bad about doing so years after its release.
- c. The other major idol protagonist is Kim Jang-Hoon, who antagonizes the authorities and gets antagonized by fangirls. He's also a legendary singer known for songs like, "[I'm a Man](#)". However, recent fans might recognize him from when he collaborated with Rolling Quartz on "[Ice on Fire](#)".
- d. The final main protagonist is actress Gong Hyo-Jin who played the high school girl, Minji. She has been in numerous music videos, and dramas including [Sang-Doo Let's Go to School](#) and *When the* [Camellia Blooms](#).

- e. There were two main antagonists. The first was the chief secretary (apparently no actual name??) who executed the Emergency 19 order, repeatedly fought with Kim Jang-hoon, and was Minji's father. He was played by Noh Joo-Hyun who has been acting since the 1970s and is still active today. He was recently in *Love ft. Marriage & Divorce*. [Source](#)
- f. The second main antagonist was [Joo Younghoon](#) who betrayed idols. Joo Younghoon debuted during 1st gen and is still active in the industry. **But also, he produced the 1st gen group, K'Pop, which had debuted the prior year.**
- g. In addition to the idols we have already mentioned, many idols did cameos in the movie including: PSY ([싸이](#)), Chakra ([샤크라](#)), Baby V.O.X ([베이비복스](#)), Fin.K.L ([핑클](#)), Click B ([클릭B](#)), Harisu ([하리수](#)), Shinhwa ([신화](#)), Kangta ([강타](#)), KYT([코요테](#)) (old line up), Lee Seong-jin ([이성진](#)) from NRG, and Lee Juno ([이주노](#)) from Seo Taiji & Boys.
- h. There were also several singers who weren't from 1st gen in the film, many of them debuted in the 1980s and earlier including Hong Seobeom ([홍서범](#)) and Kim Taehyung ([김태형](#)) from Sobangcha ([소방차](#)).

E. The Pitch

- a. Why should people watch this? (5:28)

i. OldR's Opinions

1. It's one of the few pieces of media I can think of that includes multiple generations of idols and other entertainers in a way that shows them off rather than only use them for their face – which is an unpopular opinion. While knowing who everyone is and knowing every joke about them does add to the experience, it's okay to not know and could even make you curious by the little bits of information included – some of which is way funnier if you know them around the film's release or in recent years than just at the time. For example, during [Shinhwa's torture scene](#), the military wanted Lee Sooman's location and that was around the time when he was wanted by [Interpol](#). By the way, the Koreaboo article I found about that also included Seo Sewon as being wanted by Interpol, which is HILARIOUS because if you'll remember, he is the guy who drove/distributed the film. There's a lot of that in the movie, and the connections you can make are hilarious.

ii. JR's Opinions

1. Like OldR mentioned, you don't need a PhD in the early generations of K-Pop to enjoy this, though it does help. For me, I know a majority of the idols included, but it also introduced me to new faces which is always a plus. That being said, it could be something of a yearbook for newer fans of K-Pop because it really did have a good cast of people.

2. Another reason to watch it is that it is very reminiscent of American satire from the time and if you enjoy that genre, you'll definitely enjoy this movie.
3. I think OldR and I have the privilege of having first seen this movie about 19 years after it's release, so we were so far removed from all the criticism and controversy, and therefore able to enjoy it for what it is: dumb fun with a lot of celebrity hijinks thrown into it.

b. What was enjoyable? (11:41)

i. OldR's Opinions

1. Aside from the connections and jokes, the over-the-top situations were hilarious. For example, Kangta's absurd fight scene (to me) was reminiscent of stuff he did during H.O.T's past dramas and skits. I saw critics who were mad about how campy the film was with stuff like this, but I feel like they weren't viewing it with the correct background and lens. It seemed like they weren't too versed on previous idol movies like *Seventeen* or *Age of Peace* and just how bad they typically are – regardless of their enjoyability.
 - a. Camp is the absolute perfect way to describe this movie and I don't know why people saw that as a bad thing lol.
2. I also enjoyed how this film pulled in so many people, not just the young idols. Like we mentioned before, they pulled in people from the 80s and disbanded 1st gen groups, but also MCs, company CEOs, and many more who might otherwise have only appeared on an episode of a variety show together otherwise. I kind of have to wonder if this film was backed by someone else besides Seo Sewon, would we have seen one of these every few years? As in, history tends to repeat itself, so what if the Korean government tried to bring up Emergency Act 19 again in 2008, and this time it was someone like Seo Taiji betraying idols and the main characters were Jaejoong and T.O.P? They would be still be considered trash movies, but it also could have been something to look forward to as this film was a who's who of the industry, and could summarize what was going on at the time.

ii. JR's Opinions

1. Upon our first watching of this movie, OldR and I had such a blast pointing out different celebrities and trying to figure out what they were saying (we have only found an unsubtitled version of the film, though hopefully, we'll be able to sub it for people in the future.)
 - a. It kind of turned into a game in that way, yelling out idols and trying to figure out the lesser known celebs, but also trying to keep up with the politics and plot was just a really enjoyable experience, though it will probably differ a bit for everyone.

2. One of my favorite parts about this movie was the one celebrity that was trying his hardest to get arrested, but nobody knew who he was and therefore he kept being turned down because the cops had bigger fish to fry.
3. Given how volatile the political climate is nowadays, I'm unsure of whether this movie would be able to get a remake, but I think it would be really funny to see how modernity and today's celebrities would change the flow of the film.
 - a. I think if it happened closer to the film's release, it would be possible. If it had a history of releases and had a new one now, I think it would be accepted due to how formulaic it would have become.

c. Why should it be a cult film? (20:23)

i. OldR's Opinions

1. I think it should be a cult film because it's not been forgotten in Korea – in fact, when a new idol movie comes out, *Emergency Act 19* tends to be brought up as a comparison. The commentary it set out to make wasn't great, but what happened after its release is way more interesting. It has a lot of the hallmarks of a cult film with it being a bit obscure and not objectively good, but it doesn't have a lot of fans. I think that if more people watched it as a lookback on entertainers before 2nd gen, then it would get more recognition as being something people should attempt to enjoy. I hope it does become a cult classic eventually, but we're a long way from that.

ii. JR's Opinions

1. I totally agree with OldR, through today's view I think that people looking back on this movie would completely change how it's received. Some of my favorite cult movies are very similar to this in formula, so I think it definitely has the makings for having that status as well and we're gonna be at the forefront of this grassroots movement lol.

F. OST (23:09)

- a. Before we wrap up, let's talk about the OST.
 - i. There are 19 tracks on the OST for *Emergency Act 19*. These tracks are a mix between orchestral songs that were used as background tracks, dialogue clips from the film, and pop songs. It's very difficult to find and listen to this OST because it's blocked in many areas and not available on streaming platforms. However, we were able to find a rip of it on [YouTube](#), so here are the songs that really stood out to us – luckily, the songs for this K-Pop heavy film are quality songs.
- b. “ㄴ” by Park Yohwan was used in the Click-B chase scene and there are 3 versions of it on the soundtrack. It's a total bop, and one of Park Yohwan's best songs, imo.

- c. The second song we want to highlight is 우진희's "Lonely Heart". It's a slower ballad song the vocalist was perfect for the moment it was used.
- d. The final song we want to feature is 임상의's "Conflict". This is also a bop, and I kind of wish it was featured as much as "나". If you have a chance, please give this soundtrack a listen because it's very difficult to come by.

G. Conclusion (24:51)

- a. To wrap up, *Emergency Act 19* is a wild and messy film that should be seen at least once if you're a K-Pop fan. If you have a chance, we recommend it even if you're not completely familiar with everyone in there.
- b. But that's it for today. JR, take it away.

H. Ending (25:11)

- a. Thank you for listening! If you enjoyed the episode then please make sure to rate, subscribe, follow, and tell your friends about us. If you want to interact with us or just see more of our content then you can follow us on Twitter @kpopsunbaes, or on our other social media platforms which will be in the description. The new season of our main podcast is out this month, and more Single Scoops are coming your way soon! Thanks everyone, bye!

I. Extra

- a. Summary [Source](#)
- b. Kim Seong-Kyung was an SBS announcer, and was in the movie. [Source](#)
- c. Yang Jinseok ([양진석](#)) was in the film.
- d. Jang Hoil ([장호일](#)) was in the film.
- e. Song Eun-i ([송은이](#)) was in the film.
- f. Can ([캔](#)) was in the film.
- g. World Cup Promotion, should the Korean team do well [Source](#)
- h. Movie mentioned as a potential blockbuster [Source](#)
- i. Press Conference (July 3rd, 2002) [Source](#)
- j. Info on it (says it will be released on July 19th) [Source](#)
- k. Appearance fees & Point [Source](#)
- l. Made fun of [Source](#)
- m. Reiterated summary [Source](#)
- n. Criticized [Source](#)
- o. More Info [Source](#)
 - i. The emergency measures are a series of special measures taken by the Park Chung-hee administration to strengthen the dictatorship base.
- p. Results [Source](#)
- q. People big mad [Source](#)
- r. Seo Sewon accused of defamation July 26th [Source](#) [Source 2](#)
- s. More info and an argument that it can't happen [Source](#)
- t. Seo Sewon files for damages [Source](#)
- u. The Suju movie was brought up with Seventeen and Emergency act 19. He called it a children's movie, lmao. [Source](#)

- v. It's referenced sometimes when talking about idol movies [Source](#)
- w. Background [Source](#)
- x. Soundtrack Info ([Link](#))

1. 프롤로그 (Prologue) (0:00:00-0:00:50) - talking
2. 긴급조치 19호 (Emergency Act 19) (0:1:38-0:3:30) - instrumental music
3. 박요환 - 나 (Me) (Dance Ver.) (0:4:22-0:8:17) - THE BOP
4. 박요환 - 서정 (Expression) (0:9:10-0:13:47) - slower song, soothing
5. 주영훈 - Feeling (0:14:39-0:18:11) - upbeat, dance track, dude singing
6. 우진희 - Lonely Heart (0:19:04-0:23:18) - slower ballad song, female singer
7. 박요환 - 나 (Me) (Acoustic GT Ver.) (0:24:09-0:27:25) - acoustic version of the bop
8. 서정 (Feeling) (Instrumental) (0:28:17-0:30:11) - instrumental version of that ballad song
9. 무기상 Ment (Arms Dealer Ment) (0:31:05-0:37:07) - Audio from the movie where they're meeting the dealer
10. 임상의 - 갈등 (Conflict) (0:37:59-0:41:32) - A bop, bg, solo
11. Sad Mood (0:42:24-0:47:07) - Instrumental, sounds like it's from *Autumn in My Heart*
12. 박요환 - 나 (Me) (Rock Ver.) (0:47:59-0:51:43) - The bop, but rock
13. Rock'n Roll (0:52:36-0:53:51) - Instrumental rock
14. 도망자 (Fugitive) (0:54:44-0:56:44) - Instrumental action song
15. 작전 (Operation) (0:57:37-0:58:19) - Instrumental military action song
16. 대치 (Substitution) (0:59:11-1:01:24) - Instrumental action song w/strings
17. 긴급 (Emergency) (1:02:17-1:03:19) - Instrumental dramatic action song
18. 반란 (Rebellion) (1:04:11-1:05:32) - Instrumental, dramatic song
19. 진압 (Supression) (1:06:25-1:07:45) - Instrumental, dramatic action song