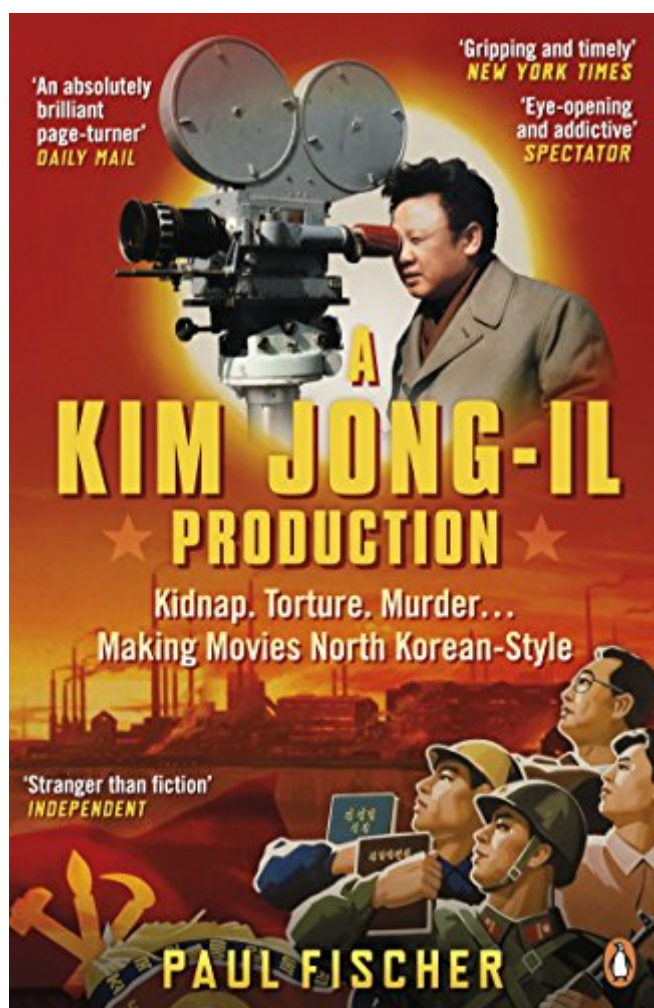


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A Kim Jong-Il Production: The Incredible True Story Of North Korea And The Most Audacious Kidnapping In History



Synopsis

A Kim Jong-Il Production by Paul Fischer - love, films and kidnapping in North Korea, the world's wildest regime Before becoming the world's most notorious dictator, Kim Jong-Il ran North Korea's film industry. He directed every film made in the country but knew they were nothing compared to Hollywood. Then he hit on the perfect solution: order the kidnapping of South Korea's most famous actress and her ex-husband, the country's most acclaimed director. In a jaw-dropping mission the couple were kidnapped, held hostage and then 'employed' to make films for the Dear Leader, including a remake of Godzilla. They gained Kim's trust - but could they escape? A non-fiction thriller with a plot so jaw-dropping even Hollywood couldn't make it up, this extraordinary book will be enjoyed by fans of *Argo* and *Nothing to Envy*. 'A story almost too wild to believe . . . Unputdownable' Benjamin Wallace, author of New York Times bestseller *The Billionaire's Vinegar* Paul Fischer is a film producer and writer. Born in Saudi Arabia and raised in France, he studied Social Sciences at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and Film at the University of Southern California and the New York Film Academy. He has worked as an independent film producer in London for the past seven years; his first feature, the documentary *Radioman*, won the Grand Jury Prize at the Doc NYC festival. A Kim Jong-Il Production is his first book.

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Customer Reviews

This is a retelling of the bizarre tale of how North Korean agents in 1978 kidnapped South Korea's top director and No. 1 female star, taking the pair to Pyongyang to make movies for the seriously peculiar second-generation dictator Kim Jong Il. As Paul Fischer reminds us, Kim Jong Il focused much of his time and enthusiasm on show business during the decades he was securing his position as designated successor to his father, Kim Il Sung, the founder of the communist North Korean state. Like Jiang Qing, Mao Zedong's fourth wife and one of the leaders of China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, Kim Jong Il sought to tear apart existing forms in film (and in opera) so he could remake them in the service of a new ideological emphasis. In North Korea's case, everything had to contribute to the people's single-hearted worship of the leader. Kim had an artistic sensibility and organizational skills. He managed with his limited domestic resources to produce some notable works. But the lifelong film buff watched with dismay as the narrowness of theme that he had imposed and the bureaucratic sloth of his movie-making subordinates put the country farther and farther behind world standards. Thanks to the Kim dynasty's notorious penchant for playing God, North Korea already had put in place the infrastructure for kidnapping foreigners to work in spy-training institutes as teachers and models of foreign languages and cultures. So it wasn't much of a leap for Kim Jong Il to have his men abduct South Korean actress Choi Eun-hee and then her estranged husband, the South's leading director, Shin Sang-ok. With the recalcitrant Shin finally tortured into submission, Kim gave the reunited pair carte blanche to make world-class movies.

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