

**FASHION IN PRINT
MEDIA
Assignment -
MOVIE REVIEW**

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The Devil versus Evil



Vincenzo is a Korean show by the TvN network, globally available on Netflix. This show blends comedy with dark and serious issues of the society in the form of a legal drama of 20 episodes. This Korean drama starts off with the powerful mystique of an Italian consigliere and crime scenes then delves into the wrong-doings that take place in Korea. It can keep the viewers on their toes with the amazingly planned turn of events and twisted suspense at the end of each episode. Will it expose the injustice and unfair distribution of power caused by financial inequality and status differences? Can the portrayal of gruesome reality warm the viewer's hearts with light-hearted human emotions? Let's find out as Shrestha Saha looks into the details of the show.

WHAT IS THE SHOW ABOUT?

The show talks about a consigliere, nicknamed as a corn salad by the characters of the show, who was adopted by an Italian family at a young age. He later joins the mafia and goes on to become the legal advisor of the Cassano family. Repercussions of family wars in Italy see Vincenzo heading over to his home country where he gets entangled with a threatening law firm and a bunch of small business owners fighting to save their place of stay, rented apartments in a building called the Geumga Plaza. Vincenzo's return to Korea was primarily based on securing the Geumga Plaza because his secrets were hidden in the plaza. But there's a conglomerate as competitor, the powerful Babel Group, who also wants the building. Vincenzo meets Mr. Hong a lawyer and law firm owner located in the Geumga Plaza.

Unlike Vincenzo who has been used to helping the mafias as a lawyer, Mr. Hong fights for the common man against the Babel Group in court. The fights are brutal and unfair due to the bribery, power and cunning cheating tactics Babel Group wields. Mr. Hong seeks Vincenzo's help knowing he is a consigliere who is just the right person to handle the Babel group. The ruthless Babel Group who destroys anyone who stand in its way, arranges a truck to bash into the eatery where Mr. Hong and Vincenzo were having their work discussion and having dinner. Mr. Hong dies in that accident but Vincenzo survives. Mr. Hong's daughter, Hong Cha Young, an efficient lawyer worked for Babel Group, and refused to work with her father. But on hid passing way leaves the Babel Group and joins her father's practice to avenge his death against Babel. Vincenzo joins the practice. They join hands to beat Babel Group. It gets complicated and dangerous fast as Babel Group plays dirty and takes lives without having to face any consequence.

Vincenzo exercises his power and the the devil in him to fight fire with fire. The building tenants, Lawyer Hong, and Vincenzo unite to form the Cassano family that goes above and beyond to fight the Babel Group. The Cassano family has their own trail of comedic events that will keep one's stomach full from laughing. There is an evolving chemistry between Lawyer Hong and Vincenzo as they help each other against the opposition. Babel's Team never hesitates to crush those that challenge them. Can the Cassano family be the gods to cause the fall of this tower of Babel? The show unveils the answer in a most refreshing, intelligent and entertaining way. It has captivating complexity and unparalleled intensity.



WHO IS THE SHOW ABOUT?

Song Joong Ki, a famous Korean actor last seen in a tv show of 2016 made his comeback in Tv soaps with this show as the Lead character named Vincenzo Cassano. Him with his puppy eyes has an innocent and virtuous impression which is contradictory to his role but perfectly in flow with the composition of the plot. Song Joong Ki successfully portrays the bad guy image that everyone respects and adores. Vincenzo was a master strategist and ruthless, never doubting that he must use the evil in him to beat the evil in the opposition. The show also showee his character development from someone who majorly focused on getting work done , no matter the consequence to being someone who secures justice to his close ones, no matter the consequences. His handsome outlook and suave demeanor shape the iconic character of Vincenzo - women wanted and men wanted to be like.

Jeon Yeo Bin, who played Lawyer Hong Cha-Young , was a strong female character. She was the female parallel of Vincenzo who never gave backed down from a fight with respect and consideration of emotions of her close ones. The character had her own ambitions. She wanted to avenge her father by destroying Babel group. She was willing to do what it took to achieve it. Cha Young was not unnecessarily masculinized in the name of strength instead was shown to embrace feminism with her powerful grace.

Ok Taec-Yeon, who played one of the most crucial and interesting characters, was a villain that stole the viewer's hearts because of his powerful yet innocent look. He initially played the part of an intern working at Babel. Then the show was elevated to a whole new level as he revealed his true identity, which was complete opposite of his initial role. The names of his two characters were Jang Jun-woo and Jang Han-seok. He emerged as the villain with dual personalities. He effortlessly ached the acting transition as an enthusiastic and righteous intern to a dangerously sinful psychopath. His expressions couldn't be more impactful.

The other two major villains were Lawyer Choi played by Kim Yeo-Jin and Han Seong-Hyuk played by Jo Han-Chul. The latter was an influenced evil who was fairly intimidated when caught by the neck. Lawyer Choi's character was seen as somebody who sold her soul to save the Babel Group and to protect the CEO of the company. She was one of the most ruthless character and a strong opposition to the protagonist, Vincenzo. Lawyer Choi along with Babel's CEO formed a challenging and vicious duo. The portrayal of the villains and their representation of menacing reality in the corporate world was unparalleled. The actors who played became at one with the characters.

The rest of the supporting Cast was also truly significant and played a major role in uplifting the drama. Every character of the supporting cast was well-thought, unique and stood out in their own ways. Kwak Dong-yeon as Jang Han-seo, step brother of Babel's CEO stood out among them because of his gradual and captivating character.

VINCENZO SOUNDTRACK/ OST

The soundtracks in this particularly show was fresh and unconventional in the Land of K-dramas. They had Italian classics like opera music and heart-warming Korean pop and jazzy tunes to highlight the drama. "Aderaline" by Solar was a notable soundtrack and played in both Italian and Korean version. Some music did not exactly blend in the background of the required scenes but some other tracks really helped serve the meanings of the scenes.

COSTUME

The costumes were very intelligently and thematically styled.

- Vincenzo's costumes perfectly outlined his character of a successful lawyer and secretive mafia who knew his own worth. They consisted of tailor-made Italian suites in mostly shades of blue.
- Hong-Cha's costumes were absolute favourites as they subtly stated fashionista and lawyer in one statement. They had a feminine edge yet modest impression. A noticeable feature were the dangling ear cuffs that she was styled, they has several chains that made it look heavy but they were closely placed with very less elements so that made it look professional. Accessories like these accentuated the look.
- The costumes of the rest of the staff were also styled designated to their characters. For example, there was a tenant in the Geumga Plaza who owned a restaurant so he was mostly seen wearing a chef's attire of white apron and coat. The people in the corporate world and Law firm were mostly shown in suites and the girls wore formal suites with pencil skirts.

IS SHOW THE PERFECT?

Nothing is perfect in this world and this show is no exception. There are certain areas where the perceived storyline does not get along with the portrayal of actions in the series. The lifestyle of some characters is overdone.

The display of violence in the ruthless game of justice might be disturbing to the mind and eyes of certain viewers.

The plot and lining of events are mind-boggling. They are interesting enough to keep the viewers hooked and eager to watch the next episode. Both the protagonist and antagonist are shown to be two sides of the same coin as they are both law offenders but with different perceptions. Vincenzo, the protagonist, has the perception likable to most viewers because he believes in securing the innocent side. The show focuses on the corruption that lies in the world of law and its failure to serve justice to the right people. Hence, the drama throws light on reality which helps viewers to relate and also embraces feel-good factors like friendship, family, kindness, sacrifice and love. This Korean drama might not be perfect but it was successfully enthralling enough to have a raging demand of Vincenzo, season 2!

THANK YOU.