

# Loved Squid Game? Check these out from the same director

Hwang Dong-hyuk is best known for his Netflix hit Squid Game, which drew 111 million viewers in its first 17 days on the platform. He's directed a number of critically acclaimed South Korean films, three of which are now available on Netflix.

## SILENCED

Silenced, is based on true events and follows a teacher who has recently started working at a school for the deaf. When he discovers that the school's faculty members are abusing the students, he works to expose the truth, only to discover that the surrounding community is willing to cover it up.



## MISS GRANNY

Miss Granny is a lighter film than Squid Game and Silenced, following a 74-year-old woman who finds an unusual way to escape her future confinement at a retirement home. She emerges as a 20-year-old woman after wandering into a strange photo studio and having her picture taken.

## THE FORTRESS

The most recent of the three, The Fortress, was released in 2017. It transports you to 17th century Korea, during the Qing invasion of Joseon, when King Injo and his court are forced to retreat to Namhansanseong, a fortress.



# Facebook shutting down automatic facial recognition in photos

Facebook Inc announced on Tuesday it is shutting down its facial recognition system, which automatically identifies users in photos and videos, citing growing societal concerns about the use of such technology.

"Regulators are still in the process of providing a clear set of rules governing its use," Jerome Pesenti, vice president of artificial intelligence at Facebook, wrote in a blog post. "Amid this ongoing uncertainty, we believe that limiting the use of facial recognition to a narrow set of use cases is appropriate." The removal of face recognition by the world's largest social media platform comes as the tech industry has faced a reckoning over the past few years over the ethics of using the technology.

Critics say facial recognition technology which is popular among retailers, hospitals and other businesses for security purposes - could compromise privacy, target marginalised groups and normalise intrusive surveillance. IBM has permanently ended facial recognition product sales, and Microsoft Corp and Amazon.com Inc have suspended sales to police indefinitely.

The news also comes as Facebook has been under intense scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers over user safety and a wide range of abuses on its platforms.

The company, which last week renamed itself Meta Platforms Inc, said more than one-third of Facebook's daily active users have opted into the face recognition setting on the social media site, and the change will now delete the "facial recognition templates" of more than 1 billion people.

The removal will roll out globally and is expected to be complete by

December, a Facebook spokesperson said.

Privacy advocacy and digital rights groups welcomed the move.

Alan Butler, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said, "For far too long Internet users have suffered personal data abuses at the whims of Facebook and other platforms. EPIC first called for an end to this program in 2011," though he said comprehensive data protection regulations were still needed in the United States.

Adam Schwartz, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said that although Facebook's action comes after moves from other tech companies, it could mark a "notable moment in the national turning-away from face recognition." Facebook added that its automatic alt-text tool, which creates image descriptions for visually impaired people, will no longer include the names of people recognized in photos after the removal of face recognition, but will otherwise function normally.

Facebook did not rule out using facial recognition technology in other products, saying it still sees it as a "powerful tool" for identity verification for example.

The company's facial recognition software has long been the subject of scrutiny. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission included it among the concerns when it fined Facebook \$5 billion to settle privacy complaints in 2019.

A judge this year approved Facebook's \$650 million settlement of a class action in Illinois over allegations it collected and stored biometric data of users without proper consent.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Exciting (?) times ahead

Ever since the Metaverse announcement, I couldn't stop thinking about the movie Ready Player One. For those who haven't watched it, it's a Steven Spielberg directed Science Fiction flick where people are shown spending an insane amount of time inside a virtual reality game looking for a famed fortune. Is this how the future is going to be? Dare we take one more step and draw a comparison to the Matrix even?

We ponder these questions as we try to explain the Metaverse craze in this week's cover story. Turn to the centrefold to read and let us know your opinions on Metaverse in our email and social media channels.

Have a great weekend!

Zarif Faiaz, Sub-editor

# TOGGLE

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# Toyota one of worst major automakers for carbon emissions

The world's top-selling carmaker Toyota has come joint last in a Greenpeace ranking of carbon emission efforts by auto firms, according to a list published Thursday during the COP26 climate summit. The campaign group gave Toyota and US-European firm Stellantis "F minus minus" grades for decarbonisation efforts including phasing out engines that burn planet-warming fossil fuels in favour of electric vehicles.

Minimising carbon emissions in the supply chain and reusing or developing greener technology for car batteries were among the factors examined in the report that compared 10 major automakers. General Motors received the least damning

rating with a C- grade, followed by a D for Volkswagen and D- for Renault. All the other firms, including Ford, Honda and Hyundai-Kia, were rated F plus or minus.

"Toyota, the world's number-one car seller last year, is the most stubborn in holding onto internal combustion engines," said Ada Kong, senior project manager of the auto industry campaign at Greenpeace East Asia. The Japanese giant is also "most vocal in such advocacy, domestically and abroad", Kong said in a statement.

Toyota, which releases its earnings later Thursday, said in September it would invest 1.5 trillion yen (\$13.2 billion) in batteries for electric and hybrid cars by 2030. It declined to comment ahead of



the publication of the emissions report, in which Greenpeace urged automakers to embrace fully-electric vehicles.

"Some Japanese companies, such as Toyota, are confident that hybrid technology is an effective alternative to the internal combustion engine," the report

said. "However, the real-world emissions reduction and fuel economy of hybrid vehicles are not as good as expected," it said, noting that plug-in hybrids only reduce emissions by an estimated one-third, compared with petrol or diesel cars.

The assessment came as world leaders met in Glasgow this week as part of the COP26 climate conference -- billed as vital for the continued viability of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which set a goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Greenpeace said none of the 10 auto firms had announced plans to phase out combustion engines before 2035, which would make the 1.5-degree goal "almost impossible".