

"Love Will Tear Us Apart": Variations of Realism in "Post-Youth" Movies

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Abstract

The movie "Love Will Tear Us Apart" with the theme of "love" directly confronts social sensitive issues, its expression is different from the "mock youth movies" that have been copied from previous genres, it integrates campus, work, society and other contexts, expands the narrative thickness of the youth images, and completes the realistic variation of society, human nature, and ethical values in the "Post-Youth" movies.

Keywords

"Love Will Tear Us Apart"; "Post-Youth" Movies; Realism.

1. Introduction

Youth plays a big role in Chinese movies at present, Chinese youth films have experienced a bottleneck period from rapid growth to excessive "consumption", the visual spectacle, emotional resonance and value expression it builds are constantly accumulating "trial-and-error" experience, exploring a youth writing style that conform to the aesthetics of the new generation of audiences. The movie "Love Will Tear Us Apart" is adapted from Li Haibo's long network post "The Girlfriend I've Known for Ten Years Is Going to Marry Tomorrow", it tells the ten-year love story of Lv Qinyang and Ling Yiyao, and it is largely a strong "variation" of the domestic youth movie model, presenting a new form of "Post-Youth".

2. Inheritance and Reconstruction of Pain Elements in Post-Youth Movies

After the release of "So Young" in 2013, it set off the boom of domestic youth movies, for a moment, youth types of films were reproduced in a relatively stereotyped model in subject, structure, characters and aesthetic style, its characteristics show that the character setting is in the campus story that happened in the student group under the campus field; in the setting of the scene, the scene setting is mostly based on high school/college entrance examination, the students have just entered into university but have not yet entered into the society, stories often occur in classrooms, dormitories, rooftops, and after-school playground; the main subject are love, friendship, and the future, etc.; the narrative takes "pain" youth as the standard, and car accidents, going abroad, abortions and other plots are mostly set. The stereotyped setting of characters, subjects, and plots makes the narrative context of domestic youth movies not based on the reality of youth growth and weaken the significance of youth narratives.

Baudry said that the audience will identify with the image itself in a dark theater, "namely identify with the characters on the screen, although the audience will realize that the image on the screen is unreal, they still believe that everything that appears on the screen is true and credible"[1], movies like dreams, youth is accompanied by pain, but this "pain" is never a copy, it needs to take root in the background of the times, the circumstances of the characters and the psychological pain points. The subject of "Love Will Tear Us Apart" remains unchanged and

talks about love, the difference is that it weakens the common "hormone" love in general youth movies, turns to confront social pain point "whether reality can beat love", it talks about a story: two young people who believe in love and are overwhelmed by material and finally part. In the composition of elements, "Love Will Tear Us Apart" also starts from the ignorant high school life, takes "classroom" as the main battlefield of the campus theme, pure girl with excellent results in a ponytail, shyness and reserve in the face of pursuit, which fill the narrative with a sense of youth, the creators use nostalgic images make most audiences feel the three-dimensional "synaesthesia" stimulation, inherits the narrative scenes and emotional shifting in youth movies. The high-achieving heroine and the mischievous hero, heroine has advanced degree and a bright future, hero struggle at the bottom of society, two sides have a strong contrast, become non-propitious center, and inherit the contradictions and entanglements of youthful characters. However, the difference is that "Love Will Tear Us Apart" reconstructs elements in the narrative, campus life is only a narrative background, most of the confrontations occur in the entanglement of the social scene, job reverses, family disapproval, economic pressure and workplace gang competition, crush the two young souls over and over again, forming an important "variation" in Post-Youth movies"- it not only explores the personal growth of teenagers, but also is rooted in social reality, profoundly exposes social contradictions and focus, shows the survival situation of youth in the social context of the new era, the individual insignificance and the faith of love.

3. The Perseverance and Innovation of Values in Post-Youth Movies

The subjects of Chinese youth movies are more diversified, narrative subjects includes school bullying, deep thinking on the college entrance examination system, and the emotion recount between teachers and students, etc., "Love Will Tear Us Apart" focuses on the survival problem of youth, they believe in love and try to live hard, they have not strength enough in their hands and are finally defeated, this reality speaks about the social distress of countless young people who are struggling. Post-Youth movies closely integrate youth movies with hot social topics, the narrative subjects are no longer limited to the entanglement of youth individual, but focus on the era trauma of the entire country and society.

"Love Will Tear Us Apart" emerges, because it fits the social hotspot, and unlike previous youth movies, it presents human interest, and the expression of values is also realistic. It shows a pure and non-materialistic perseverance in love values. It was the first time Ling Yiyao took Lv Qinyang home to see her parents, the deliberate expression of Ling Yiyao's mother made the two sides that were looking forward to the future even more bitterly disappointing, "if a man has no real skills, you will suffer in the end," the director used the push shot imply these words, it means that these words have hurtt the heart of the hero, the heavy rain was approaching, Lv Qinyang left disappointed, but coming towards him was Ling Yiyao who was still willing to take the risk, "You may have to adopt me for a while," Lv Qinyang took off his shoes and put on them for Ling Yiyao, The vow of love, "Even if I only have one pair of shoes to wear, I will take them to you", attacks the materialism of love. In materialistic values, Ling Yiyao's mother has found the one equal in social status, whether it is financial strength, education and other aspects of the conditions, Lv Qinyang is unable to match, encountering career difficulties, he had no choice but to go to the frontier to engage in infrastructure, try to earn money first and then marry Ling Yiyao, the whole movie narrative makes the audience entangled with between "hope" and "despair". The whole film narrative makes the audience torn between "hope" and "despair", hope that the two do not give up, despair is that the two are too hard, and ultimately the two are not married, this end also fall into the audience's expectations. The narrative of the movie expresses a love value against material life, in the context of real-life social topics such as "wedding dress", "house price" and "internal volume", the creator expresses In the context of

real life social topics such as "wedding dress", "housing price" and "involution", the creator expresses their perseverance as a young director and his stubborn resistance to the "materialistic" culture of youth, and use the "Post-Youth" narrative variation correct youth values. For this reason, "Love Will Tear Us Apart" does not fall into the conventional narrative ways, there are often "exaggerated" value expressions in the narrative contexts of anomalous youth films, they use extreme youth events to cater to hormonal impulses, and the universal values are often replaced by narrow values, which are divorced from reality. Post-Youth image as a dream-making machine, its realistic presentation for the real life outside the campus makes the audiences "once identity is achieved, the adopted narrative forms and the 'contents' of the images are far from important", [2] the movie reproduces the audiences' complex social definition for love, arouses the audiences' subconscious fear for life, grasps the audiences' psychological expectations, revolutionizes the narrative angle of youth movies, meets the audiences' psychological pain points based on acceptable scale, highlights the trend of diversity, the connotation of the work shows more ethical responsibility and social responsibility, and it show the artistic consciousness of actively integrating into the mainstream movie value system.

4. Conclusion

The most important "variation" of "Love Will Tear Us Apart" is the expression of realism, which is also the value appeal of "Post-Youth" movies, it is important to have commercial flow, but what is more important is to hold the rare social criticism, dig deeper the gist of youth, step out of the dilemma of type copy, so that "Post-Youth" movies can create the depth of reality that is different from ordinary youth movies.

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