

Comparative Study of “Wolf Warriors II” and “Braveheart” from the Perspective of “Hero Tour”

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Abstract: The article takes the famous American writer and mythology scholar Joseph Campbell’s “Heroic Journey” theory as a clue to make a comparative study of “Braveheart” and “Wolf Warriors II” and analyze the cultural differences on heroic shaping between the Chinese and English.

Key words: Heroic Journey; Hero image; Comparative study

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1 Introduction

Joseph Campbell is an internationally renowned master of mythology whose “hero” concept opened the Western popular culture in the aspect of a new understanding of “hero” concept. He is spiritual mentor of the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, George Lucas, Spielberg, JK Rowling and Steve Jobs. Campbell’s masterpiece and famous work “Heroes of Thousand Faces” are listed as a must-read by Hollywood. From his works, he transforms various stories with dramatic, entertaining and psychological authenticity, which is the inspirational source of the famous movie like “Star Wars”, “Matrix”, “Batman” and so on.

Campbell has searched the stories of myths and religious from all over the world after many years and put together the common mysteries in these stories to sum up a set of “hero journey”, including the following stages. “Departure” stage: give up the current situation and adventure into the field, which divided into five parts. They are “destiny calls”, “basic instinct reject”, “outside help”, “taken the security”, “plunged into deep”; “en-

lightenment “ phase : in order to get some insight symbolic mode of expression, which is divided six parts including “Trial Road”, “Goddess Meet”, “Heart Demon”, “Authoritative Atonement”, “Self-Awareness” and “Ultimate Gift” ; “ Return “ stage : return to the field of normal life once again and change the customs , including “impeding the return”, “foreign assistance”, “save the hardship” and “free life” . The above three stages are inevitable for every “Heroic Journey”, but not all fifteen parts are necessary. In a word, the more abundant each part is, the more comprehensive the “ Heroic Journey “ is and the fuller the heroic image is.

The article will make a comparative study of the two heroic war films, “Braveheart” and “Wolf Warrior 2”, which are more successful in shaping hero images in China and the West by adopting the above analysis framework. It aims at researching the similarities and differences in hero culture between China and the West to deepen the audience’s aesthetic of heroes.

2 Synopsis

“Braveheart” is adapted from a novel published by Randall Wallace in 1995, directed and starred by Mel Gibson in the core of the war, which describes the story of the indomitable struggle between Scottish uprising leader William Wallace and the rulers of England. Wallace was born in a traditional Scottish peasant family. His father died in the battle against the rule of England. As he grew up with his uncle, he learned the wisdom and martial arts of fighting. After returning to his hometown in Scotland, he once thought about an ordinary life and experience a beautiful love, but the cruel rule of the King of England made everything into a dream bubble. After the cruel killing of his wife, he embarked on the road of struggle for freedom, and inspired the entire Scottish nation to fight against the rule of England. Wallace and his troops

captured the fortress, killed local ruling officials, and then united the noble cavalry to win the battle of Stirling Bridge and drove the English army out of Scotland. Then, Wallace had since become a Scottish hero and was blocked by the Scottish nobles. For the *Jazz* and the *General Guardian*. Then he had a disagreement with the nobility, one side tried to make peace, he led his troops to capture the city of York in the north of England, and ransacked it, and killed the nephew of the king. King Edward I of England, who returned from France, sent his son's princess to buy Wallace, while gathering troops to launch a second invasion of Scotland. In the Falkirk War, the nobles who bought by Edward I led the troops to leave, England army defeated Wallace, and the seriously injured Wallace was rescued by Robert Bruce who appeared in the enemy camp. In the following years, Wallace led his troops to hide in the mountains to continue the struggle, and at the same time assassinated the nobles who were convinced to England. Then he was arrested for the victory of the joint nobility and was executed after all kinds of torture. With their own deaths, the Scottish nobles were awakened. These Scottish nobles finally led their troops to fight against England and won the final victory of the war and the freedom of the Scottish nation.

“*Wolf Warriors II*” directed and starred by Wu Jing, also with war as the core, telling that Leng Feng who was taken off the military uniform was involved in a rebellion in an African country. He could not safely forget the duties of the soldiers, returned to the battlefield and started the rescue. Leng Feng, who was expelled from the military, came to Africa to find the killer that killed Long Xiaoyun, but was suddenly involved in a rebellion in an African country. Because of the political positions between the countries, the Chinese army cannot carry out armed operations in Africa to evacuate overseas Chinese. Leng Feng, a veteran could not forget his mission as a soldier. He could have evacuated safely and resolutely returned to the enemy-occupied area. He led the compatriots and refugees who were trapped in the massacre alone and fled to life and death. As the struggle continued, the wolfness in the body gradually recovered, and finally broke into the war zone, fighting for the compatriots, and finally rescued the trapped compatriots and refugees.

Both films are on the theme of war. One person is also the director and the star (this shows the love for the protagonist's character). They have unique status and representative characteristics in the history of Chinese and Western movies so it has strong comparative research significance.

3 Analysis of the Image from the Frame of “Hero's Journey”

“*Braveheart*” is a typical example of a plot based on the “Heroic Journey”: At the “departure” stage, due to the oppression of England, the fate of the Scottish people was miserable and led a slave-like life (call of destiny). At first, Wallace just wanted to live an ordinary life with his wife and didn't want to get involved in a dispute (instinctive rejection). However, contrary to expectations, his wife was killed, which made him feel the pain of the skin. The comrades in the same village also joined the fight against power (outside assistance). Wallace began to lead the civilians and embarked on the road to fight the English aggressors everywhere (cross out security). In the “Enlightenment” stage, Wallace was brave and conscientious, leading the army to obtain the Stirling victory and attacking Yorkburg. Although the noble's betrayal made it defeated in Falkirk, it was hidden in the mountains. On the one hand, Wallace continued to fight, and at the same time assassinated the noble Scottish nobility (Road of Trial) to England. The comparison between the brave Wallace and the cowardly Prince of England made him gain the love of the Princess of England (meeting with the goddess). In the «return» phase, in order to unite the Scottish nobility against England, Wallace was once again betrayed by the nobility and arrested (impeding the return). Although the princess tried her best to save Wallace (external rescue), Wallace did not surrender to death, sacrificed his life for the independence of Scotland and the freedom of the people (to save the hardship), and inspired the nobles and civilians of Scotland. Continue to resist the rule of England, and finally won the victory (free life).

“*Wolf Warriors II*” can also clarify the thinking through the analysis of the “hero journey”: in the “departure” stage, Leng Feng came to Africa to find the killer who killed Long Xiaoyun, and a rebellion happened unexpectedly (call of destiny), Leng Feng wanted to take a Chinese warship to return to Africa with his adopted son, but the child's mother was still in the war zone and learned that the clues to Long Xiaoyun's killing are related to the rebels. In addition, Dr. Chen and the workers of the Chinese steel plant in Africa needed to be rescued (Outside help), he embarked on the rescue journey of the lonely hero (stepping out of safety). In the “enlightenment” phase, Leng Feng rescued and the little immunization girl in the hospital. Unfortunately, Leng Feng was infected with the virus, when he prevented the attacks of the rebels and the mercenaries in the factory (the

trials of the road). Then Doctor Rachel was rescued (meeting of goddesses). During the “return” phase, due to the evidence that mercenaries killed the Chinese, the Chinese navy launched an attack on the rebels under the authorization of the United Nations. At the same time, relying on China’s powerful national strength (foreign rescue), Leng Feng finally successfully rescued the African workers who was trapped in the Chinese factory (to save hardship and live freely).

4 Comparative Analysis of Hero images in the Two Movies

The heroic Journey of Randall Wallace in “Braveheart” runs through three stages and ten parts. And this film is adapted from the successful best-selling novel. From the perspective of plot design, it is more perfect and more logical. The film is positioned as a type of war, history, and biography. It takes a realistic style throughout the story. It is better than plot rather than special effects and actions. The direct result is that Wallace’s image is ups and downs, real and dramatic, and the taste is more timeless. To be practical, the 1990s was a period of rising national power. One was the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, the United States became the only superpower, and the other was the rapid development of information technology. The eight years of Clinton’s presidency were extremely prosperous. Americans burst into self-confidence, and “Braveheart” was not pleasing and popular. This was directly reflected in the box office. The total worldwide box office of the movie was 2.1 billion dollars at the North American box office year ranked only ranked 17, which was much lower than the current box office of “Toy Story” (3.500 million US dollars). It business income is not considered successful. However, the film had an excellent reputation. It won five awards including Best Film and Best Director at the 68th Academy Awards in 1996. Douban scored 8.9 points. Like this is the “Redemption of Shawshank” released in 1994. At that time, it was No. 51 at the North American box office. It is not an exaggeration to describe it as a fiasco. However, with the precipitation of time, the score of the move has been rising all the way. The ranking is high on the ranking list, and it can’t be shaken.

The image of Leng Feng in “Wolf Warriors II” enhances three stages and seven parts under the framework of “Hero Journey”. Compared with “War Wolf 1” longitudinally, Leng Feng’s image is plumper, and the background setting is more in line with Chinese people’s value expectations. The film is positioned as a type of war and action. It has made great efforts in

combat design and stunt application. This also stems from Wu Jing’s basic design as an action actor. In comparison, “Wolf Warriors II” is slightly weaker in the plot design of the “Heroes Journey”, and the strength of the transition between the parts is not strong and the response is not enough, mainly around the repeated between Leng Feng and foreign mercenaries. This main line of battle promotes the plot, lacks support from the sidelines, and lacks the various inner entanglements and struggles experienced by the hero during the exploration process. In the end, the hero’s inner heart gradually becomes stronger and truly achieves “obtaining the Dao.” The search for and understanding of fate is the core of being a hero. Obviously, from the perspective of the market and the audience, the hero image creation of “Wolf Warriors II” is undoubtedly successful. The audience voted with their feet. This film occupies the highest box office record in domestic movie history with 5.68 billion yuan, setting a cumulative view in China. The performance of 140 million movie people has topped the global list of «single market movie watchers». Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the party and the country have put forward the great vision of the “Chinese Dream.” China is increasingly standing in the world as a responsible big country. In this context, a film with the theme of “Evacuation of Overseas Chinese” not only highlights the power of the motherland, but also highlights the self-confidence of the soldiers. Coupled with the global exoticism, cool fighting and stunts, it is rare. The box-office medicine obtained tells a Chinese story in Africa. It is worth mentioning that “Wolf Warriors II” to strengthen the people’s confidence in the film. In addition to martial arts, folk pieces these types of areas China’s traditional advantages. In terms of action films, Chinese audience began to be no longer superstitious of 007 Foreign characters such as James Bond, Ethan Hunter in Mission Impossible, which are obsessed with local characters as they are, and they have formed a blowout trend. This is the only reason for the “Stray” in the field of science fiction films that has constantly refreshed the box office record in recent years. A series of outstanding domestic films such as “Earth”, “The Nezha Devil’s Birth” in the field of animation This is like the mobile phones of Huawei and Xiaomi are still not rivals of Apple and Samsung in the mainstream international market, but they have already begun to take the scale of breaking the wrist.

As Chairman Xi said: “Respect for the heroes of the Chinese nation, record heroes and create heroes with great emphasis on color, so that heroes can be spread in literary and artistic works.” Film workers should be

heroic and be heroic singers, using appropriate analysis tools to find problems, find deficiencies, and clarify directions can better achieve the entrustment of the general secretary.

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