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The Image Evolution of Grassroots Heroes-A Study of Comedy Films from A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box to Detective Chinatown

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Abstract: In comedy movies, the grassroots hero is almost an essential role. Even if he is not the protagonist, he will inevitably occupy an important scene and play an important role in making jokes, embellishing the theme, and pushing the plot. In this paper, there are two comedies and they are A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box and Detective Chinatown. This paper takes two comedies released over 20 years as the main research object to analyze the positioning and role of grassroots heroes and analyzes the characteristics of the characters of grassroots heroes in these two films respectively. Then, it analyzes the evolution of the characters of grassroots heroes in Chinese comedies in the past 20 years.

Keywords: Grassroots hero; Comedy movies; Role image.

1. The Function of the Role of Grassroots Hero

Grassroots heroes play an important role in comedy movies because the grassroots heroes themselves are similar to the general audience in identity attributes. Moreover, they belong to the group of ordinary people and they only get specific opportunities at specific times to become heroes. Such role setting cannot be ignored in the expressive force of comedy movies. Specifically, the role of grassroots heroes in comedy movies includes the following aspects:

1.1. The story is more interesting and appealing

Grassroots heroes are usually one of the most interesting and touching characters in movies. They may be ordinary people but they show extraordinary skills, courage, and determination under certain circumstances. This role can help the audience better understand the problems in life and resonate with them.

1.2. The increase in the depth and range of the story

Grassroots heroes can make movies explore some profound issues such as social injustice, discrimination and inequality. It enhances the conflict and tension of the story. They usually experience a series of setbacks, and challenges in an adventure or struggle, which may be caused by social injustice, discrimination, and inequality. This kind of role can help the audience better understand the story and experience stronger emotions in the movie.

1.3. The highlight of the comedy theme

The image of grassroots heroes can emphasize the theme because they usually take normal people as the main characters in movies, rather than superior people. These characters often represent a true and universal human nature. They may live at the bottom of society or they may face various difficulties and challenges. However, they are not intimidated by these difficulties and challenges but face them bravely and solve the problems through their efforts and wisdom.

In movies, the image of grassroots heroes is also usually shown with the qualities possessed by ordinary people. For example, they may not be smart enough, strong enough, or talented enough but they have a kind and brave heart. They may be troubled by some setbacks and failures but they can show courage, perseverance, and wisdom in adversity. This kind of quality and emotional connotation is the theme that the film wants to show, the content that the public likes to see and hear, and the transmission path of social positive energy.

1.4. The push of plot development

Grassroots heroes are usually one of the most important characters in movies because they provide more clues about characters' stories and personality characteristics. This information can help the audience better understand the relationship and conflict between the characters in the film, and experience more themes and emotions in the film. In the development of the movie plot, such a grassroots hero must stand up and push the plot forward in an incredible and open-minded way, leading the plot to a climax step by step and finally completing the narrative of the whole story.

All in all, grassroots heroes play an important role in comedy movies. They can enhance the attraction, depth, and dramatic elements of movies. Also, it can increase the audience's interest in humor and dramatic elements in movies. Therefore, the grassroots hero is an essential part of comedy movies.

2. The Characteristics of Grassroots Heroes in A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box

In the movie called A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box, there is no doubt that the most representative role of grassroots heroes is the protagonist named Zunbao Zhi. In the movie, the image of Zunbao Zhi is complicated. First of all, the Zunbao Zhi is very obscene, selfish, frivolous, hypocritical, and despicable in the film, which is easily misunderstood by the audience. At the beginning of the film, Wukong Sun took Sanzang Tang to the Western world. As a

result, he colluded with Mowang Niu to kill Tang Sanzang and rob the moon treasure box on the way to the Western world. From beginning to end, he only considered his benefits and wanted to create a better life for himself. His imperfection made him more realistic. His meanness made him get punished by fate, and made him understand the true meaning of emotions in a complicated world. The movie criticized the superficial class in humor.

Secondly, Zunbao Zhi is also full of love. In this film, the story of Zunbao Zhi's conversion to Buddhism is also amazing. Before he died, Zunbao Zhi saw a tear left by a girl from Xia Zi, and then he realized that the person he liked was Xia Zi. He would wear the magic hoop so that his magical power could be infinitely supplemented and Xia Zi can be saved. He was willing to agree to the request of Guanyin Bodhisattva so that he could be completely awakened and wholeheartedly protect Tang Seng. The push of this kind of emotion is not a kind of spirit. Although he was helpless, it was not a resistance. There was no conflict between him and the Buddha but a conflict between two emotions. The Buddha here does not represent the ruling class and it just represents a kind of detachment, which shows that he had decided to miss nothing on earth.

In addition, Zunbao Zhi is an ordinary person full of energy and self-confidence and he shows extraordinary skills, courage, and determination under certain circumstances. He is a man full of energy and self-confidence, and he always faces the challenges and difficulties in life with an optimistic attitude.

He is not afraid of difficulties and he always face the enemy bravely and shows perseverance spirit. He is also an energetic and confident person so he always solves problems in an optimistic way. He always faces his enemies with optimism and tolerance and gives help to others. Zunbao Zhi is an ordinary person but he shows extraordinary skills, courage, and determination under certain circumstances. He is not afraid of difficulties and always faces them with optimism and confidence. He is not afraid of difficulties and always solves problems in a humorous way.

3. The Characteristics of Grassroots Heroes in Detective Chinatown

In the film called Detective Chinatown, there are two main grassroots heroes, namely Ren Tang and Fei Qin. Their images are very different, among which Ren Tang is more representative. The image of Ren Tang can be summarized as follows.

First, he dares to pursue justice. Ren Tang is a man with a strong sense of justice and responsibility. He is not afraid of difficulties and dangers and always insists on pursuing justice and safeguarding social justice. He believes that justice is not only a concept but also a responsibility. He constantly pursues the truth, strives to find out the truth, and resolutely resists immoral and unfair behavior. He believes that justice is not only a concept but also a kind of responsibility. He firmly believes that as long as people bravely uphold justice, people can use their strength to safeguard social justice.

Second, he has the spirit of perseverance. Ren Tang never gave up on facing various challenges and difficulties and solved the problems with his wisdom and courage. This spirit can be understood as firm will, tenacious perseverance, and unremitting efforts. In the film, Ren Tang showed his intelligence and courage as well as his persistent pursuit of justice and kindness, which are concrete manifestations of his spirit. Moreover, Ren Tang always shows perseverance spirit when he faces a case. He can constantly think, analyze, and seek the truth. He will not give up because of difficulties and dangers. This perseverance spirit is also reflected in his deep sympathy for the sufferings and misfortunes of others, and he always tries his best to help them.

Third, he has talent and charisma. Ren Tang is a person who interestingly expresses his views and emotions and the audience can feel the shining point of human nature in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Ren Tang is a man with wisdom and intelligence. He solves cases through his wisdom and strategies and he can give full play to his intelligence at critical moments. Furthermore, Ren Tang is an imaginative person. He can always imagine a mysterious world interestingly and use this imagination to find clues and answers to cases. This humorous image makes the audience have a strong interest and imagination in the plot and characters in the film, and get thinking and enlightenment from it. Moreover, Ren Tang is a good observer and thinker. He can find some interesting things and problems in his daily life and find clues to solve them.

4. The Image Evolution Process of Grassroots Heroes in Comedy

From A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box to Detective Chinatown, great changes have taken place in the role of grassroots heroes. First of all, the protagonist in A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box is a character in a fairy tale. Wukong Sun is a character with magic, freedom, and justice. In this way, the film shows the heroic image in folklore and leaves a deep impression on the audience. In Detective Chinatown, the grassroots hero is no longer a mythical figure but a real-life figure. The protagonist in the film is an ordinary citizen, who shows perseverance and courage when facing various challenges. This role setting is closer to real life and more truly reflects people's courage and perseverance when facing difficulties.

Although the protagonist in A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box has magical power, his behavior is very simple and straightforward. For example, he had no supernatural power to help him when he was trapped in Mowang Niu house. On the contrary, he could only escape through his strength. In another film, the protagonist does not use any supernatural power to solve the problem. Both of these films show heroic images. The grassroots hero in the film is no longer a mythical figure but a real person who exists in society and has his unique abilities and characteristics. Finally, great changes have taken place in the roles of grassroots heroes in A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box and Detective Chinatown and Detective Chinatown, which also reflects the changes in the production and narrative techniques of this type of film in the film market. In these films, the characters are no longer a hero or a mythical figure in a traditional way. In contrast, normal people form a complete world. These characters have shown energy, courage, intelligence, and wisdom in the face of difficulties. These changes reflect the trend of reform and innovation in this type of film production and narrative techniques in the film market. The transformation from mythical characters to real-life characters and then to heroic characters reflects the new trend of this type of film production and narrative techniques in the film market.

With time moving and the change in the social and cultural environment, the image of grassroots heroes has gradually taken on more new forms and connotations. This image no longer exists simply for entertainment but pays more attention to the expression and interpretation of the human mind, spirit, and values. This image exists not only to entertain the audience but also to highlight the essential aspects of human society. It not only represents the improvement of people's demand for self-worth and personal dignity in the stage of social development but also is an essential part of human cultural inheritance.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, the grassroots hero is a very important role type in comedy movies, and it is also an essential element of modern comedy. The biggest feature of the grassroots hero is that he comes from an ordinary family and can resonate with the audience. At the same time, the grassroots hero can do extraordinary things that the audience cannot do so he can be more recognized by the audience. When watching the story of the grassroots hero, the audience's dream pursuit is indirectly satisfied. The grassroots heroes of A Chinese Odyssey Part One: Pandora's Box and Detective Chinatown are the protagonists. After 20 years, the image of grassroots heroes has changed in some aspects such as the way of speaking, behavior, and thinking habits but the core values conveyed by grassroots heroes have not changed. They all have good values, which may be hidden under their normal appearance. It can always convey the ideological core of social positive energy to the audience. In the future, this core spirit will become the most essential feature of grassroots heroes. The ordinary characteristics of grassroots heroes can better reflect their greatness.

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