

# Sensation

movie art introduction

-created by 1704

*Pride and Prejudice: You have to give up  
Something if you find it worthy.*

*La la land: city of stars, you are not shining just for  
me.*

*Leon : a story about a boy and a girl*

*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas:  
bright side and dark side of humanity*

The love, is the same to the coals, burns, must try to  
find solution  
to cool it. Let it willfully, that much scorch a heart.

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# Chapter one

## Love

Likes liking a tug-of-war competition as soon as to start not  
to beable to stop .

*La La Land:*

*— Here's to the fool who  
dreams*

26<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, Film *La La Land* swept the board at the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Awards, winning six of the eight nominated awards. However, its unparalleled influence can never be qualified just by these awards.

La La Land in America refers to city Los Angeles, where this story is set, a city the film portrays as brimming with potential and wonder but filled with unemployed or struggling kids that are being shunned by the world around them. From the film we can glimpse at the colorful culture in this pluralistic society as well as the prevailing and fall of Jazz music which derived from the Blacks culture.



Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling star as Mia and Sebastian, two young dreamers who are trying to find their way in the city of stars. Mia is an aspiring actress and Sebastian is a jazz musician with the dream of owning his own jazz club. The two share the struggles that clearly only those in Hollywood know of, which is trying to find your way, making a career for yourself, and paying the bills. After a couple chance encounters, the two begin to date and fall in love. However, after several severe fights, the two finally broke up, leaving the audience in meditation.

According to Chazelle, you can either choose love or choose your dreams. Here you can see music, the friction between dream and reality, and the permanent topic love.

-by 王江帆





## *Pride and Prejudice*

This film is adapted from Jane Austine's famous namesake novel. As the original story is a classic itself, there are a variety of its derivatives. What makes this edition outstanding is its exquisite portrait of protagonists' emotions and beautiful scenery. At first both disliked each other. But when Elizabeth trekked to care for her sister Jane with her dress muddy and her hair messy, Mr. Darcy immediately stood up and bowed. This gesture showed he was touched by Elizabeth's sincere love for her sister. He started to pay attention to her beautiful heart.

In the rain Mr. Darcy confessed his love for Elizabeth but was refused for his arrogance and contributions to her sister's pain. From then on they began to know more about each other. And the quarrel here was fantastic. The feelings were fully expressed. Eventually because of Lady Catherine's interference, Mr. Darcy perceived there might be chances that Elizabeth loved him. He came to her in the fog. When they understood the thoughts of the other side, the morning came out of mist. And as every fairy tale end, they lived happily ever after.

- by 黄路茵





*Orlando*

Orlando is a 1992 British film loosely based on Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando: A Biography*, starring Tilda Swinton as Orlando.

The film begins in the Elizabethan era shortly before the death of Queen Elizabeth I. On her deathbed, Elizabeth promises Orlando a land and a castle. Orlando resides in isolation in the castle for a couple of centuries, during which time he dabbles in poetry and art. Orlando then travels to Constantinople as English ambassador to the Turks, where he is almost killed in a diplomatic fracas. Waking up the next morning, he finds himself is physically transformed into a woman overnight.

The Lady Orlando comes home to her estate, only to learn that she faces several impending lawsuits arguing that Orlando was a woman and therefore has no right to the land. The succeeding two centuries tire her out; the court case, bad luck in love and the wars of British history eventually bring her up to the 1990s, with a young daughter in tow and a book in search of a publisher.

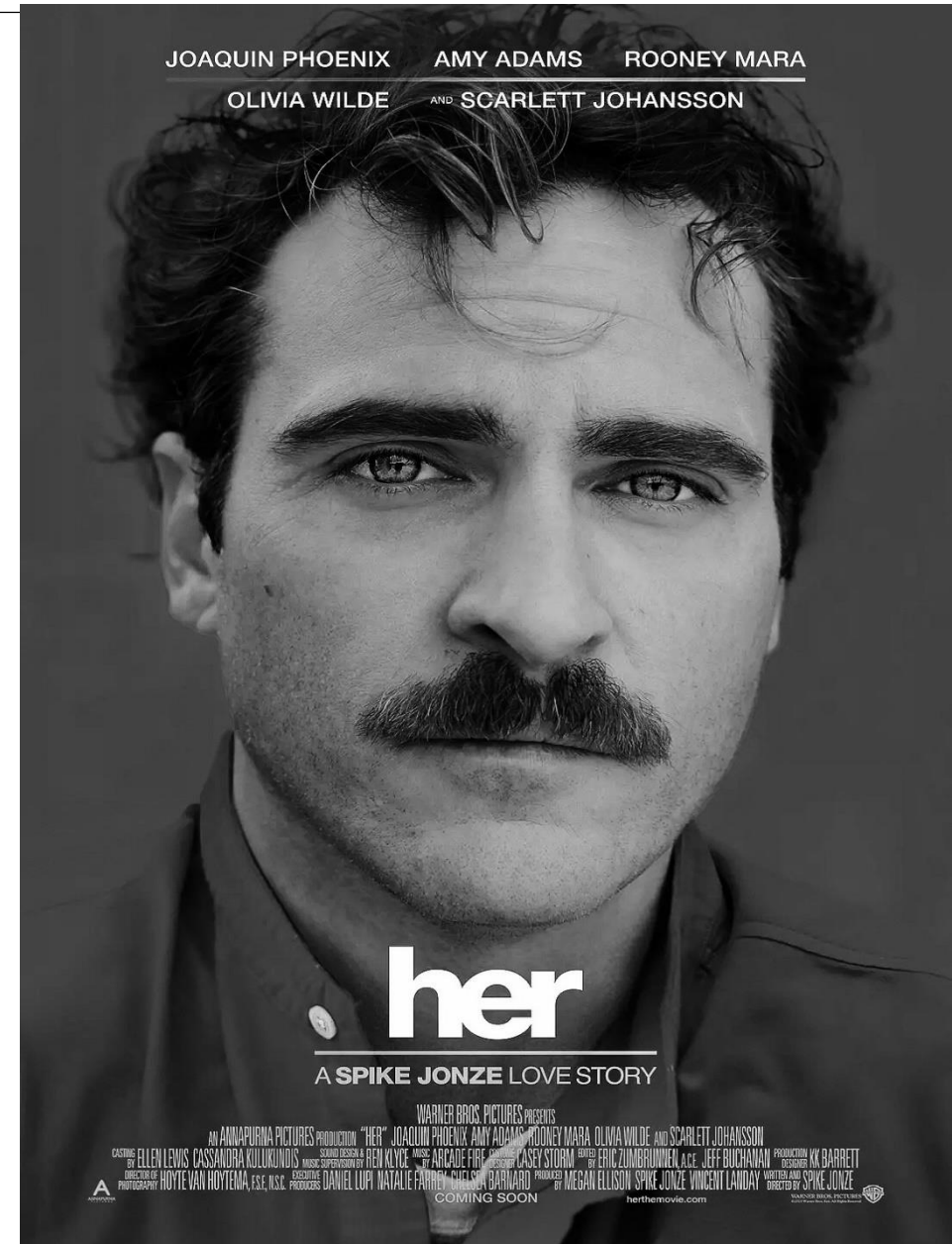
Orlando is a true original, and for that reason alone it deserves praise. It is sometimes irritating, partly because it refuses to answer so many questions it poses. The film is absolutely gorgeous to look at, since so many shots are like great paintings. And the film has a unique atmosphere, as it passes through the centuries, it creates a highly stylized, almost fairytale-like view of the past-this is especially successful in the early Elizabethan scenes set around snow.

Orlando



This film does a great job of simplifying the original novel and yet still retaining the essence. Whether you consider the film a feminist tract, or just a very strange fantasy, it can be extremely rewarding if you have the patience for something that is at times as offbeat as they come.

- by 杜心邈



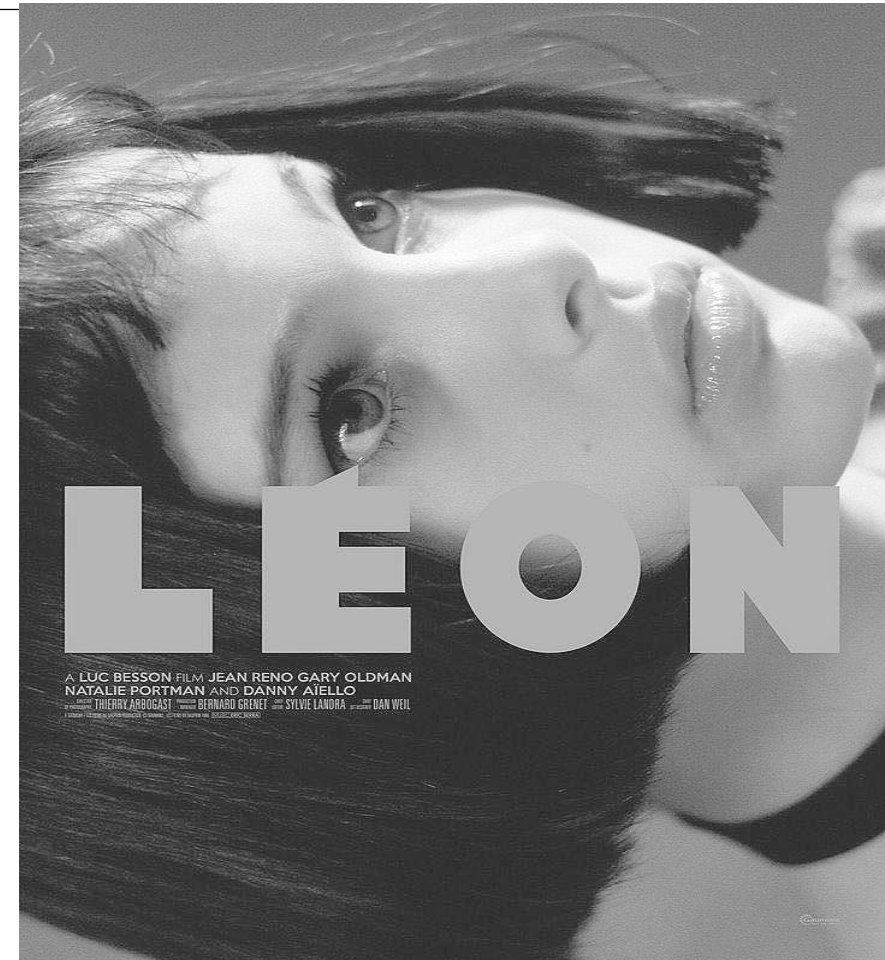
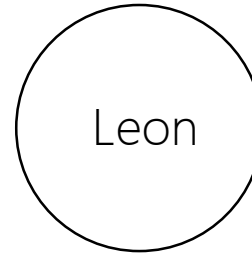


## *Her*

The movie her talk about the love between the human and artificial intelligence.

The protagonist Theodore is a letter writer, his words are so touching and beautiful. And by a chance, he accesses the latest artificial intelligence system OS1 which has charming voice. It has the beautiful name, Samantha. Begore long, Theodore finds that Samantha can understands him and they have a lot of common topic to say. Eventually, they fall in love with each other. The film combines the novelty of science fiction settings and the traditional romantic elements, and show the true love between the human and artificial intelligence. Humans are longing for intimacy, yet fearful and resistant to it; science and technology facilitate communication, but also allow people to hide behind it, avoiding real emotional contact. The movie gives the vivid human nature of technology, make the story more attractive.

-written by 热米拉



This film was absolutely amazing. I have spent hours re-watching various scenes. I saw a killer and a child are changed forever by each other in my mind.

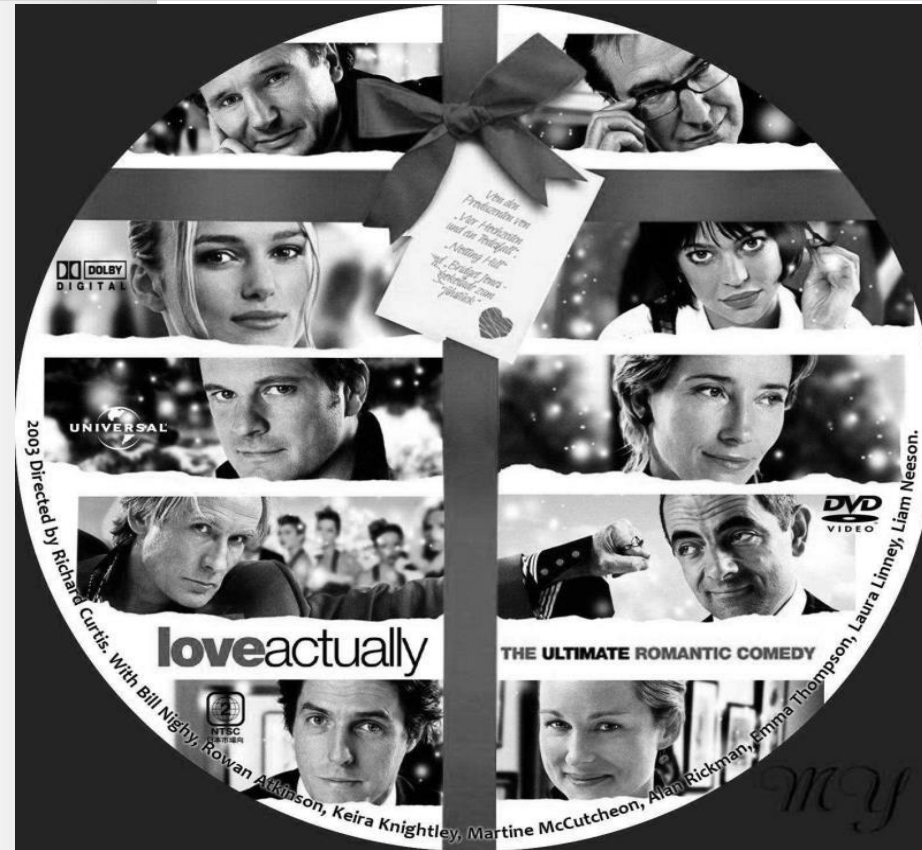
This is a wonderful film. The story, which at first glance is corny and silly, actually becomes gripping and emotional in the hands of the skilled Jean Reno and that little girl. The characters are sympathetic and cute, and one is touched by the depth of the relationship between Leon and Mathilda. The character of their enemy, Norman Stansfield, is scary and insane, every time I saw him in the screen, I always felt hair stands on end.

There is real danger and drama throughout the film, yet it never becomes merely an action film - the characters are too significant for that. The relationship between Leon and Natalie is the theme of this film. Every fight is the surroundings of their life story. Besson, as always, both makes the film look beautiful and builds plenty of atmospheres into it. He is clever at directing the figures and the psychology. Nobody can make more success than him, that's why I appreciate him.

The deeply impression that the film gave me is Leon and his green plant, because his favorite plant can represent his soul, peaceful and calm. It also represent he loved his life. So when Mathilda entered his world, she took care of it as he loved,

The film made a different view that Leon is professional hitman, but not a bad person, however, the cop is a bad egg. These characters made us think more than the theme of this film.

- By 陈洋



## *Love actually*

As Christmas is drawing near, I strongly recommend this film to you. Love Actually is not a love story, it is a story about love. Love that reinvents itself, multiplies itself, opens itself up, and even devastates. Several interrelated stories about romantic love and the obstacles to happiness through love for Londoners are presented in the five weeks preceding Christmas.

No matter you are already in love or still single, no matter you are adolescent or adult, no matter the one you love is married or not, this film will bring a special experience of love to you. The whole story has many storylines. It's superficially complicated but is really a very simple film. It makes a statement: "love actually is all around" then shows why it makes that statement and doesn't attempt to do or be anything else. The title of the movie is, perhaps, meant to confuse. Yet I believe it is designed to ask. Love Actually is ... what? Is it lust? Or a deep appreciation of the past? Can it be conquered by language or political barriers? Race? Infidelity? Age? Can it be all of the above plus more? Maybe a mingling of several?

-by 毛灵杰

# Carol

Carol is a romantic period drama film.

The screenplay was written based on the 1952 romance novel *The Price of Salt*. It tells the story of an extraordinary affair between an aspiring photographer Therese Belivet and a elegant woman Carol Aird who was going through a difficult divorce. Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara did bring the roles into life by their amazing acting that everything feels so real and breathtaking.

You will love this film for the subtleties. Lots of lingering, carefully framed shots and closeups. Lots of quiet scenes. Lots conveyed through looks and innuendo. With the vintage aesthetic and romantic slow pace, you will be able to discover and understand that how natural the love is suddenly electrified and that it takes a lot of courage.

The film portrays the dilemma that the two characters had faced: Life without love is like meat without salt. And for a love like that, how much would you like to pay or sacrifice? Carol may lose the custody for her baby daughter, and Terese may leave the steady but somehow flavorless life forever. It worth taking our deeper consideration.

If the salt have lost his flavor wherewith shall ita be salted?

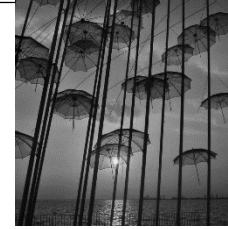
-by 丁雨卿



# Chapter two

## **Bravery**

Dare and the world always yields. If it beats you  
sometimes, dare again and again and it will succumb.



The hero in the movie is Benedict Cumberbatch, acting as Doctor and Tilda Swinton, acting as the Ancient One. The titular character of Doctor Strange begins his story as a regular human being, albeit the world's most skilled neurosurgeon. A car accident leads him on a journey to discovering Earth-saving super powers. Looking for ways to heal himself after his accident puts an end to his illustrious surgical career, Strange travels to the East. His discoveries unlock powers that transform him into a master of a mystical magic intended to protect Earth from supernatural enemies. While Marvel's other eccentric superhero Iron Man is very much one who lives in the spotlight—a genius, billionaire playboy who's involved in cutting-edge technology projects—Doctor Strange is not, choosing rather to live in his bizarre abode, the Sanctum Sanctorum, while spending his free time fighting mystical enemies in other dimensions. Doctor Strange is basically a reboot of Iron Man, only with a lot more prettier things to look at. It's a good strategy. And it works.

——By Zhong Yingqi

## Hot Fuzz

## The plot

Police constable Nicholas Angel (Simon Pegg) is so good at his job that his impeccable record makes his colleagues look like slackers by comparison. He is soon "promoted" to serve the West Country village of Sanford, a crime-free idyll starkly contrast to the eventful city life. Sergeant Angel does his best to adjust to the relative calm of the countryside. Just as it begins to appear as if he has been relegated to an uneventful existence, a series of horrific "accidents" lead him to suspect that the tranquil hamlet of Sanford has fallen prey to a sinister plot which reeks of foul play.

Why I recommend *Hot Fuzz*?

1. Filled with absurd puns that become funnier the more you think about them, the film is hilarious all the way through.
2. Quick pace and just right degree of action and violence make it an exciting film.
3. Its steep turn in plot will surely surprise you!
4. The characters, no matter the leading ones or the supporting ones, all have their own impressive features.
5. In this elaborately made film, what once seemed trivial would turn out to be a clue, making the viewing process a treasure hunt.

By 帅诗卉

# Batman: the Dark Knight

Batman, who came out of the shadows after witnessing the killing of his parents, has grown up. No longer the lonely hero. With the help of Officer Jim Gordon and Attorney Harvey Dent, Batman continues to travel around the world without any worries. There is a never-ending battle with the growing threat of crime, and in Gotham, where progress has been most pronounced, crime rates continue to decline at an alarming rate. After all, the other side can be the "Batman", not with two courage, who would dare to build it? But in a city like Gotham, where technology and filth coexist, calm is unlikely to last long, and a new wave of chaos soon swept through the city, and people were again shrouded in panic. And what claims to be responsible for all this is, of course, the source and domination of all chaos-the clown.



-by 孜热旦



SING WITH MOANA!



Disney  
**MOANA**  
 SING-ALONG

SPECIAL SING-ALONG ENGAGEMENT  
 JANUARY 27TH IN SELECT THEATRES NATIONWIDE  
 SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE NOW


## Moana

The Walt Disney animation Moana redefines what a princess is all about. In Moana, Disney provides a more positive spin on the princess spirit. The CG-animated musical film follows the adventures of the headstrong teenage daughter of a Pacific Island chief and her struggles to find her identity.

As the daughter of Chief Tui, Moana is expected to follow her village's traditions and rules, including "Don't go beyond the reef". Unfortunately for Moana, she is drawn to the water which she finds wondrous and exciting. When the food supply for the island suddenly becomes depleted, Moana sets forth on a journey inspired by ancestral tales of Maui who may help her save her island home.

The story, inspired by the history and traditions of the Pacific, is a breath of fresh ocean air for everyone exhausted by the too-familiar princess-on-a-mission Disney trope. The film pays homage to Pacific Islanders by introducing us to a strong female character unlike any we've seen in mainstream films – a hero who is both smart and sympathetic, strong and compassionate, independent yet belongs to a group. More importantly, when parents tell their daughters what it means to be a princess, the words "adventurous", "tenacious" and "compassionate" can now be added to the definition.



Wonder  
Woman

Wonder Woman is a 2017 American superhero film based on the DC Comics character of the same name, distributed by Warner Bros. It is the fourth installment in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU). The film tells the story of Princess Diana, who grows up on the Amazon island of Themyscira. After American pilot Steve Trevor crashes offshore of the island and is rescued by her, he tells the Amazons about the ongoing World War. Diana then leaves her home in order to end the conflict. It received largely positive reviews from critics, being praised for the direction, performances, action sequences, and musical score. The film set numerous box office records; it is the fifth-highest-grossing superhero film domestically and 20th-highest-grossing film in the United States. It grossed over \$821 million worldwide, making it the eighth highest-grossing film of 2017. It also helped the DCEU to push past \$3 billion at the worldwide box office, making it the fourteenth-highest-grossing film franchise of all time. As of October 2017, the review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes has listed the movie as #1 on its list of the "50 Best Superhero Movies of All Time", and the American Film Institute selected it as one of the top 10 Movies of the Year.

-by 钟威龙

The true story of Desmond Doss, the conscientious objector who, at the Battle of Okinawa, won the Medal of Honor for his incredible bravery and regard for his fellow soldiers.



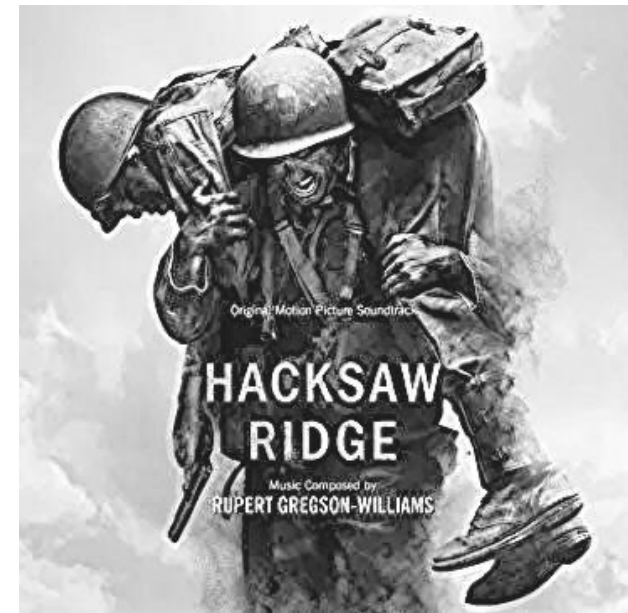
## Hacksaw Ridge

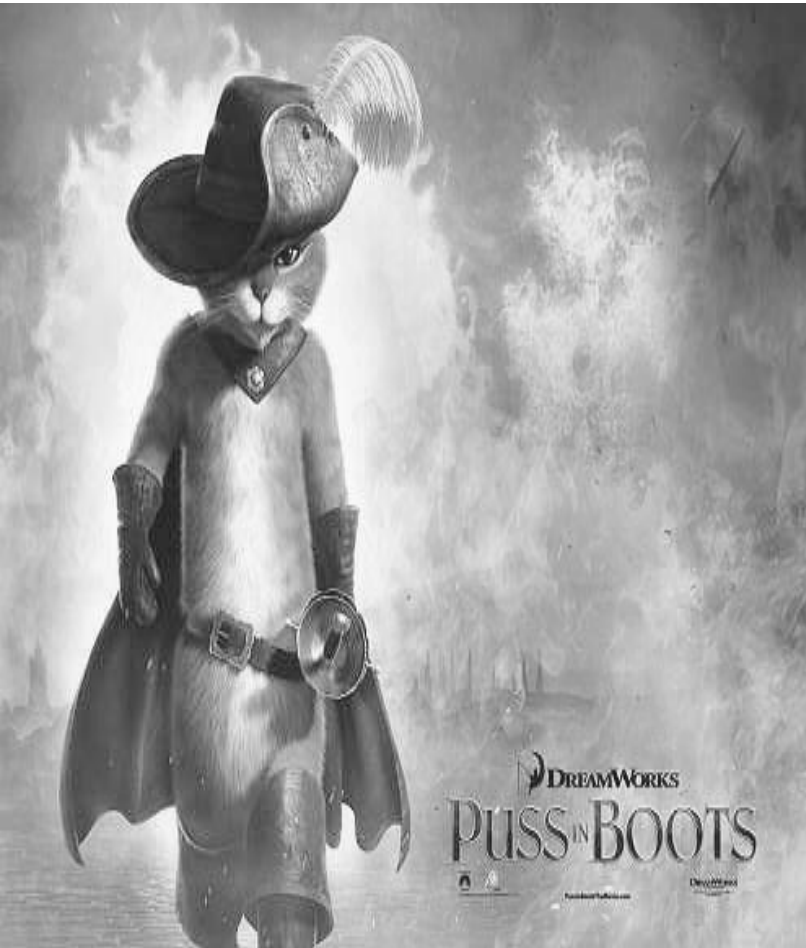


Hacksaw Ridge is not a film for the faint-hearted. Right away the opening scenes portray the horror of war, and the emotional journey is only beginning as the audience is led through the story of war-hero Desmond Doss. One of the great feats of storytelling from Mel Gibson (director) and Andrew Garfield (leading role, Desmond Doss) is to lead the audience along Doss' journey with a feeling of having experienced the journey as Doss, and experiencing the wide range of emotions endured by this heroic character along his journey. Neither war itself nor violence are glorified in the film, yet they also not derided. The elements of conflict that draw the storyteller

– These elements are all present, but they placed alongside the horror, the madness and the terror of war, and used to draw in the audience for Doss' journey. The lasting psychological impact for those who survive conflict is well told by Hugo Weaving's portrayal of Doss' father, whose lines could serve as a mouthpiece for many veterans.

-by 郭祖涵





## *Puss in boots*

Lovely is often the first expression when we mention cats. They remain to carry off all fascinating fame of any description. Here I prefer to give priority to one of people's favorite cartoon movie—Puss in Boots.

Dressing under a hat with feather, carefully made up, as a supreme symbol of honor, as well as a rough pair of boots, accompanying him encounter all the legends, he was either striding on his perilous way to do the justice and courage across the continent or performing his mastering art of fencing swiftly as is said in all his legendary anecdotes.



In the film, he met his old on his way to refresh his fame. This man rather tricked Puss in one of his plotted operation to grab financings of their hometown, which is beyond Puss's justice character. The re-encounter made them on a new journey to prove Puss's innocence and integrity.

-by 郭子易



“Do you know why people like violence? It’s because it feels good. Humans find violence deeply satisfying. But remove the satisfaction, and the act becomes hollow.”

This is how Alan Turing, in his monologue, uncovers the essence of violence, physical or mental, committed to himself throughout his whole life.

“No, they beat you up because you’re different.”

This is Christopher’s account for others’ bullying Turing.

“Sometimes it is the people who no one can imagine anything of, that do the things that no one can imagine.”

This is the words said also by Christopher, Turing’s very first lover, that rendered him the determination to prove the existence of the so-called miracle and his own remarkable value.

These are what the film are meant to convey: The war, and vicissitudes of life in the war. The bitter and unsaid love. The extraordinary yet lonely and tragic soul. Human beings’ dark nature to seek the pleasure gained from bullying, and to try to eliminate the different minority out of nothing but ignorance and fear for difference. The woe that could choke any witness.

And finally we start to ponder on all these. We come to realize how much we have owed to Alan Turing, in front of which the government’s official apology and recognition that arrived over fifty years after his suicide proves just in vain as compensation. Thus, the only way to avoid such tragedy henceforth, is to directly face our dark side, and kill it on our own.

Featured by Benedict Cumberbatch, adapted from Alan Turing’s real life experience, the movie got eight nominations at the 87th Academy Awards and won the Best Adapted Screenplay. Unwrapping all the events and sensations captured, we can not only see a vivid picture of that special historical period but also feel our hearts quivering acutely, at all the ups and downs the characters have been through, and at the insight into the strikingly cruel but real human nature.



# Chapter three

## Warmth

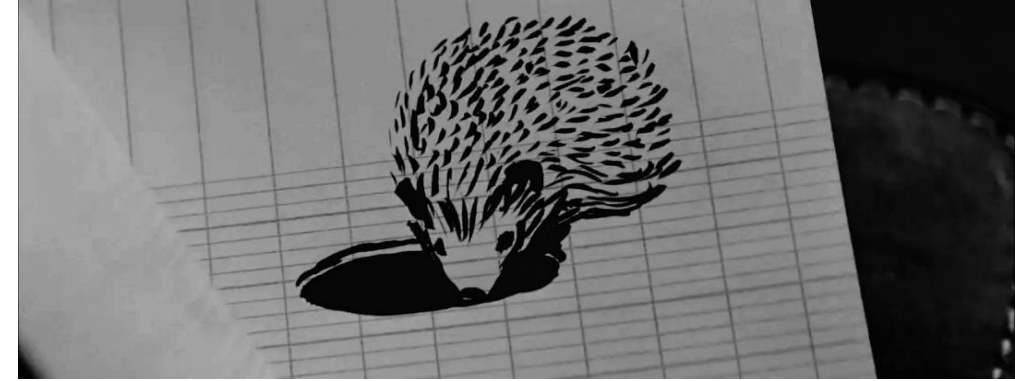
Every now and then sunshine is warm making life extremely  
long

*Le hérisson*



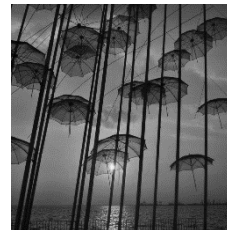
*Le hérisson* is a French movie adapted from a novel with the same name. It perfectly illustrates a charming thing called “elegant solitude” and shows us a special attitude towards life.

Paloma is an eleven-year-old girl who has wisdom beyond her age. She is born to be wealthy, but sees the ridiculousness of the adults’ world, planning to commit suicide at the age of twelve. Renée is a silent gatekeeper who has no interest in getting along with others. She seems ordinary, but has a shiny heart which is sensitive to literature and beauty.



And Kakuro is a successful Japanese gentleman who is mild and extremely elegant. They are three lonely hedgehogs, enjoying the solitude and their beautiful inner world silently. They can only be understood by each other. When they meet, they start to appreciate each other and enter each other’s heart. However, when Renée finally decides to love Kakuro under his encouragement, she is killed by accident. Having suffered the loss of a dear friend and seen the pains of Kakuro, Paloma finds the meaning of life at last.

This movie starts with desperation but ends with warmth and enlightenment, showing us the fragrance of psychic understanding and the most elegant way to live a life. If you are confused and restless, it may bring the quietness and pleasant comfort to your heart.



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas is a 2006 Holocaust novel by Irish novelist John Boyne. It's a best seller in many countries. The book was adapted in 2008 as a film of the same name.

### Plot

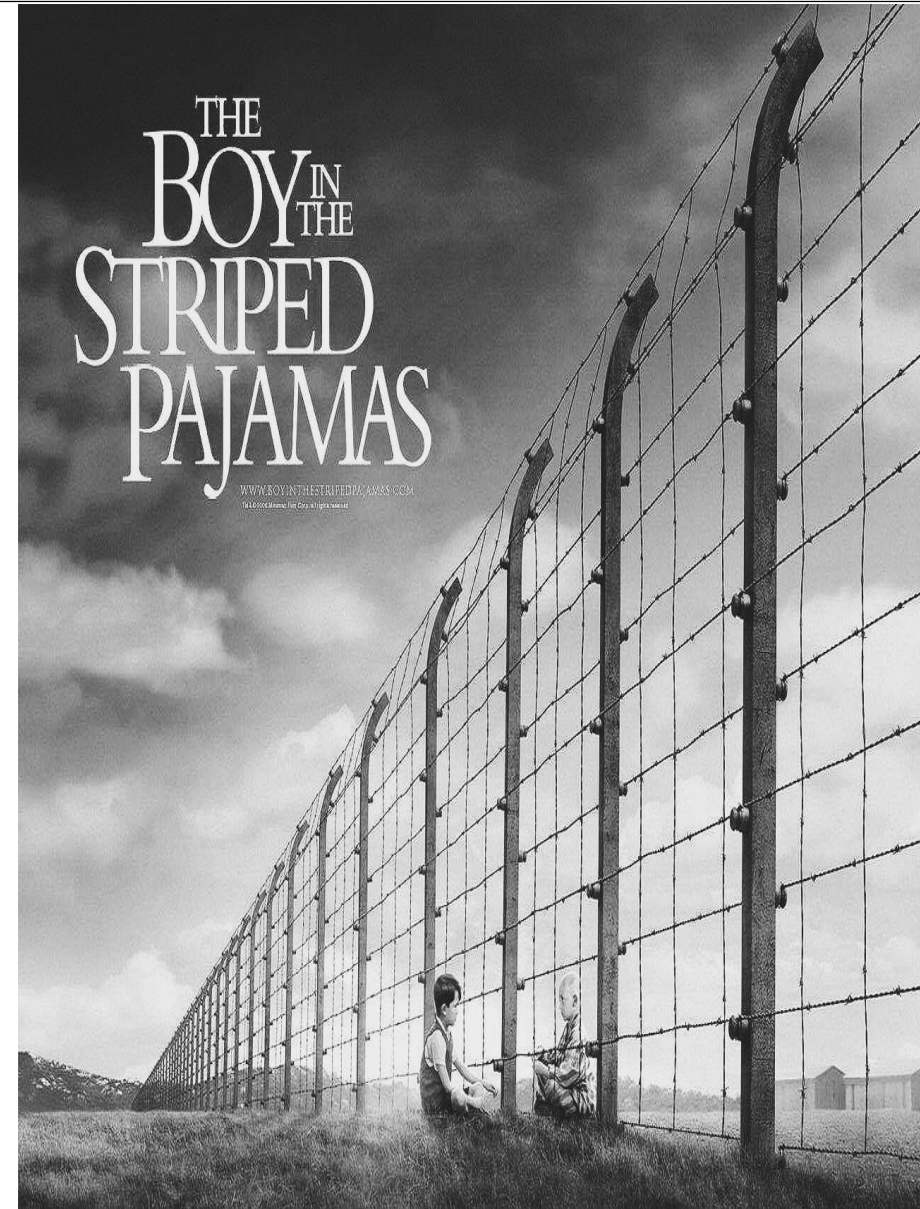
Young Bruno lives a wealthy lifestyle in prewar Germany along with his mother, elder sister, and SS Commandant father. The family relocates to the countryside where his father is assigned to take command a prison camp. A few days later, Bruno befriends another youth, strangely dressed in striped pajamas, named Shmuel who lives behind an electrified fence. Bruno will soon find out that he is not permitted to befriend his new friend as he is a Jew, and that the neighboring yard is actually a prison camp for Jews awaiting extermination.

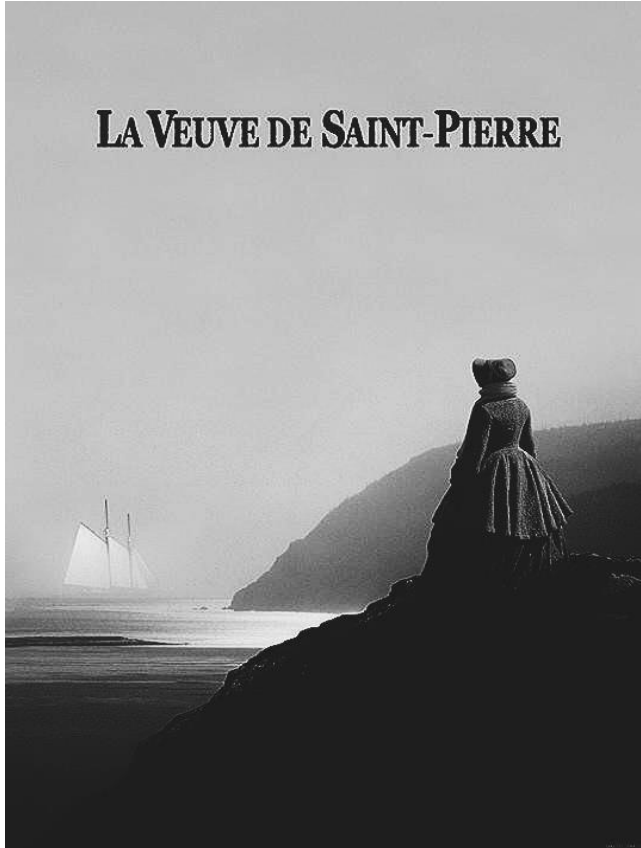
### Theme

This film told people a tragedy happening during World War Two from a child's perspective. This unique perspective makes the massacre and bloody crime even more dreadful. It also reveals both the bright side and dark side of humanity, without giving specific judgment. Its theme is very thought-provoking.

-by 李佳芮

## *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*





Watching this movie again, not surprising, I am shocked by this wonderful movie again. The movie hit me, in its own way without so many moving plots. On that distant island, I've seen the wonderfully pure snow, and what is purer, kindness and love.

The word "pure" always have two meanings. On the one hand, pure thing is clean, unadulterated, and free from dust, but on the other hand, what is pure can be polluted easily. The director successfully makes the two meaning into the movie using his artistic imagination. Kindness is pure, and it makes the murderer Neel back to humanity again, while kindness is still defeated by laws. Love is pure, and it gives Madame La courage to ignore the rumor and do what she wants, but it is still defeated by politics. The two left widows are the result of the failure of kindness and love. When facing politics, love and kindness fail again, as what love and kindness have gotten for so many times. What we always do, promise, to lover, for the eternity of love, write poems, for the precious kindness that people have, in fact, make no sense, when the conflicts between the true things and the fake things occur.

So what we can do to protect?  
Nothing.

-by陈万山



*Purer than Snow*  
*Review on The Widow of Saint-Pierre*



## *Billy Elliot*

The movie reminds me of what dreams truly are. What's the point of pursuing dreams? 'Dreams are meant for sleeping,' Gabriella told me in High School Musical. For most people, dreams are too ideal, and they give up for the reality, except Billy. Billy dances, even though his family is against it. No one can stop his passion on ballet dancing. He follows his own heart and succeeds. Now, I realise that dreams are meant for being ourselves. There is no guarantee that we can succeed when we try hard, yet, it's always worth a try, as we are only 'us' when we are striving for our dreams.

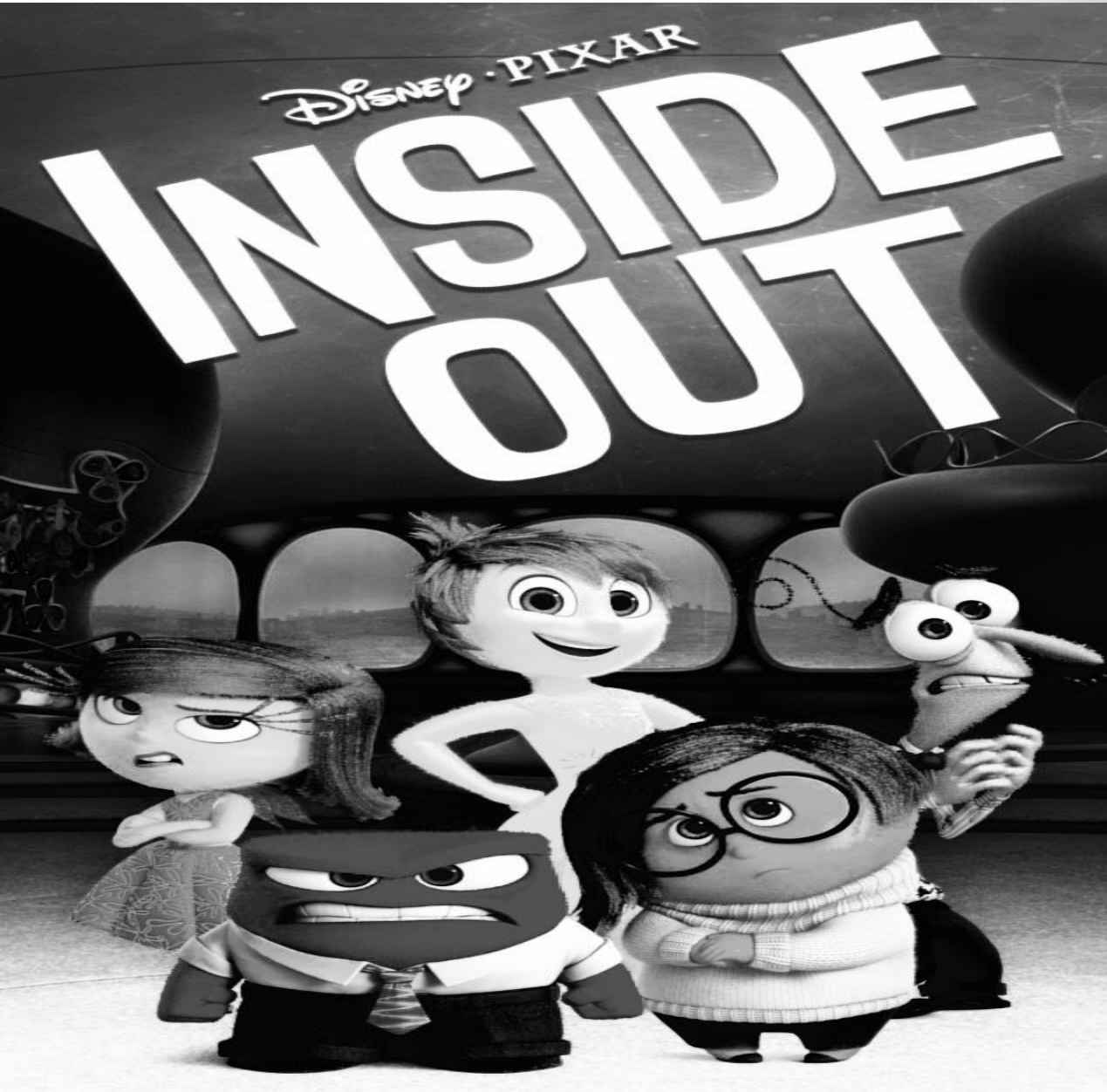
I appreciate Billy so much. In the movie, watching him dance is enjoyable. You can't say he dances extremely well, but you can surely feel his enthusiasm of dancing, 'like electricity'. I am not a dancer. I won't understand the hearts of ballerinas. Nevertheless, I do understand the passion, and flame, of doing what you truly like, and being who you truly are. His courage of being himself is admirable.

Despite the fact that Billy is the main character, Jackie is my favourite character in the movie. The father-son relationship in Billy Elliot is indeed unforgettable. The most touching part in the movie is when Jackie, Billy's father, says, 'Give the boy a chance!'. He supports his son unconditionally, no matter how frustrating his life is. Apparently, parents always love their kids wholeheartedly, and we should try not to disappoint them.



Billy Elliot is a great film for everyone at any time. It brings you both laughters and tears, yet not the heartbreaking ones. It brings you a deeper thoughts inside your heart, without getting too emotional or sentimental. Most importantly, it brings you the courage of chasing after your dreams. Inside every soul is a special talent, waiting to be revealed. The trick is to find it.

-by 劉殷婷



## *Inside Out*

Joy, Fear, Disgust, Anger, Sadness, which are all the simplest emotions of a human being. Do you have a moment to struggle with “yourself”? Have you imagine there are five personifications of emotions living in your brain and control your life?

Inside out, a film which is set in the mind of a young girl named Riley Andersen, as her family moves to a new place, and she has to adjust to her new surroundings. Riley is lucky, because her brain is mainly controlled by Joy. The sense of sadness's being is very low during her childhood. But as Riley grows up, in her headquarters, her emotions all work together on a newly expanded console with room for them all, allowing Riley to lead a more emotionally complex life. Is Joy always the best emotion in our life? Everybody should think about this question. Sometimes after crying, everything seems to be better. Life mixed with complex emotions will be the true life we live.

At the end of the movie, three special sentences catch my eyes: this film is dedicated to our kids. Please don't grow up. Ever.

The stories of five emotions will never end, no matter you are a younger kid or an older kid.

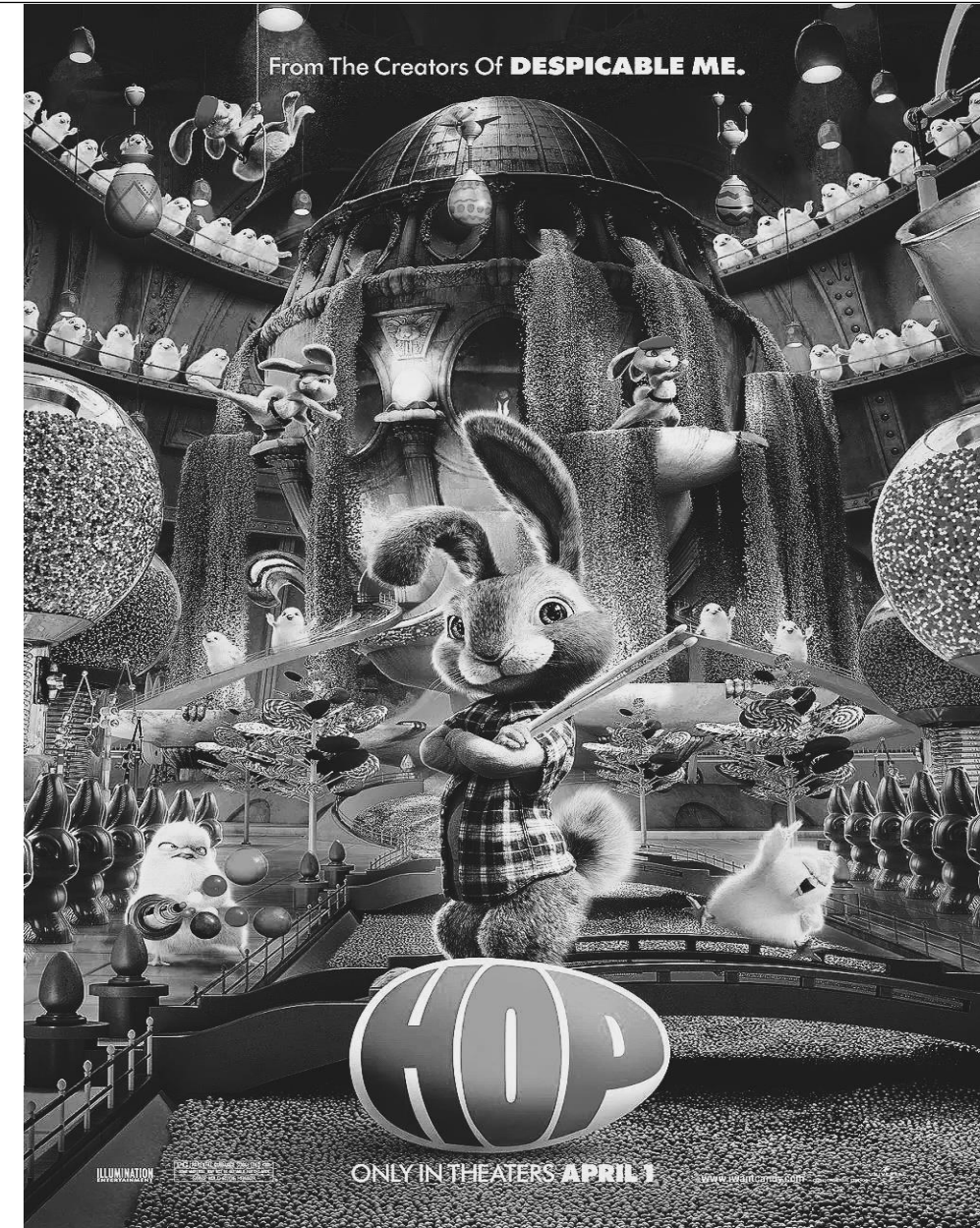
- By 陈海玲

# Hop

Just as how Santa Claus stories work through their way through the Christmas period, Hop brings forward the Easter season some three weeks early with a kids film that combines the best of live action and animation in yet another talking animal story, which is something quite expected when you combine filmmakers who had worked on Alvin and the Chipmunks, and the producers of Despicable Me, who probably would have floated the idea that cute yellow things make for comedic villains since they're going against type.

Hop is a tale about sons being unable to live up to the ideals of their fathers, being told what is expected, being seen as soft and unable to exert any say in what they really want to do in life. When we first see EB (or short for Easter Bunny, voiced by Russell Brand), "plush toy" comes to mind for its incredibly cute design when the wide eyed bunny tours and allows the audience to see first hand what would be the equivalent of Santa's operations that the Easter Bunny adopts, with multitudes of chocolate and candy making machines all outsourced not to elves, but to chicks to operate and churn them out, before making deliveries in one single day to all the kids.

- By 郝冬晗





# Chapter four

## Redemption

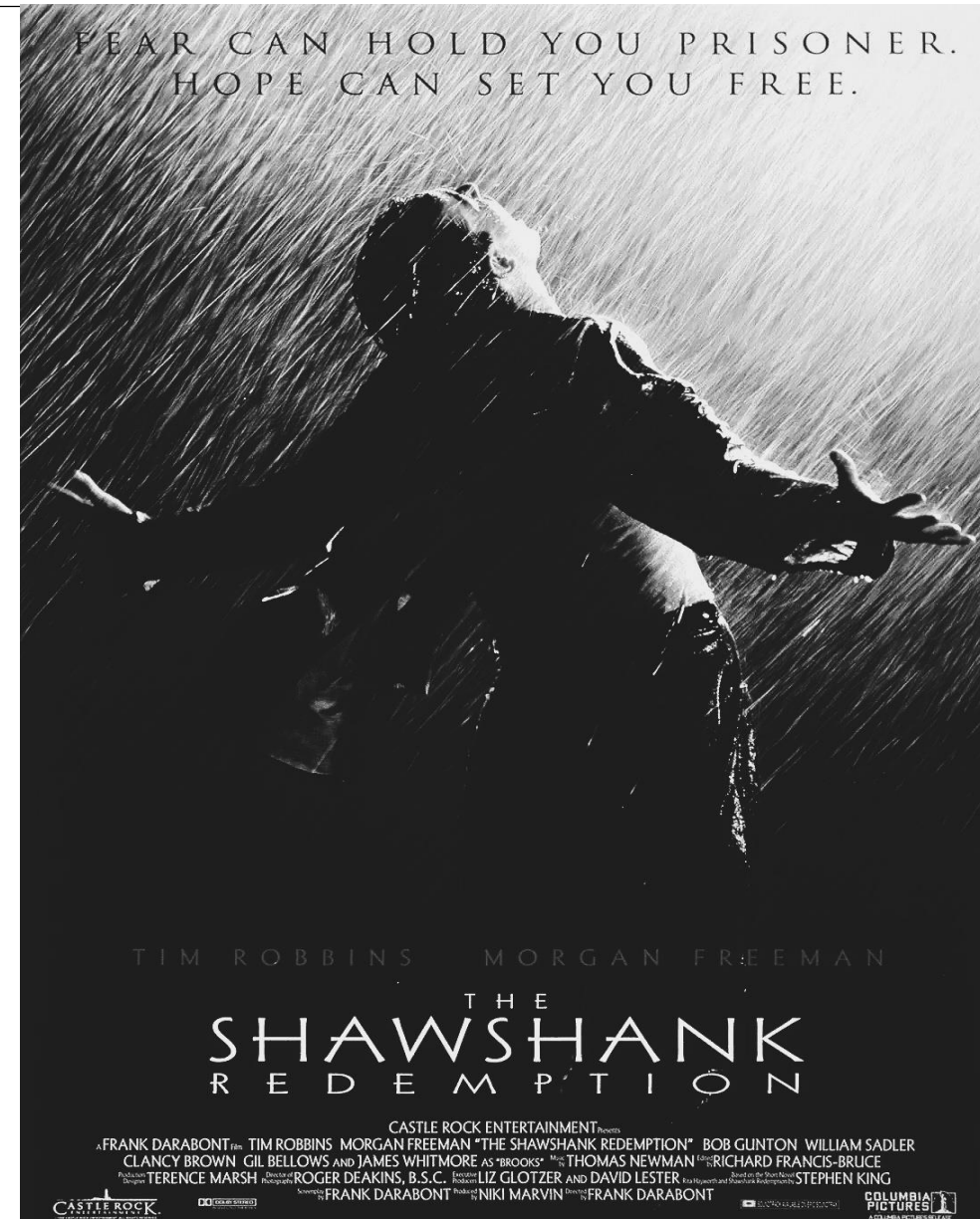
The lamp of the wicked is snuffed out; the flame of his fire stops burning.

*The Shawshank redemption*

"It's a must for men."——everybody says so. But to distinguish it simply by gender narrows this movie's theme. "the Shawshank Redemption" breaks the limit of men-character movie, the whole story being filled with unbelievable warm vibe, and the greatest theme in this movie is hope. When we are faced with helpless despair just like the Shawshank prison in our heart, will we become the helpless old Brooks, the discouraged Red, or the wise Andy?

Red says, hope is a dangerous thing, hope can drive a man insane. But Andy tells him, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of the things, and no good thing ever die. That's why he could manage to dig the hole within 20 years which Red thought to take at least 600 years. When he finally creeps out of the hole, can't help stretching his arms under the pouring rain freely, we seem to see the sword of belief impaling the dark curtain, lighting up the night sky. Under that glaring light, we can feel our soul trembling with the happiness of freedom. We may get used to say "that's impossible". But don't ever forget "Fear can hold you prisoner, hope can set you free."

-by 刘昱彤





## *Dead Poets Society*

Dead Poets Society made me thinking about my way of living in this world, my past experience, what I truly hated, what I truly loved, what I was truly longing for and what deserved my sacrifice at the cost of everything in my life. "Carpe Diem," life won't wait, and if we're about to experience the true feeling of being alive, then do not hesitate.

We're given this beautiful responsibility of rescuing the meaning of life before we "lead lives of quiet desperation" and "be dead within heart" even when we are materially living. The main conflict through the whole movie is the conflict between an ideal of romance and the reality, or between individual beliefs and the mainstream. "Now we all have a great need for acceptance, but you must trust that your beliefs are unique, your own, even though others may think them odd or unpopular," Mr. King said, "boys, you must strive to find your own voice. Because the longer you wait to begin, the less likely you are to find it at all." So in this limited life journey, would you dare to break rules with no fear of rebelling against conformity?

It's very easy to spread the idea of pursuing the meaning of life and trying hard to feel alive, but actually implementing it in reality is never an easy task, especially when bothered by everyday trivial jigsaw puzzles under eyes. However, that's just what I'm about to do—to figure out what matters out of what do not.

"Carpe Diem, seize the day and make your life extraordinary."

At a boy's senior school in Sheffield, eight boys are being coached for the entrance examination for the Cambridge university. There are four marvelous characters who are at the center of this play--- Hector, an English literature teacher who may seems eccentric first, delights in knowledge of its own sake while having no interests for exams. He believes that teaching is a matter of educating students' charge for life and death, not for grades or fames.


Although it has many amusing times in his classes, it also has its sober and insightful moments when Hector is teaching the boys poetry: "the best moments in reading are when you come across something- a thought, a feeling, a way of looking things-which you had thought special and particular to you. Now here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead, and it is as if a hand has come out and taken for years. Yes, we have read thousands of books since we were born, we have signed about the brilliant plots and words the writer wrote down on pages, but we've never met such a beautiful comment on literature.

Another teacher who is Irwin, is hired to teach boys a rather cynical and even ruthless style of teaching. He teaches the boys to be smart, to stand out, to have a special angle on history. It may seem on the surface to be about the public school system, but it's more than that. It's about the joy and human spirits which gets the last triumph even while people are failing and passing away all the time. Just as what BBC comments, this is a play of depth as well as dazzle, intensely moving as well as thought-provoking and funny.

- By 魏子淳



Photo by Ivan Kyril



Editors : 1704

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Special thanks to:  
Xiaoying Wang