Creation and Teaching of Realistic Animation

Making Animation Shine into Reality*

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Abstract—**Making reality shine into animation, and using animation to outline reality, excellent animation works are inseparable from the creators' exploration and care of society and humanity. This article will analyze the significance of realism theme creation and the application of realism in creation.**

Keywords—realism; animation; teaching

I. INTRODUCTION

The film selected by the Media Channel for the media focus unit of the 2018 Shanghai International Film Festival has a deeper development in terms of human feelings and exploration of the present. For example, "Walking Past the Future", "Five Wishes of Aji" and "Blind Date, Clear Night" which focused on young and middle-aged people in big cities. Realism is not only a methodology, but also a worldview. For example, a film such as "Walking Past the Future" represents the author's attitude toward reality, "Blind Date, Clear Night" has a deeper reflection on reality and history, and there is a good presentation in the films. The expression of such films provides a better way and means for realism to go deeper and to better communicate and dialogue with the audience at the same time. Different from the traditional understanding of realism, films such like "How Long Will I Love U", "Transcendent" draw on the soft sci-fi approach in art presentation, and there are many types of expansion, so that we can further understand the essence of its spirit.

"Walking Past the Future" is a very realistic film. The commonality of the second generation of migrant workers is that they cannot get the social identity in the city, but after returning home, they are extremely unsuitable. There are many such explorations in the image style, the camera slowly pushed out the window, we saw a woman in white riding a horse in the desert, the heroine in reality kept chasing after her. We can see such an image, the woman in white symbolizes the dreamed life in heroine's mind, but she never got it. The film "Five Wishes of Aji" records a Mongolian boy, who re-learns how to ride his own national horse riding, archery and some historical traditional culture in order to get a chance to play a movie. The film found that in the present influenced by globalization and modernization,

the young generation has no idea about their traditional history and culture, including the lifestyle. He constantly learns and strengthens his sense of identity with his Mongolian history and culture.

In the year of 2018, films have been further improved on experimental exploration of image style and narrative structure. Chinese film began to pay attention to philosophical questions such like how does people to place their own minds and how to find a home for emotions during the process of such rapid development. Every viewer will have a lot of thinking after watching the film, this kind of thinking is about themselves and the whole society. Therefore, in the teaching of animation, it is necessary to strengthen the guidance of the creation of contemporary realism theme.

II. THE APPLICATION OF REALISTIC METHODS IN FILM CREATION

Realist film is like a window, the world seen through it is full of unknowns, and the film director always makes the audience personally on the scene. André Bazin is one of the most important film theorists of the 20th century. He believes that the goal of the film is to show the real world with realist standards. He advocates the use of wide-angle lenses, long shots, horizontal shooting and less editing to create a perspective that shows a person's observation of events. Jean Renoir's "La Grande Illusion" is the best example of this technique, and he does not like German expressionist films and thinks they are rigid because of the limitations of the rules. Another film theorist in the 20th century, Siegfried Kracauer, extended the discussion of the above viewpoints to two trends in film-making, realism and formalism, both of which were well presented in early French film circle. The representative of realism is the Lumiere brothers, who film the film in a static way and present the reality scene. The representative figure of formalism is Georges Méliès, who pays great attention to the style of the film and carefully designs the costumes, scenes and special effects, but no intention to imitate reality. Realism and formalism are the two extremes of film expression. Almost all films are somewhere in between, most mainstream films use classicism between the two. It mixes the characteristics of the two, it has formalistic non-narrative music, scenes, visual effects, editing and lens angles, but not focusing on these shooting and editing

techniques, but focusing on the plot itself, it is to make the film look more realistic. Spielberg's film can be used as an example, he often continues the main lens after the scene is over, this is a way that Bazin would like, although the film also combines some formal elements, such as highlighting height, taking more prominent angles and framing, and give music a prominent position. When mainstream film-making breaks away from the classicism in the middle of the spectrum, they choose realism. Compared to the changes in the 20th century films, those formal films have become rarer and rarer, such as musical film. In the 21st century, the development of film to realism is more and more accepted by the audience, formalism blockbuster " Hulk" directed by Li An has many problems, because the comic-style split-screen lens is used intensively, which is the most significant formalism element, this split-screen does not work because it destroys the basic tone of the film. Most of it presents a very serious psychological drama, the actors perform naturally, and the shots are mostly classic, but its editing is deliberate and contrived, so that the audience does not feel the emotion it conveys, only feel confused.

At the formal level, the best expression way is to make visual representation as grand, bright, and unreal as the narrative. From an aesthetic point of view, colorful costumes and scenes enhance the cartoon atmosphere, everything has exaggerated saturation, even the boundaries of the picture are endless, not just imitate the human perspective or the perspective of the lens. How does realism improve the sense of unreality, under the situation that the characters, the plot and the environment are all unrealistic, the form should play a leading role, what is more important than realism is the sense of reality. The film does not need to follow the concept imposed by reality, and it only needs to follow its own definition of reality. Each film will create its own reality, and will show the audience its own way of operation and manipulation in the first few minutes. The rule is that the film has to maintain a sense of reality that is consistent with its own rules.

Realism is a technique like formalism, and a good filmmaker knows when to use this technique. The "Speed Racer" and "Batman: The Dark Knight Rises" are released in the same summer, which makes the best contrast example, one is the most realistic film, the other most formalistic film, one is the most popular film of the year, the other is a box office tragedy, the reason for the audience to be attracted by realism is the same as that of the sequel, they are familiar with it and understand it, but if the film industry wants to develop, it needs to accept formalism, and making things realistic doesn't mean it will make it better. Marvel films have deviated slightly from classicism to formalism. Their lens choices, visual effects and most designs are not as focused on realism as Nolan's Batman films. The atmosphere of Marvel movies is fun and interesting, even the color of the film becomes brighter, but it does not make it fall into the situation of "Speed Racer". This will only make improvement on the original tone style, even if the realism looks like a better choice, a little formalism can make the film more realistic.

III. WAYS TO COMBINE REALISM THEME WITH ANIMATION TEACHING

In the animation teaching, try to reproduce with realist references. Animation has a very beautiful expression, it keeps a distance from reality, does not show much cruelty, it often attract the thinking of your warm side. Animation master Disney once said: "The primary responsibility of animation is to cartoonize life", this is the performance between the hypothesis of animation and the authenticity of emotion. The story should be expressed through characters and it need to be real, but films and plays are all fakes, they are unreal. But no one is more unreal than the animation, and the only way to impress the audience is to create real characters. Animated characters can be more exaggerated than real people, for example, Mr. Egg Head and Mrs. Egg Head in "Toy Story" are detachable, and this is unique to animation and can't be done by real people. This is also the charm of animation, but it also has to be real, for example, the colleague of Lightning in "Zootopia" dyed purple hair and wear a purple spectacle frame, when she turned back, she looks just like an elegant old French lady. This kind of reality sense impresses the audience to the deep heart. It is not the feeling brought by special effects and stuns of the big films, it is the feeling that could hit the inside of people's heart.

"Zootopia" uses children's perspective to reflect the depth and breadth of American social problems and it has reached an unprecedented height. The great films in the world must have two elements, first it should reflect profound humanity and second it should reflect many social problems at that time. Children see a lot of interesting things, adults think about social issues and political issues. This kind of thinking is very deep and extensive, and it reflects on social issues in a relaxed and ridiculous context, a good example is Hollywood's award-winning blockbusters "Forrest Gump". China is now in a period of transition, reform has entered the deep water area, and various social reality problems are also very complicated. In this great turning age, a great art work should be born, whether it is a TV series or a movie, there should be a masterpiece which could fully reflect Chinese social problems and with high artistic standard. Where is our "Zootopia"?

The adult animation "Have a Nice Day" is very down-to-earth from plot to characters, including the story narrative. Xiao Zhang wants to take his girlfriend to do plastic surgery. Shoupi wants to send her daughter to study abroad, the film puts a lot of things you can hear about China's current and local situation together in the film. From character setting, the lines, and the choice of scenes, it is quite down-to-earth. The scene is very important in animated films, not just a background. For example, when an empty scene is seen, the scene will firstly cohere to the plot, possibly there will be some space or some experience on the "smell". The whole style of "Have a Nice Day" is very calm, very realistic and restrained. It presents a ridiculous appearance of black humor, but there are actually some warm and kind words under the appearance. Animation is not only used to reflect the magical things in the distance, but also it could directly depict the reality around us. "Have a Nice Day" uses a rough

stroke to take a step forward in the exploration of realism in domestic animated films, and also it provides more possibilities to Chinese animated film market. Let reality shine into animation, use animation to outline reality, excellent animation works are inseparable from the creator's exploration and care of society and humanity.

IV. CONCLUSION

Animation creation can not only focus on commercial value, but also should pay attention to humanistic care, care for the soul, connect with real life, and care for all classes and groups. It should adhere to the Realism tradition, and let the audience see the joy, anger, grief and happiness of people in China's reality through the film, and evoke everyone's thinking and resonance to the various problems. Based on the social reality, they record the life and emotions of ordinary people under the changing times. The reality theme animation shoulders such mission and responsibility, guiding students to make more observations to society, and attracts high attention in animation education. Animation creation must start from life, but also should have the courage to break the routine, use the broad vision, the creative imagination and warm humanistic feelings to tell the story of people in reality, and tap the flash side of human nature.

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