

The Comparison of Film “1895” and the Script “Return to Mother Land”

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Abstract

The sensational film “1895”, based on the novel *Return to Mother’s Land*, is an epitome of the famous epic *Chilly Night* written by the same author Li-Chiao. The story is about a group of area militia fighting against the Japanese army, who colonize Taiwan after China loses the battle in 1894. Led by the valiant Wu, Ton-hsin and armed with only knives, sticks and muskets, the outnumbered warriors adopt guerrilla warfare tactics against the well-trained and better-equipped Japanese troops. Though they faced inevitable failure, the Taiwanese soldiers never gave up and kept fighting all the way from Hsin-chu through Miao-li to Chiang-hwa. Finally, with all their supplies and backup forces exhausted, the men sacrifice themselves on the battlefield and return to Mother Land.

As so-called the first Hakka movie in Taiwan history, the film became a major hit. The film encompassed the Hakka culture with a focus on the Hakka language along with the theme music and images of the breathtaking scenery of the countryside. Though the movie embraced Hakka culture, critics noticed that there was an omission of specific important events that were key to the main character’s epic journey, and many of the war scenes were skipped over with images of old maps with narration. The author put a strong emphasis on the significant rebellious spirit and nationalism of the country, but the film failed to deliver that emphasis due to the absence of those scenes.

Movies and novels are two different typed of media, and they always receive different feedback from audiences even when telling the same story. This paper

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compares and analyzes the difference between films and scripts.

Keywords: Film "1895", *Return to Mother's Land*, Hakka

電影【一八九五】與原著《情歸大地》比較

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摘要

電影【一八九五】改編自李喬的劇作名為《情歸大地》。故事是以「乙未抗日」為題材，描述甲午戰爭清廷戰敗將台灣割讓給日本，在日軍前來接收時，遭遇以吳湯興、徐驥及姜紹祖三秀才領軍之一群以客家青年為主的義勇軍的頑強抵抗，一路從大湖口戰到新竹城經苗栗銅鑼到達彰化八卦山。義軍在未受過嚴格正規軍訓練，僅使用最原始的刀、槍、棍、棒為武器，加上糧草不足、後繼無援及懸殊的人數比例下，仍義無反顧毫不退縮地浴血抗戰，直到最後的一兵一卒，英勇的事蹟驚天地泣鬼神。電影和小說在呈現此段歷史故事的方式是很不一樣的，不管是在故事的鋪陳、情節、主題乃至人物刻畫等均存在蠻多的差異，這也是本文嘗試去作比較分析之處。

關鍵字：電影【一八九五】、《情歸大地》、乙未抗日

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