

STUDENT: BH

ASSIGNMENT: FILM RESPONSE

Crazy Stone

I was not really a fan of this film, the humor didn't really appeal to me, and the story was all something I have seen before. That being said, I think there are some interesting elements in this film that allow for a better understanding of contemporary Chinese culture. One of the things I found especially interesting were references of western brands, such as Nike. In one scene, one of the characters had a Nikon camera, another character saw "Nikon" on the camera and said "They make cameras too."

Throughout this film there seems to be misunderstandings of western items, which seems to allude to the everyday trouble Chinese have with these items. The Chinese are borrowing heavily from places like the U.S., but they do not know necessarily what they are borrowing. I think this goes both ways in the film though. For instance, the international jewel thief has all of his high tech equipment stolen from him, and so he has to buy local Chinese items. He continually has problems with the items he bought in China, and they hinder his ability to steal the jewels. The items he gets in China are either too low tech or just too unknown for him to be able to use. Looking at this theme throughout the film is even more interesting, because it seems the film has these same issues. The film itself is taking from the West and is not sure what exactly to do with it. When we talked in class about the film, there was a lot of mention of this film was like a Guy Ritchie movie or like a so and so movie. However, this film does not seem to have the same confidence or know how to really make a movie like Guy Ritchie. The film instead just does what it can to mimic those types of movies.

Another small point I thought was interesting is that in most heist movies in the West all of the main characters are bad guys. However, in this film, the main characters were good guys trying to stop the bad guys. This makes sense if you think about the role of censorship, and the Chinese government's desire to not have a bunch of jewel thieves, but this difference seemed interesting to me.

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