



Professional but CHIC



Family

Parental Involvement in Education

The approach Chinese parents have to education, which is famous for its closed and strict minds, has become a hot topic currently. Meanwhile, the parents in western countries choose an open and understanding attitude to bring up their children. As a teenager growing up under typical Chinese parents, I have some strong opinions to share on the topic.

Let's begin with the question of whether parents should interfere with children's puppy love. Parents seem to strongly believe that falling in love at an early age is a waste of time and that it definitely makes children's grades drop. As a result, they try their best to prevent their children from falling in love with others by taking various actions, such as preventing the two kids from meeting, keeping track of their behaviors and even telling the other kid's parents. Under these narrow thoughts regarding relationships, children always feel shamed and guilty of puppy love whereas obviously, it is pretty normal to fall in love with others in our teens.



There is no doubt that Chinese parents pay too much attention to their children's study and grades. Parents hope their children do well from the starting line, so they arrange many after-school classes, such as Mathematic Olympiad, music lessons and other kinds of classes. They spend much money on educational investments, blindly signing up for expensive classes and hiring the best teachers in order to improve children's grades. They think highly of IQ, but they ignore the development of children's EQ, which will cause the lack of children's social skills and obstacles with cooperation and sociality. In other words, the children are treated as exam machines

that are expected only to get high grades. This phenomenon has lasted for a long time, and it's hard to change in a short time.

Generally speaking, all efforts parents make for their children are because they love them, and they don't want them to regret having an easy childhood. So they put their dreams and wills on children's shoulders in the name of love and responsibility, but from my perspective, the more the parents interfere with children's lives, the more strongly the children resist, which makes parents angrier and finally forms a destructive circle. If things go on like this, children may be unconfident and rebellious. It is obvious that the silent conflict is more serious because saying nothing could increase tense antagonism and make the situation more embarrassing. So why not be an audience for children? Respect their thoughts and guide them reasonably instead of being a stubborn leader.

Many people would probably agree that today's society is free, open and advancing. As a conclusion, parents should try their best to listen to children's experiences and feelings, instead of complaining, criticizing and bringing negative energy to them. Parents should set an example for children rather than tell children how to do things. To sum up, there are still many problems to resolve with the choices that are made regarding education. But as for parents, they shouldn't hurt children in the name of love again and again.

By 18 Eliza Zhang

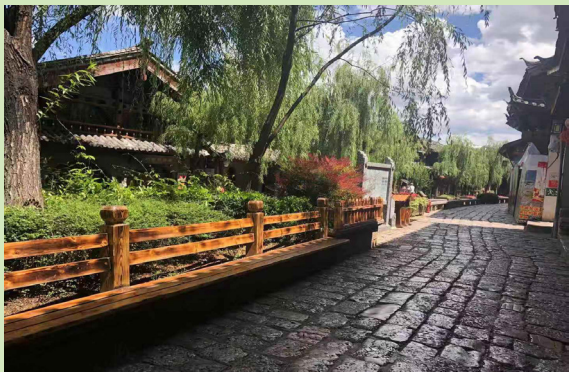


Travel To Yunnan

Do you like traveling? Where have you traveled to?

I like traveling because I enjoy the beautiful scenery in different places and eating local food. But I haven't traveled to many places. The most beautiful place I have traveled to is Yunnan. After the college entrance examination, I traveled to Yunnan with

my best friend where I spent a great time and had unforgettable memories.



Yunnan is a place where many minorities live in. Therefore, you can experience different national cultures in Yunnan. For example, you can participate in some special national activities to learn something about their unique culture. When you travel with the guide, he will introduce some national culture and customs to you which enables you to have a better understanding of other nationalities. Yunnan is also famous for having many ancient cities. In fact, they are not very different. However, it's still a good place to experience the charm of different national culture, in which you can buy some souvenirs and try some snacks in the ancient cities. I think the most special souvenir is a kind of paper called dongba paper. Dongba paper is unique to Yunnan with a long history. They use dongba paper to make notebook, light and so on. It's dongba paper that make them more elaborate and valuable.

Yunnan has many beautiful places worth visiting. What impressed me most were Tiger Leaping Gorge and Potatso National Park. Tiger Leaping Gorge is one of the deepest canyons in China where you can see the river splash against rocks, making a great noise. But you have to walk a long way to get there, which may makes you feel tired. If you don't want to spend a lot of time walking, you can take a sedan chair and the workers will take

you to your destination. Potatso National Park is famous for its wonderful natural scenery. It has clear lakes, a variety of plants and lovely animals, in which you can take many beautiful photos and relax yourself. It's a good place that you can learn some plants which you can't see in other places.

Yunnan also has much delicious food. If you travel to Yunnan, you must not forget to eat rice noodles. The rice noodles are

thin and very smooth. And the soup also tastes good. Once you try it, it's hard to forget the taste. The flower cake is also very representative of Yunnan snacks. There are roses inside the flower cake, which makes them smell special. You can buy the flower cake everywhere and it's cheap. You can buy it when you walk in the ancient cities and you can give it to your relative and friends as a gift. It's also a good choice to try wild yak meat. It's quite different from the beef in other places. Wild yaks are only raised on the plateau and it's hard for you to try the real wild yak meat in other places. Therefore, you shouldn't miss this valuable chance to eat the yak beef.

Yunnan is a place worth visiting. You can gain many amazing experiences when you travel in Yunnan. If you have time, why not travel to Yunnan with your family or your friends?

By 18 King Du



Fashion

Vigorous Chinese Design

In the 21st century, many Chinese fashion designers have been playing important roles in the fashion world. Held in the Met in New York on the first Monday of May in 2015, Met Gala, which was on the subject of "Through The Looking Glass", attracted everyone to this powerful eastern country--China. Chinese elements like dragon and Peking opera are always inspirations to fashion designers. At the same time, many Chinese designers are very popular among those who are crazy about fashion, such as Guo Pei, who designed the dress for Rihanna in 2015 Met Gala, Jimmy Choo (Zhou Yangjie, The most popular high-heels designer in the world), Alexander Wang (Wang Daren, The youngest but the most popular fashion designer in New York), Vera Wang (Wang Weiwei, The queen of wedding dresses). They all have been working in the fashion world for more than a decade. In this article, I'm going to share with you two of my favorite Chinese fashion designers---Kate Han (Han Wen, the founder and the creative director of MUKZIN) whose collection "Monkey King Wu Ji" was showed in the Met Asia Hall in 2016, and Angel Chen (Chen Anqi, the founder and the creative director of the brand ANGELCHEN).

It seems that Chinese elements mean maximalism. In the last decade minimalist Phoebe Philo has been popular, so when Alessandro Michele, the present creative director of GUCCI, showed the world his maximalist dresses, the trendies were all turned on. Chinese Kate also excels at maximalist Chinese elements incisively and vividly. There are so many elements on her clothes. For example, in the latest collection "Daan", presented in the Paris Fashion Week, which was inspired by traditional Chinese medicine pills, and it was full of retro Chinese medicine packaging painting that dresses and coats were printed on. Although the design was quite busy due to the variety of elements used, the overall impression was positive and rather pleasing to the audience. Kate only designs women's dresses; nevertheless, her target customers are not elegant ladies in Christian Dior

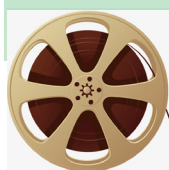
style. Having studied in England for seven years and worked for Vivienne Westwood, who is famous for her rock and rebellious designing style, Kate aims to design clothes which blends Chinese traditional elements, modern western tailoring and rebellious style.

In contrast, Angel Chen is not as crazy about theatrical Chinese elements as Kate. Her design is younger, more suitable to common people and more popular among the Chinese young generation. Kate is good at designing Chi-pao, while Angel is an expert in street-fashion clothes like hoodies and sports suits. In New York, last year, inspired by Mistress Ching, she combined her design with vintage, traditional Chaoshan elements and showed us some fashion designs that were both retro Chinese and trendy as well as other more rebellious designs. The dragon patterns on the stage show and the knight-errant hats all told everyone Chinese stories soundlessly. What I like the most was the Chaozhou lanterns that appeared on the stage many times. It was said that Angel got the inspiration from the lanterns in the Mazu Temple. She was quite taken with the words on the lanterns at the first sight—"Blessed by the god, the sea never rolls". Nowadays, many Chinese young people are rediscovering and falling in love with Chinese elements because of their love to Angel Chen.

Chinese designers are playing more and more important roles in the fashion world. Kate Han and Angel Chen are only two of them. They all bring Chinese fashion design to the world and reinterpret China in a "Chinese" way showcasing their fabulous designs to the world."



By 18 Diven Lin

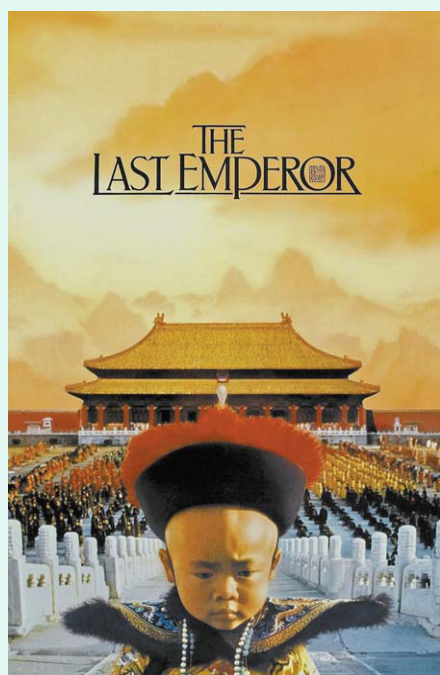


Films

The Last Emperor, The Eternal Bertolucci

On the 26th of November, 2018, **Bernardo Bertolucci**, a world-famous Italian director, passed away, which means a marvelous film master has gone. When it comes to the films directed by **Bertolucci**, a cluster of titles will jump into our mind, such as **Novecento**, **Ultimo tango a Parigi**, and of course, including the one that is known and appreciated by numerous Chinese people, **The Last Emperor**, which is the focus of this article.

The Last Emperor, which is the first feature film that the Chinese government permitted to be made in the Forbidden City, tells the story about the whole life of Pu Yi, the last emperor of China. When I had finished watching this film for the first time, what impressed me most was the objectivity of the shots, which didn't involve too much personal emotion. By using a number



wide-angle shots with natural light, the film showed the authentic spectacularity of the Forbidden City and restored the living situations of people from different classes who resided in the royal palace. Actually, Bertolucci didn't mean to comment on what Pu Yi had done. He was just a narrator, describing Pu Yi's life with an unbiased tone. From his coronation to his death, Pu Yi's status changed from the emperor of China to an ordinary Chinese citizen. This was

accompanied by the dramatic upheaval of society, which is an imposing historical event whereas the shots Bertolucci used to tell the story seemed to show us that there's nothing unusual.

Aside from the objectivity, the ingenious narrative structure also contributes to the success of the film. Bertolucci didn't adopt a simple and straightforward way to tell the story, but he employed many flashbacks as Pu Yi's memories interspersed in his later days. By using flashbacks, Bertolucci arranged two narrative clues, one about the story after 1949 and another before 1949, allowing the plot compactly develop. Such an arrangement of the narrative puts Pu Yi in different periods together and makes it easier to show the changes of his life.

What has to be mentioned is the image throughout the whole film, doors. Different kinds of doors, concrete or abstract, witnessed throughout Pu Yi's entire tragic life. From ascending the throne when he was only 3 years old to being imprisoned in the Fushun War Criminals Management Center, and including the period of being taken advantage of to be the puppet ruler of Manchukuo, Pu Yi was always the one who was locked behind the door, and he could only glimpse at the world through those narrow doors. Even at the time when he was an emperor, freedom was totally an impossible thing for him until he ultimately became one of the citizens of the People's Republic of China. When he bought a ticket at his old age to visit the Forbidden City that had been his home, he finally entered the palace as an ordinary man. By no means can we know what he was thinking

about when he saw the Dragon Throne where he had once sat, and we also could never know how he would feel when he looked back to who he had been. After all, in comparison with Pu Yi, we are just outside of the door.

Considered from multiple aspects, the soundtrack, the application of colours, the control of the camera, the composition, ***The Last Emperor*** is absolutely a masterpiece. If I have to find fault with this film, maybe changing the English dialogues into Chinese would make it perfect.

In memory of director Bernardo Bertolucci.

By 18 Bruce Yang

Take my Brother away: Brother and Sister Love



Do you have brothers or sisters? If you have, how do you get along with each other? There is a film called Take my Brother away, and I watched it with my best friend when it came out last summer. Take my Brother away is a comedy produced by Wanda Media Co., LTD, directed by Zheng Fenfen, starring Zhang Zifeng and Peng Yuchang. It was adapted from the comic book of the same name by cartoonist You ling. The film tells the story of a pair of siblings who dislike each other and struggle daily putting up with each other. The movie is about a sister who misunderstands her brother's love but finally finds the truth; however, her brother has to leave her.

Having an elder brother who plays practical jokes on his younger sister and doesn't care about their family is really annoying. Shi Miao just hopes her elder brother, Shi Fen, disappears completely, and even her precious birthday wish is "take away my elder brother quickly". Unexpectedly, the wish comes true, Shi Fen becomes her best friend Miaomiao's elder brother. Shi Miao sympathizes with Miaomiao, at the same time, she is very happy to cast off her brother, "the big demon king". Shi Miao feels that life is infinite and beautiful after becoming an only child; however, she discovers that Shi Fen, in addition to playing jokes and tricking his sister all day long, he also hides the secret that his parents are actually divorced, and that he does so because he does not want his sister to be sad and disappointed.

I know a lot of people may think Shi Miao is too irritable, and sometimes she makes some unreasonable requests to her brother Shi Fen. In addition, there are too many times in which she fights with her brother seriously. However, her dependence and love for her brother are far beyond her imagination. Just like Shi Miao, such a stubborn girl, is never easy to express her care and love from her heart. We can see that her actions not only illustrate that she loves her family very much, but also that she sincerely wants her family to be together forever.

Shi Miao is so timid that she is even afraid of the dark. She has poor ability to adapt to the new environment that she has to face it on her own. She likes to eat spicy cumin baked sausage, and she wants to go to the restaurant for her birthday. She wants to have a cool electric car from childhood, and she doesn't want to learn Kung Fu anymore. That's all Shi Fen knows and cares about. He walks with her through the dark road and comes home with her to help her overcome the dark. He collects cards in order to buy her dream electric car. Although he plays tricks on her, he just wants her to forget the sorrow. All the time, Shi Fen has been in his way, carefully guarding Shi Miao's world and innocence. He knows their parents' marriage has no possibility of repair, and he tries his best to help Shi Miao avoid this unhappy situation. What Shi Fen quietly does, is to let Shi Miao be embraced by warmth and away from sadness.

When Shi Miao drives the electric car to the train station, the scenes in which Shi Fen took care of her flashed in her mind. He leaves the memories to her, which illustrates how they get along with each other. And he also gives her the most beautiful blessing. He is going to leave to do his duty as an elder brother. He knows that their father doesn't have enough money and energy to take care of children, so he has to give a hand to their father. Only when he goes to the countryside with their father can his sister live a better life with their mother.

The movie comes to the end with a new wish, but we don't learn what the fate of both siblings is. By the way, the sentence "You put me down" that Shi Miao says to Shi Fen, makes me tear up as if I completely grew up together with Shi Miao.

I like the movie, and I like how they get along with each other. I like Shi Miao, and I like Shi Fen as well. They make me laugh and cry, besides, they make me think more about my sisters and brothers, reminding me of all the great things that they do for me. After watching this movie, I learned that there are many things we don't know such as feelings, characters, temperaments and especially fraternal love, which are hiding under the surface.

By 18 Amiee Xiong