

Kungfu film

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of the Visual Art and Film Studies of the Concerned 29 May Kung Fu and Wuxia Films Kung Fu Films happen to be a genre of the martial arts films that showcases and features the martial art of Kung Fu. The Kung Fu films do lack the element of fantasy and fairy tale as found in the Wuxia films. Wuxia films also happen to be a sub genre of martial art films and it resorts to historical settings from the ancient Chinese martial arts traditions. Unlike Wuxia films, Kung Fu films showcase much less of sword play and primarily rely on unarmed combat for appeal and attraction. Wuxia films in contrast depend a lot on the inclusion of the elements of magic, fantasy and supernatural in the overall plot.

The anti-imperial themes inherent in the Kung Fu and Wuxia films did hold much socio economic appeal in the Chinese and Western culture. It is a fact that everybody tends to harbor sympathy for the underdog. The anti imperialist and anti elite sentiments inherent in the Kung Fu and Wuxia films did appeal to the sentiments of sympathy and awe of the audiences in the Chinese and the Western culture. Both the Kung Fu and Wuxia films do feature the socially marginalized and sidelined characters that fight against the prevalent socio-economic hegemony and revolt against the dominant elite sections of the society. The audiences in the Western and Chinese culture did empathize a lot with the Kung Fu and Wuxia film heroes fighting against the prevalent prejudice, social marginalization and racial discrimination. By doing so these heroes voiced the concerns of the underdog that primarily contributed to their appeal amidst the Chinese and Western audience. Both the Kung Fu and Wuxia films feature central characters that raise a voice against the elite segments of the society. Thereby it is readily

feasible to understand the grass root appeal of these movies in the Western and Chinese culture. The Kung Fu and Wuxia movies did cater to the sentiments of the working class in the Chinese and the Western cultures. Thereby, they accrue immense appeal and following amongst the working class audience. These films did allow them a chance to catharsis and vent out their repressed grudge and anger against a socio economic system dominated by the rich and the powerful.

It is basically the sense of revolt and justice inherent in the Kung Fu and Wuxia films that contributed to their immense social appeal and relevance.