

New Year's Sacrifice

The film *New Year's Sacrifice* is adapted from the novel of the same name, written by Mr. Lu Xun. From describing the miserable experience of Xianglin's wife's life, it reflects the contradictions in Chinese society after the Revolution of 1911.

New Year's Sacrifice is the first colour film in the history of China and it is a huge success. As for the reasons, firstly, the success of the film lies in the re-creation by its script, Mr. Xia yan, who turns Mr. Lu Xun's novel into a concrete embodiment of dramatization. He sufficiently reveals the recreating work based on the original work by progressing the drama that can be experienced by audiences in order to make two distinct characters: one is to make the film rigid and well-structured; the other is to concentrate on the character of Xiang Lin's wife, expanding the narrative of the lives at the bottom, enlarging the information from the original short story.

Secondly, the success of the film depends on the director, Mr. Sang Hu, the accurate understanding of the social environment at that time and its conveying. From various levels and perspectives, Mr. Sang constitutes typical kinds of environment for characters to act in *New Year's Sacrifice*, including class struggle environment, social environment, and natural environment, allowing audience to immerse themselves into a certain atmosphere setting framed by Lu Xun's work. According to the director, the use of insipid cool tone during the film symbolizes the exploitation and oppression from feudal ethics, and reveals social inequality and the indifference of humanity. Therefore, during the 4K restoration, we keep the profound content of the film by remaining the cool tone in general, so that the director's intention of the tragedy and the miseries time could be fully expressed and respected.

Also, the success of the film shall be attributed to excellent performance by the leading actresses, Bai Yang, a famous performing artist, who handled the tragic role, Xiang Lin's wife, with her complete and sincere performance originated from her profound understanding towards the role. From the very beginning of Chinese silent movie era, Bai Yang had entrenched herself in the Chinese moviedom for over 60 years. Her natural, implicit, and graceful performance style was commended by all audience for generations. 2020 is the 100th anniversary of Bai Yang's birthday, which gives the restoration of the film *New Year's Sacrifice* a unique meaning.