

## A Brief Analysis on Historical Culture Development of Chinese Sports Films

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### Abstract

**Sports film is an artistic form bearing rich social and cultural connotations and the most effective carrier of sports culture dissemination. This paper summarizes the development characteristics of sports film culture in different periods of our country, provides a better spiritual core for the creation of sports film, and enables more people to understand sports culture through sports film.**

### Keywords

**Chinese sports film, Sports culture, Development history.**

### 1. Development of Chinese Sports Film at Different Stages

“《The Film Volume》 published by China Encyclopedia Press in 1991, classifies the films into biopic, historical, social, political, war film, sports film, children's film, fairy tale film, science fiction film, comedy, musical film, detective film, disaster film and so on”. ①《China Encyclopedia Film Volume》, The interpretation of sports films is “a film about various sports and the lives of sports workers. The sports film mainly develops the story plot with the background of sports activities, training and competition, depicts the characters' characteristics, and takes the wonderful sports performance as the feature of the film”. As a kind of film, sports film carries the connotation of sports culture and commercial significance. Sports films combine sports with films, and use the narrative method of films to show the common aesthetic experience, spiritual world and cultural significance of human beings.

“Sports culture is the product of human social civilization and progress, its important influence has become a social and cultural activities, subtly changing the world of tens of thousands of different faiths, different skin color people's life idea and the way, it has an irreplaceable special function and role to promote the harmonious development of society and people's physical and mental health”. ② It is a way of life for human survival and a significant symbol of cultural life and civilization.

Since its birth, Chinese films have been carrying the mission of spreading and inheriting Chinese culture. On the other hand, the film is regarded by the government as an important education tool; on the other hand, it is also regarded by most Chinese as the most important entertainment way. As the best carrier of "teaching through entertainment", the film must undoubtedly carry the historical burden of conveying mainstream ideology and guiding the audience's spiritual culture in the amazing light and shadow narration. ③Sports film from the date of birth to take on the propaganda, education of the heavy

responsibility. As early as in 1934, when Sun Yu directed the first silent sports film which called as Empress of Sports represented for Union Film Company, he was carrying the idea of "saving the country through sports". Sports, body and enlightenment and saving the country were linked, expressing his firm belief in saving the country through sports. Although there were few sports films in old China, they filled in the blank of sports films and pioneered such films. Although there were few sports films in old China, they filled in the blank of sports films and pioneered such films.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the communist party of China emphasized that movies should serve politics, and the function of sports as a political tool was highlighted, reflecting the cultural values of sports movies serving society and the country in a special period. Famous director, Xie Jin's first sports color feature film "No.5 Women's Basketball Player" became a typical representative. "No.5 Women's Basketball Player" began as a "leadership decision" to produce a sports movie script. The first theme is "the contrast between the old and the new in sports." "Two little football teams," "sisters on ice," "blue sky silver flowers," "women diving players," and "little football teams" are paeans about friendships and victories on the field, and are themes that promote socialist mainstream values such as collectivism and ethical fashion.

The basic principle of literary and artistic creation and criticism in the 1950s and 1960s was to emphasize the theme closely related to social and political movements, and to ensure the priority of "political correctness". It emphasizes the great revolutionary practice of workers, peasants and soldiers. It emphasizes the praise of the bright side of literature and art. It emphasizes that the life reflected by literature and art is higher, more beautiful, more typical and more ideal than the real life. The sports films of this period were also negatively influenced by the political movement. "the stadium disturbance" (1957) was directly drawn from the life of the contemporary workers and had a new exploration in the creation of comedy films. In a period of time, many comedy creators "talk about happy change, hope to be afraid". On the other hand, the political "anti-rightist" movement, the "pulling out the white flag" movement until the "cultural revolution" launched, the economic "Cooperative" movement, the "Great-leap Forwarding" movement and so on. These "movements" have forged the character of The Times for the sports films of this period. Throughout this period of sports films, with a deep political imprint and color of The Times.

In the mid-1960s, when the period of "cultural revolution" was approaching, sports films were also shrinking. The cultural revolution films represented by "model operas" left a cultural specimen that was radicalized in the history of "revolution". The model operas of Peking Opera were the only form of cultural revolution films. At this stage, the development of sports films is in a state of complete stagnation.

In the new era, sports films have achieved breakthrough development, from sports serving politics to pursue personal value and significance; More attention paid to the specific form of sports to promote the humanistic spirit of sports. It reflects the new era spirit of revitalizing China and reform and innovation, which is also the special needs of that era. Its social function remains in political and ideological aspects. In the 1990s, with the introduction of the concept of "theme" film, national ideology began to formulate new sports film strategies. And the important way of this strategy is to wrap political theme or finish political theme through emotion, so that political meaning can be naturally conveyed through emotion.

Diversified development of the new century, with the development of leisure sports, sports Hollywood films, the influence of the Chinese sports movie welcomed a diversified forms of time, the "Female Handsome Soldier", "Women's Number Nine", "Baseball Boy", "Shining Feathers" "One Person's Olympic", "Invisible Wings", "Basketball Park" and so on, they have brought us a lot of touches, especially after China to host the Olympic Games in 2008, there are many sports entertainment, infuse element of a fashion icon, witty humor, more conform to the requirements of the development of modern society, has a breakthrough innovation in the theme content, It provides impetus for the rapid development of sports films.

## **2. Sports Film's Spreading of Sports Culture**

Sports movies as a combination of sports culture and film, with its unique technique of expression to the description of the original ecological sports, and based on the physical characters vivid display of related events to reflect the reality of social life, it is a kind of bearing rich social and cultural connotation and humanistic spirit through to embody the human value and aesthetic meaning of culture and art form. In the historical process of sports development and Olympic spirit

communication, film is undoubtedly a mass medium with extensive communication effect, a world language showing the essence of sports. Sports movies are not only the demonstration of the form of Olympic competitive sports competition, but more importantly, they show the rich cultural connotation of the Olympic Games, realize the spreading value of the Olympic spirit, and make sports as a force to transform the society.

Cultural soft power is an important indicator of a country's comprehensive national strength. The film industry is an important part of cultural soft power. In 2000, the box office of films in mainland China was 86 million; in 2014, the box office of films in mainland China was about 4.8 billion, an increase of 56 times in 15 years. China will host the winter Olympics in 2022. The Olympic Games are not only a collective competitive event, but also a cultural feast Shared by all mankind. In the context of the winter Olympics, sports film, as one of the ways of sports culture communication, shoulders the responsibility of practicing sports spirit and spreading sports culture, playing a unique role for the formation of China's sports culture and the development of a harmonious society. Therefore, the interpretation and communication of Chinese sports film culture, while reflecting the development of Chinese sports culture, also directly affected the international status and influence of Chinese sports culture.

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