

Hollow Man

Academic Integrity Counts

In order to increase their popularity and for the sake of decency, quite a few superstars now choose to apply for graduate programs to promote their educational background. But, to some actors who don't own true academic ability, such kind of pursuit ends up in academic misconduct. Recently, a famous Chinese actor who got his PhD from Beijing Film Academy involved into a scandal when he is applying for a postdoctoral position at Peking University that his dissertation is suspected of plagiarism and further investigation is going on.

As far as I'm concerned, to begin with, there's no need for the actor to plagiarize for his degree. Although for superstars, entering universities is of great benefit to improve individual's overall quality and the long-term development, the popularity of actors is not decided by their educational background but depend on whether they have good works and superb acting skills. They can maintain popularity as long as they keep performing works which are prevalent and close to public life. In fact, there also exist a lot of actors who don't get any academic degrees but shine on the stage. To name only a few, Li Hongtao, who plays Galdan in the classic TV drama "Kangxi Dynasty", was a railway worker at the earliest of his career. Because of his great interest in the performance, he afterwards made great progress in his performance and played lots of key roles in many famous films. As a result, he got to be famous among the people.

What's more, as a college student, to avoid academic plagiarism, superstars who get their degree by academic misconduct should be despised by the public and punished for what they had done. Public figures should have noble personality and strong sense of social obligation. For superstars, in addition to having professional acting skills, they shall also lead the positive energy of society. Superstar students have a demonstration effect on universities due to their social influence. If superstars begin to be opportunistic and obtain their degrees by academic misconduct, ordinary students will follow, thus academic atmosphere will be corrupted over time. In addition, plagiarism is not only a moral problem, but also a crime. The behaviour of the actor mentioned actually violates the law of our country and harms the image of showbiz in China, so he shall be convicted and punished in accordance with law.

Finally, universities should be strict with the examination of graduation thesis to prohibit students from graduating by academic misconduct.

In a nutshell, public shall show their zero tolerance to the actor's academic misconduct. Further investigation shall be treated seriously in order to restore a sound academic atmosphere.