1. 3 minutes to learn about film censorship in China

2. So, film censorship, how does it work?

3. There are 3 things to know. First of all, who’s in charge?

4. The film examination committee under SARFT takes responsibility for censoring all movies in China. This committee has about 37 members.

5. The members are from government, academia, movie industry and press, and each member serves a two-year term.

6. However, the most recent member list was announced in 2006, so now even after 10 years we don’t actually know who’s on the committee.

7. The 2nd point is that both domestic and foreign movies have to go through censorship before they can be publicly released.

8.The only difference is that domestic movies have to go through it twice, as both screenplays and finished films.

9. Thirdly and most importantly, what are the rules that a movie must follow? 10.The latest guidance, published by SARFT in 2006, gives 10 mandatory rules and 9 explanatory standards. Some of them are:

11. "The film must not harm the reputation and interests of the state, like insulting revolutionary leaders, heroes and important historical figures."

12. "The film must not propagate superstition, such as roles being possessed by the devil or other witchcraft."

13. Of course, no ghosts are allowed.

14. Also, the film should not encourage gambling, violence or criminal activities.

15. No excessive drinking, smoking and other bad habits.

16. No homosexuality.

17. No puppy love.

18. The film should not distort value judgment between good and evil, beauty and ugliness, righteous and unrighteous.

19. Also do not propagate passive or negative outlook on life.

20. To make it worse, these standards are quite vague and depend on committee members’ personal judgment.

21. Unlike case law, if a movie has already passed censorship, yours may not definitely pass just because it’s similar.

22.The biggest problem with China’s film censorship is that the state has taken a role as everyone’s parent, deciding what is appropriate, and imposing its value system on everyone.