**Q: What type of movies you like the most? Q: What is your basic requirement for a good movie?**

Our answers are quite different. To me, watching movies is mere entertainment, so I hate to tax my brain during movies. Sci-fi and action movies often emphasize special effects and the supernatural abilities of the characters, and involve no serious issues. Furthermore, unlike suspense movies, their plots, most of the time, are quite easy to understand, most of which are subject to the “Hollywood model”. They are easy to watch, so they have become my favorite kind of movie. However, others think the opposite. They see watching a movie as a learning process. They prefer movies with serious issues that inspire further discussion or even reflection. Ironic movies and dramas are therefore on their lists.

Our discussion also included soundtracks. We all agreed that appropriately-chosen background music helps involve viewers in the story. One of us was especially fond of background music in suspense films. I was very curious about his reason: is it because he remembers the movie when he listens to it, or just because he enjoys the thrill that the music gives him? He said it’s the the latter, which shocked me.

We later talked about movies that started out as novels. We agreed that this is a quick way to go through a story if you are too lazy to read the book. However, only few of us go back to the book after watching the movie. The reason is quite straightforward: knowing the story, there is no need to read the book. I think this is a concerning phenomenon. To make it more appealing, or to fit the story into two hours, scenarios are often revised, which can lead to confusion. Without going back to the book, this confusion can never be resolved. Bluntly speaking, the movie destroys the story.

At the end, we switched to musicals. Les Misérables, surprisingly, was for all of us one of our favorite musicals. Although we may not understand the lyrics during the songs, the music is sufficiently moving as is. For a long time, we have ignored 歌仔戲, which I see as a Chinese musical. Due to a lack of education in歌仔戲in our early days, none of us know how to appreciate it, which, I think, is a great loss for our culture.