ENGL 112

Movie Review

Due: Week 12

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*Sherlock Holmes (2009)*: A Successful Movie That Gives Holmes a New Life

*Sherlock Holmes* is a movie by Warner Bros, directed by Guy Ritchie (2009). It is a modern Hollywood-style action movie with magnificent scenes. The movie gives Holmes a new life through technology in the twenty-first century. Nowadays, more and more people reduce their time reading a book, lots of children and teenagers may not read the book of Holmes, this movie gives them a chance to know him. To satisfy these audiences, the filmmakers recomposed the original novel, cut some brilliant inferential plots, and replaced them with fight scenes. The movie also makes some changes to Holmes and Watson. In the novel, Watson has a few words, but in the film, it seems Holmes and Watson are a couple that do not stop quarreling with each other during the movie. It's a compromise, but it is still a successful movie that lets more people interested in the character of Holmes, and some of the audience will read the original book.

As a Hollywood movie, the plot arranges compactly. For example, Holmes fighting in the arena is a tense plot in the movie. However, the plot below occurs in the prison, which is tense too. These two plots are next to each other. Under constant prodding, audiences are staying excited, which is a reason that makes Hollywood-styled movies more popular. Around 30 minutes after the movie begins, film producers use a montage method to show how Holmes follows Miss Adler. The film first shows Miss Alder leaving the house on Baker Street and taking the carriage. A beggar is coming, knocks on the carriage, and sees the people inside. Then the lens gives to Watson chatting with Holmes. The timeline is in the positive sequence, but then the time jumps to the past: Miss Alder leaves the house, and Holmes jumps out from the window and tracks Miss Alder. This arrangement tells the audience what happens first, then tells how it happens, which gives the audience a surprise.

This modern movie version of Holmes reproduces the elements of nineteen-centuries London. Not only the scene and the clothes shown, but the movie also is warm-colored, which simulates the color of a vintage movie, and the background music is orchestra-oriented, rarely using synthesizers. Lots of music in the movie is in Dorian mode, a minor scale popular in Middle Ages. But to make the plot grand, the movie brings into the religion and magic popular in the nineteen-centuries. The resurgence of Blackwood is an example, but it confusing the audience in the reality world setting of the movie. The movie doesn’t explain how Blackwood resurgences but chalk it up to the supernatural.

The special effect of the movie *Sherlock Holmes* (Ritchie) is impressive. In the first two minutes of the movie, when Holmes meets the guard in the tower, the photographer shoots at a higher frame rate, so that the film cutter can slow the action that Holmes attacks the guard. Sound mixers use high-cut filters to strengthen the feeling of time deceleration and mix a light sound to make up the cut-off of high-frequency sound. The monologue recorded by the actor is rapid and mechanical, showing Holmes has a clearly, rigorous, and nimble mind.

*Sherlock Holmes* (Ritchie) is a proper Hollywood movie, but it should be a detective movie too. Warner Bros makes Holmes as a movie as *Doctor Strange*, while abandoning the reasoning process of the original book too much. A Chinese movie called *Detective Chinatown* does much better than *Sherlock Holmes*: *Detective Chinatown* is an action movie popular in China, and it keeps the reasoning process well. In other words, *Detective Chinatown* finds the balance between action and the reasoning process. While making the movie win audiences' love, film producers need to think more about keeping the original book.

Work Cited

Ritchie, Guy. *Sherlock Holmes.* Warner Bros, 2009.