

# Opening a New Journey of Chinese Science Fiction Film Creation "The Wandering Earth"

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**ABSTRACT.** *Inheritance and breakthroughs are the experience of "The Wandering Earth" with multiple successes in economics, society and reputation. This paper explores the success factors of "The Wandering Earth": the philosophical interpretation of the theme "humanity destiny community"; the perfect balance of scientific knowledge and audience orientation to construct a passionate plot of imagination; and the rational thinking of the domestic hard science fiction production peak. It will help us to understand the current market demand for science fiction movies, and provide reference for Chinese science fiction movies to create more outstanding works and catch up with the world's advanced level.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Chinese science fiction film, The Wandering Earth*

## 1. Introduction

At the beginning of the 2019 New Year, a sci-fi movie "The Wandering Earth" adapted from Liu Cixin's novel of the same name was the hot screen, leading the Spring Festival movie market, and finally reached the second place in the box office of China's film history with a box office of 4.654 billion. What is even more gratifying is that the film also performed well in overseas markets, earning \$5.87 million in box office revenues, and then topping the Chinese film North American box office champion. The film fills the gap in China's "hard science fiction" film type, promotes the progress of China's film industrialization level, and makes an important contribution to exploring domestically produced film creation and promoting Chinese film innovation and upgrading.

On the eve of the film's release, he received the attention of foreign "The New York Times" and "Financial Times" and commented that "China's first space-based super blockbuster "The Wandering Earth" is about to be released. This film represents a new era of Chinese film production. The dawn of the Chinese film industry joined the "space race..." "Chinese film companies have made a huge leap into the science fiction film, the release of "The Wandering Earth" is a milestone,

indicating that the Chinese film market is becoming increasingly diversified in production." .

"The Wandering Earth" tells the story of the sun's dying, the earth's human beings to survive, the power of the world to build planetary engines, drive the earth out of the solar system, and find new homes. In the context of the catastrophe, the work builds a tearful and imaginative plot, combined with grand and magnificent film and television, to create an epic sci-fi movie.

The work uses a romantic "wandering" earth paradigm, with a moving storyline and well-made visual images, expounding the grand and philosophical concept: highlighting the concept of "community of human destiny" and constructing a large pattern, A large-scale Chinese "hard sci-fi" movie.

## **2. "Bringing the Earth, Bringing the Home": A Philosophical Interpretation of the "Community of Human Destiny"**

In 2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping first mentioned the community of destiny. "In this world, countries are more interconnected and interdependent. People live in the same global village, living in the same time and space where history and reality meet. Become a community of destiny in you and me [1]". Advocate the world's countries to "work together, seek common development, and win-win cooperation" to maintain and promote the building of a community of human destiny. This concept has been welcomed and recognized by more and more countries and people, and has been written into important documents of the United Nations. In recent years, this initiative is transforming from concept to action, injecting new ideas and new solutions to solve the sustainable development problems facing the international community. This concept has been continuously spread and developed in the international community. China is also more easily accepted by the world's audience with its more vivid and flexible form of discourse, the great concept of film and television art interpretation.



*Figure. 1 The Wandering Earth*

In recent years, China's big production films have received unprecedented praise, and the film's pattern has expanded into an international perspective. It is a sigh. "I didn't expect China to be able to make such a large-framed, large-format movie. It is magnificent and solemn, and it is impossible!" Film and television works such as "Wandering Earth" and "Wolf Warriors 2" artistically demonstrate the grand concept of "the community of human destiny." Science fiction is the myth of modern people. It builds the future with imagination. "The Wandering Earth" focuses on the ultimate destiny of all mankind. In the face of subversive disasters, through the construction of a community of human destiny across countries and races, the collective self-rescue of mankind is realized.

In the film "The Wandering Earth", when the planet engine suffered a large-scale failure and the destruction of the earth and human beings came out, the rescue teams from all over the world carried out the rescue in an orderly manner in accordance with the unified command of the UN government. At the most critical moment, a large number of rescue vehicles from Russia, Japan, South Korea, Cuba, India and other parts of the world heard the call, and the scene of the rescue to Sulawesi was spectacular and sublime. At the end of the film, from the first few players, gradually became the common action of countless people regardless of the color and ethnicity, and finally successfully restarted the planetary engine, vividly showing that the earth is the home of each of us, each nation and country. In the face of the world's problems, mankind must form a community of destiny in order to tide over the difficulties. The world view promoted by "The Wandering Earth" is not Chinese centralism, nor American centralism, but global centralism. Its core is the community of human destiny. Perhaps this concept has something to explore, but in the current human cognitive field, this should be a more reasonable and more globally accepted worldview [2].

The film "The Wandering Earth" combines Western film expressions with the values of Chinese characteristics, and stands in the human perspective, deducing a story of all human beings fleeing with the earth to find a new home. The narrative text and storyline of the film contain the collective values of human destiny, such as the collectivism of "you have me, I have you in you", "seeking common ground while reserving differences, and achieving win-win cooperation", which further reflects China's courage in the world. The spirit of. Bringing the deeds of China and the rest of the world to save the earth on the screen not only demonstrates China's wisdom and China's program, but also is a good interpretation of China's concept of promoting the community of human destiny.

### **3. "The plot is blood, imagination is wonderful": the perfect balance between science fiction philosophy and audience orientation**

As a special film type in Hollywood movies, sci-fi movies have occupied the main position of the big screen in recent years and become the core power of Hollywood's global film strategy. In comparison, Chinese sci-fi movies have the phenomenon that "illusion" is greater than "family", such as "A Chinese Ghost Story", "Painted Skin", "The Bride With White Hair" and other films with magical

colours, but the theme of science fiction Movies have always been a relatively weak place in Chinese filmmaking. Until Liu Xinci's science fiction "The Three-Body Problem" won the best novel award of the world's science fiction literature "Hugo Award", Liu Cixin and Chinese science fiction entered the public eye, and many film companies and directors competed to buy Liu Cixin's many science fiction novels. Film adaptation rights. The release of "The Wandering Earth" provoked unprecedented public praise: "Liu Cixin can seal the gods! It's so good!" "Liu Xinci has a rich imagination and makes the idea of the earth and the earth people fleeing together amazingly." These are the Liu Cixin science fiction movies.

"The Wandering Earth" is so sought after because the film is highly respectful of science. From a narrative point of view, any narrative text is a real world. The astrophysics knowledge of the earth around the sun, Jupiter's "gravitational slingshot" effect, and "Loch limit" has been basically recognized by the public and has credibility. In addition, after the Earth stops rotating, it will deviate from the original orbit. When it is far away from the sun, there will be extremely cold weather on the earth, and frequent geological disasters will occur. The film has basically been faithfully presented. It can be said that the sci-fi background of the movie setting is basically in line with scientific logic. Of course, there are some details that are controversial: For example, can a human-made planetary engine stop the earth from spinning? How is the time defined after the Earth stops spinning? Some physicists have pointed out that Jupiter's "rigid Rocky limit" value is smaller than Jupiter's radius, and the Earth will not be shredded by Jupiter. Since only professional physicists and mathematicians can answer these questions, the existence of these problems does not affect the viewing experience of ordinary audiences. Such scientific settings are also compatible with the current theme of human space exploration. Before the film was released, the China Science and Technology Museum repeatedly broadcasted the trailer for the film. From the perspective of technology popularization, it proved that the film has many access points to the astronomical knowledge we know. Much of the content presented in the film is not arbitrarily imagined, but based on the logical assumptions of the known systems of the universe, which are among the possibilities of the future.

People like science fiction movies. Regardless of the movie, the biggest demand for entertainment is entertainment. Therefore, science fiction movies must balance the needs of the audience with the use of scientific knowledge. According to Vivian Sobchak, an American sci-fi-type film research expert, the primary goal of sci-fi writers or film writers is not to declare or a technical knowledge of science, but to "tell through artistic style, narrative structure, aesthetic features, time and place events, etc. A dramatic story that eventually provokes the audience to think deeply [3]. Science is the driving force of the story, but it is not what people care most about. In fact, some viewers don't care about the so-called scientific principles, always put the wonderful storyline in the first place. If a story catches the audience, they will forget the bad dialogue and the scientific theory that cannot withstand the scrutiny. This good story will bring we have a great experience [4]. For example, "Interstellar" uses wormholes to achieve space hopping, and uses black holes to

return to the past. There is not enough theory to support and prove any possibility of their existence, but it is still a good work.

The background and objective environment of the story told by the science fiction film are fantasized. It must conform to the scientific laws of a certain historical development stage and conform to the scientific cognition of the general public. But science fiction movies can't be a slave to science. When you create a story text, you don't need to write a rigorous scientific paper like a research. Instead, you need to hold the audience's attention and put the scientific knowledge into a specific story. In the plot, therefore, China's future sci-fi movies must balance the needs of the audience with the use of scientific knowledge.

#### **4. "The gleam in the spring": the rational thinking of the peak of China's hard science fiction production**

In the past three decades, most of Hollywood's global box offices are "big movies" with excellent production, various forms of innovation and high technology content. Its content is diverse, and sci-fi films filled with aliens, biochemicals, robots and humans competing for the planet are the only ones that dominate the world market. The Chinese film market has experienced explosive growth in the past decade, and various types of films have made great progress, but the sci-fi films have always been in short supply, even in the absence or aphasia.

The Chinese sci-fi film creation group has the characteristics of non-professionalization and fragmentation, and at the same time lacks the corresponding scientific consciousness. The weakness of the scientific foundation makes the sci-fi content of the film appear empty and pale. From the existing sci-fi movies "Future X-Cops" "Kung Fu Cyborg" "CJ7", not only is it not satisfactory at the box office, but its imagination is still on the packaging of the character's shape, or it is expressed as an artificially The so-called simplification of passing through time and space rarely involves the changes and impacts brought by cutting-edge science and technology to human life. The star actor and the external style of "science fiction" are used for propaganda, but there is nothing new in the content of the plot.

"The Wandering Earth" is a symbol of the arrival of China's hard sci-fi movies, and it is of great significance to the transformation of China's modern film industry. From the special effects and technology, this should be the peak of the domestic hard sci-fi movie, and it is magnificent. Oh, the details create a heart. "Special effects" is an important element to test the success of a sci-fi movie. In the film, the underground city of Cyberpunk, the wasteland of the wasteland and the huge buildings covered with snow and ice, and the magnificent effect of Jupiter in space are unexpected. The scene is awesome. On the earth of more than 80 degrees, the driver Han Zi opened the carrier to Shanghai, because the movement of liquid under the ice caused by Jupiter's gravity, the ice on the land was lifted, and half of Shanghai rose. Lujiazui, which is frozen into ice, the frozen Oriental Pearl, the Shanghai World Trade Centre, which has its head from the ice, and the 2044 Olympic Building... These elements bring a sense of familiarity to the audience and

are full of shock. In the space layer, the special effects picture of the Earth and Jupiter's gravitational field is very realistic and shocking. This is unimaginable in the past Chinese science fiction movies, even in the world science fiction movies. All this seems to give people a glimpse of the shimmer in the spring of domestic science fiction movies.

Good movies must be recognized by the audience with superb production standards and impressive artistic expression. Hollywood sci-fi blockbusters have a relatively mature production model: large-scale investors, specialized evaluation teams, professional production teams, and mature market distribution mechanisms. In contrast, the production, performance and industrial development of Chinese science fiction films are so childish or weak. These are the Chinese sci-fi film industry needs to learn. The production of "The Wandering Earth" is obviously still in the process of exploration. There are many irregularities and immature places in both investment and distribution. Therefore, high-level works, further improvement of production technology, stable investment and the cultivation of the audience market are the key factors for the further development of science fiction creation in China.

## 5. Conclusion

In summary, the important significance of "The Wandering Earth" is to open a new journey of Chinese science fiction movies. It is the first time to stand at the same height and vision with the world science fiction movies, and integrate the perspective of the Chinese as the protagonist. The human and the earth's destiny community, whether from business experience or ideological value, the film provides a multi-angle, multi-level reference for the future direction of Chinese science fiction movies.

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