

## **Fairytale for kids, teens and adults** by Chris Wong

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bandwagon

Walking around the metropolis riddled with hustle and bustle, cinema is one of the best places for entertainment and relaxation after a week of hard work. What comes into your mind when you think of the word “blockbuster”? I bet ‘Beauty and the Beast’ or ‘Aladdin’ will emerge. This elicits the question: how did the live-action movies sweep across the globe by storm and worm themselves into our hearts? Read on to unravel this mystery.

### Carnival of sound and visual effects

Thanks to the ground-breaking advancement in computer technology, the sound and visual effects of films took a monumental leap. In the past, movies which involve human actors, “**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**” for instance, heavily relied on fancy costumes, meticulously designed make-ups and clever use of cinematography so as to create intoxicating scenes. But gone are those days, with the help of a colossal green screen behind the actors and actresses, the master minds in the film production are able to create flourish visual effects which are close to perfection. “**The Transformers**” is the best epitome. This film – surprisingly is a cartoon originally – has presented us with tremendous life-like alien robots and immersive 3D sound effects. All of these kept the audience on the edge of their seats. Had it not been the most state-of-art special effect, the film studios wouldn’t have been able to provide us a visual and auditory feast.



### Yesterday Once More

Apart from the aesthetic scenes that they provide, the fan base generated by the original version is attributed to their success as well. Those Disney films have already been a huge success prior to their live-action remake, be it ‘Aladdin’ or ‘Beauty and the Beast’. *“I believe when most adults or adolescents go*

to the cinema, it's not the first time they watched the story. It's the nostalgic sentiment that urges many to re-watch their old favourite animation but now real-action films", recalled Chris Lam, the chairman of Film Appreciation Club. Joey Chan, a F.6 student echoed the sentiment, "I was really fascinated when Bella ventured into the hall wearing that classic yellow dress. It's like experiencing my childhood once more!" Certainly you have the same experience when watching these films, don't you?

### **Team "animation" or Team "live-action"?**

Despite the upsurge in popularity of live-action films, the old classic animation version has long gained our unremitting loyalty. It's not an understatement to say there's a combat between the two and for now, the animation seems to gain an upper hand. One would agree that rarely will a remake surpass its original canon. "The new version is equally compelling compared with the original one at most. But better? I don't think so," confessed Mr. Wong, our PE teacher, a film fanatic in private. The fundamental cause is the expanding target audience, animation mainly attracted children while life-action films compelled people of all ages. The simple storyline and utopian world it portrayed no longer satisfies all of us – we're not kids anymore! New "**Mulan**" is the product of Disney trying and failing to please all audiences. "The film tried to convey filial piety, endorse women empowerment and add Chinese cultural elements but it became a pathetically antic product," criticized Mr. Wong. On the other hand, those classic animations remain wonderful and euphoric in our memories. We would never forget the gibes and taunts thrown by the little real dragon or Mulan's to pursue her dream of becoming a warrior.

### **The Test of Time**

Will the live-action films continue to gain popularity while improving its ability in story-telling and theme-conveying? After all, it's not all about convoluted visual effects when it comes to film-making. But will we see the day that a remake outcompetes its original work? Only time will tell. (637 words)