

**REGARDING THE NEED TO PRODUCE MORE REVOLUTIONARY FILMS
FOR THE EDUCATION OF SOLDIERS**

A Talk to the Officials Concerned during the Inspection of the
February 8 Film Studio of the Korean People's Army
September 15, 1964

The February 8 Film Studio of the Korean People's Army has an excellent location. The site of the film studio was selected by the great leader.

The film studio buildings have been impressively constructed, on a large scale. Now that it has splendid buildings and reasonably efficient employees, the film studio must concentrate on producing a large number of films in order to fill the need of educating soldiers and other people.

The basic task of the February 8 Film Studio is, in accordance with the great leader's directions and the Party's policy, to produce many films which can make a positive contribution to fostering the revolutionary outlook on the world in soldiers and other people and strengthening their defence power. The film studio has been entrusted with a very tough and important task. Films play an important role in helping people to acquire the revolutionary outlook on the world.

Films are a powerful art genre which, unlike other genres of literature and art, is capable of a rich and vivid description of life and can also provide an impressive representation of historical facts by portraying them with a variety of means. Because of their ability to create lifelike moving images, films are capable of a richer and more vivid depiction of life than any other forms of art and accordingly can represent life in a comprehensive and impressive manner. The degree of success in contributing to the creation of a revolutionary world outlook in soldiers and other people depends on the way in which the February 8 Film Studio produces films. Because the film studio has a very important mission, the great leader ensured that it was constructed on a good site, and has even shown the direction of film production in detail.

The February 8 Film Studio, however, is not yet producing a high number of fine films of top ideological and artistic qualities as intended and hoped by the leader. Some of the films that have been produced recently, for instance, are not up to the mark, both in the level of narrative and on the level of acting. Some actors play their parts awkwardly, probably because they are fresh from amateur artist circles of People's Army units and therefore are not used to acting. The leader has seen the films produced by the February 8 Film Studio and commented that these films were drab and all used the same formula. The film studio must work hard to produce many more films of high ideological and artistic qualities needed for the education of soldiers and other people.

The February 8 Film Studio must produce many films that deal with the revolutionary traditions.

The glorious revolutionary traditions established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung are the historical roots of our Party and our revolution, as well as the revolutionary riches that must be inherited by the coming generations. Our Party's revolutionary traditions embody the Juche idea and crystallize the valuable achievements of our revolution along with the experience of struggle. If you produce many films on the subject of the revolutionary traditions and educate soldiers and other people with these films, you will help them to understand the justice of our revolutionary cause, to acquire revolutionary optimism and to fight for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

There are innumerable seeds needed for the production of films based on the revolutionary traditions. A Woman Guerrilla, which has been produced recently at the February 8 Film Studio, deals with the revolutionary traditions. Both its content and execution are of good quality. It has many touching scenes. It has been well directed, and its acting is reasonably good. The acting skills of the heroine, uncle Choe and the young guerrilla are especially fine. A Woman Guerrilla is the best of all the films produced this year so far.

The February 8 Film Studio must also produce many films dealing with the soldiers of the People's Army and our people who, having inherited the glorious revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, (October, 1926-August, 1945?Tr.) fought courageously during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953?Tr.).

The Fatherland Liberation War was a harsh trial for our people who had been liberated (August 15, 1945 ?Tr.) from the colonial rule of Japanese imperialists only five years before. However, our people and soldiers won a great victory by displaying a supreme mass heroism, love for their comrades in the revolution and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance for the sake of the Party and the leader that had established a genuinely people's government and held them up as dignified masters of the country. The events of the Fatherland Liberation War showed that the people and the soldiers who were equipped firmly with the great leader's Juche art of war and fought solidly united in mind and purpose behind the leader, could defeat an enemy no matter how strong they are. If you produce many films dealing with the People's Army soldiers and our people who, inheriting the glorious traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, fought courageously during the Fatherland Liberation War, and show them to the People's Army soldiers and other people, you will be able to imbue them with a firm revolutionary attitude towards war and make an active contribution to strengthening our defensive power. The Honourable Duty and The Song of a Transportation Corps Man, which have recently been produced by the February 8 Film Studio, are very good films for the education of the People's Army soldiers and other people. Whenever the studio has produced a film dealing with the soldiers of the People's Army and our people

who fought in the Fatherland Liberation War, the leader is very pleased with it. If the film has no problem in its ideological content, although it has some shortcomings in artistic skill, he ensures that it is shown to the public through the distribution network.

If you are to produce films of high ideological and artistic quality, you must create typical artistic images from facts and archetypes by portraying them skilfully, instead of trying to put these facts and archetypes on the screen as they are. The typical images should be created by portraying the facts and archetypes using the creative method of socialist realism. Only images created in this manner can be considered truly artistic images. The creative method of socialist realism is the correct method of creating works of literature and art. Films produced with the typical images that have been created from facts and archetypes by the method of socialist realism can make an active contribution to equipping people with the communist revolutionary spirit and to educating them to be ardent revolutionaries who fight for the revolution in their country. If films copy archetypes, instead of transforming them into typical images, they result in glorifying individuals, which may result in people making a fetish of them and approaching them with illusions. In this case, the films will run counter to the Party's intentions.

Some officials raise the question as to who is the heroic archetype in the film *A Woman Guerrilla*, but there is no need for such a discussion. Arguing over whether a film is good or bad, based on who is the hero or on whether the archetype is alive or not can only be regarded as an argument between people who know little about art. It is a mistake to try to determine the value of a work by whether or not the archetype of the hero of the work is alive. From now onwards the February 8 Film Studio must not try to put archetypes on the screen as they are, but must create typical images by the method of socialist realism.

Actors and actresses must improve their acting skills.

However good a script may be, a film of high ideological and artistic qualities cannot be produced unless actors and actresses characterize their roles skilfully. Acting plays a major role in raising the qualitative level of a film.

The February 8 Film Studio must improve the performances of actors and actresses so that they portray characters truthfully. When I say that actors and actresses must improve their performances, I do not mean that they should use slick tricks in order to achieve this. Slick tricks impair the film's accuracy in representing life. Some actors of the Korean Film Studio are in the habit of using slick tricks, but the actors and actresses of the February 8 Film Studio must be careful to avoid this. The actor who played the part of the young guerrilla in the film, *A Woman Guerrilla*, smacks of slick trickery. His acting must be guided properly. Such actors should be given careful guidance from the start so that they improve their skill and play their parts truthfully.

In order to raise the level of acting, it is necessary to intensify the training of actors and actresses. Since the February 8 Film Studio has

young actors and actresses, good new buildings and new equipment, it can produce many good films, if it improves the skill level of its actors and actresses. The film studio is promising. Its actors and actresses should keep in contact with their counterparts in the Korean Film Studio, swapping knowledge with them and learning humbly from them. You must not consider yourselves to be special because you belong to the army. Certainly, the February 8 Film Studio is special in that it is under the direction of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, but if you flaunt this specialness in artistic production you cannot make progress.

The February 8 Film Studio must strengthen its material and technical foundations.

Its musical recording room is large, but its sound-absorption devices do not seem up to the mark. It needs perfect sound-absorption devices. If you shuffle around in slippers, as you do now when recording music, noise can be recorded with the music. The recording shop must be quiet, in tune with the creative atmosphere.

It seems to me that there are some shortcomings in your recording techniques. The sound of some dialogues in your films is not clear enough to understand, although those in the films produced by the Korean Film Studio are clear. I think some dialogues in your films are not clear because the technical level of the workers in the recording shop is low, although the tape-recorders and other equipment are good. These workers should be sent to the Korean Film Studio to learn the recording techniques there.

The montage shop should be well equipped. The technique of trick shots should be developed, and the quantity of trick shots should be greatly raised. This will enable you to produce films quickly, improve the artistic quality of films and reduce the cost of their production.

The area surrounding the film studio should be well landscaped. The front of the buildings should be made orderly and planted with many trees. Grape vines, apple trees, plum trees and other fruit trees should be planted and well tended to, so that the film studio will look like a park.

Korean Friendship Association (K.F.A)

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