Research Paper Engineering

Modernity Overdone:The Need for Connecting Cinema and Theatre with Literature

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ABSTRACT

The very concept of connecting theatre and cinema with is a timely one as today both theatre and cinema seem to have snapped all ties with literaure-their ultimate source and inspiration.There existed a natural,symbiotic relationship among literature ,theatre and cinema.But with the development in science and technology,the taste of the people has changed. Science has yielded place to religion and reason to faith.Novel has given way to short story and epic has left the scene for pattern poetry,free verse or haiku.So also theatre and cinema have lost their positions of glory yielding place to popular reality shows,serials and potboilers.Today theatre is in a state of decay and desolation and cinema has changed drastically for the worst.The motive of profiteering has become the rule of the thumb.An uprooted tree cannot survive.Similarly, theatre and cinema that are cut off from literature are bound to die.That is the reason wh we should reconnect theatre and cinema with literature.

KEYWORDS literature, cinema,connection, modern.

Introduction:
If we look at the history of theatre,cinema and literature,we will see that literature has provided boundless inspiration to both theatre and cinema.Now we will see in what relationship the theatre and cinema stand to literature in present times.

(a) Theare and Literature:
It is a paradox that theatre-one of the branches of literature, was born before literature itself ! However, unlike other branches of literature, theatre has some uniqueness and diversity that deserves special attention.As it is , theatre is that brunch of the performing art concerned with acting out stories in front of an audience using combinations of speech, music,gesture,sound,spectacle and so on.In addition to the standard dialogue style, theatre takes such forms as opera,mime,music drama,pantomime,Indian classical dance performances,Japanese No plays and many more. However,theatre is more than what one sees on stage.It involves an entire world behind the scenes that creates the costumes,sets,spectacle that are essential to make the overll impact interesting.

Besides being a genre, theatre is also the structure upon or in which plays are performed. However, there are theatres that use outdoor places or even streets.As the poets or novelists employ their stocks-in-trades,directors or playwrights also use theatre techniques for the successful presentation of a play. Theatre techniques are part of the playwright's creative writing of drama as a mimesis rather than mere imitation of life. In the present time the success of writers -directors like - Tom Stoppard,Caryl Churchill, Terry Johnson, Jeffrey Archer and Indians like Girish Karnad,Vijay Tendulkar, Mahesh Dattani,Habib Tanvir and many prove that theatre has a very intimate relationship with literature.

(b) Cinema and Literature:
Cinema and literature are closely intertwined and it is comparatively easier to trace the impact of one upon the other than the influence of theatre on literature and vice versa.A collaboratibe and costly art form ,cinema is quick in appeal as it involves visuals,sound,fialogue and colourful background. Right from the inception of cinema till today,the symbiosis of cinema and literature have been fruitful one.Though it cannot be denied that the popularity of cinema is one of the primary reasons behind the waning of the interest of the readers in works of literature. specially novel and drama.

(c) Glorious Past :
Hollywood,Bollywood or Tollywood,literary knowledge has always been beneficial to the directors.Only a few years back,we had seen that there were directors who felt at home borrowing the raw matetial for their movies from the works of great literary masters.Rabindranath's"Charulata","Ghare Baire";Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhaya "Apu Trilogy" ,"Asani Sanket";Munshi Prem Chand's ""Suraj Ka Satwa Ghora" are literar masterpieces that have been transmuted into great cinemas.Satyajit Ray's "Satranj Ki Khiladi"(inspired by a Munshi Premchand Hindi fiction),"Aparajito"(a cinematic transformation of Bibhutibhusan Bandhopadhaya novel);Shyam Benegal's "Suraj Ka Satwa Ghoda(modelled on a work of Dharambir Bharati);Mani Kaul's ""Ghasiram Kotwal"(a remaking of Vijay Tendulkar' Marathi play of the same name);Ritwik Ghatak's"A River Named Titas"(based on "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" by Adaita Mallabarman) are some of the gems that owes a lot to literature.

The theatres in those dayes, whether in Soho,London or Kolkata, used to be buzzing with activity In Kolkata the presence of such stalwarts like Girlish Chandra Ghosh, Sisir Bhaduri used to enliven the stages.But theatres today languishes in oblivion.

(d) Bleak Present:
Whether in the West or in the East cinema has debilitated a lot.With the development in science and technology,man's finer sensibilities have blunted. The result is the moral depravity, intellectual deformity and the mechanisation of man.The ill-informed directors and producers are hogging the limelight because few men crave for aesthetic beauty.Modern technologies have presented before men so many new forms of entertainments that he does not have the patience to watch a movie that is not action-packed. and happening. They do not want to be edified and enriched from within.What please them are mindless vulgarity,unnecessary stunts,inflated and overdone comic scenes so on.This is a common phenomena world around.

What is more disheartening is that these producers are wielding more power than the directors.The success of a movie or a theatre. is judged b the mone it earns.As a result a sophisticated and sensitive movie is neglected. Besides,most of the movies these das have little or no stor at all.The directors are churning out potboilers.Cheap action films, sexal fantasies, films based on science fiction, fancy tales and some low

budget quickies.Such Hollwood films like "Star Wars","The Legend of Hercules" or "The Wizard of Oz" ,"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" have no impact upon our minds.

(e) Survival Strategy:
Cinema is a collaborative art form and must take the help of literature to survive.On the other hand,literature can stand on its own.Down the ages good literar works are being produced and the have been inspirational to cinema.Numerous cinemas have been produced on the popular stories of Bible,"Beowulf","Macbeth" and so on.More often than not directors or producers take the story from good literary works.

In India works of ,Premchand Munshi,Rabindranath Tagore ,Sarat Chandra Chattopadhaya have been transformed into motion pictures.In Bollywood , even the commercial film producers are enriching their films with literary materials.Modern contemporary directors are making plays and cinemas which are based on literature.The Bengali director Aparna Seen borrowed the story for her "The Japanese Wife" from Kunal Basu's story of the same name.Hindi movie "Koi Po Che" is based on Chean Bhagat's " The Three Mistakes of My Life". Vishal Bhardwaj relived the story of Shakespeare's "Othello" in his film "Moqbool".J.K,Rowling's Harry Potter series are transformed into movies. The cinema version of "All Quiet on the Western Front","David Copperfield" or "To Kill a Mocking Bird" are immensely successful.If modern cinema and theatre has to survive,the new directors have to follow in the footsteps of the great directors of the early times or do a Spillberg or a James Cameron.

(4) Conclusion:
There is every possibilty that the twin media of theatre and cinema might be abused.But what augers well for theatre , cinema and literature is the fact that a good number of actors and directors who have the background of the theatre are stepping up for movie and theatre direction.

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