

Monkey King – Uproar in Heaven

The audience was filled with anticipation as we took our seats for Monkey King. Everyone was excited about the new restoration of this 1960s Chinese animation, made at the height of China’s animation industry.

“Monkey King, Uproar in Heaven” tells the story of an arrogant monkey who dares to go against the Jade Emperor and proclaim himself “Great Sage, Equal of Heaven”. This causes disruption amongst the celestial courtiers, and the stage is set for a colossal battle between heaven and earth.



The animation was so colourful and the characters so comical, that Monkey King would entice viewers of all ages. Although entirely in Chinese, the film was made easy to understand by clear subtitles and an over voice. This helped the viewer to comprehend what was happening, without undermining the action of the scene.

Monkey King has strong roots of Chinese culture and religion. It is based on the classic Chinese folk tale, “Journey to the West” (Published anonymously in the 1590s, and one of the four great classical novels of Chinese literature). 2011 marks Monkey King’s 50th anniversary, and Salisbury Festival are proud to present the world premiere of the stunning restoration of this film.

The Arts Centre and festival staff were very welcoming, and Chinese snacks were available to sample during the interval. There was also a talk from Tue Brisson Mosich (leader of the restoration project) and Professor WJF Jenner (translator of Journey to the west) after the film.

To conclude, I think that the showing of Monkey King was fantastic, and did not fail to entertain. Although Monkey King only had one showing, there are still plenty of other festival films, such as “Mulan” the popular Disney movie, for all the family to enjoy.

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