Study on the Creation Dimension of the TV Series on the Theme of Police in "Trident"

Yan Tian[1] Zongsheng Yue[2,*]

[1] *Liupanshui Normal College, Liupanshui, Guizhou, China*
[2] *Xiamen University, Xiamen, China*
[*]*Corresponding author. Email: 18088772520@qq.com*

ABSTRACT
The TV series "Trident" has been widely praised since it was broadcast. The popularity of the series also indicates the return of series on the theme of police. By virtue of its realistic creation rooted in life, the drama broadens the genre of TV dramas on the subject of police, and shapes the multi-dimensional images of police from the perspective of everyday life and ordinary people. The character-centered logical narrative in the play breaks the previous single narrative mode that focuses on solving cases, revealing the spiritual connotation of the police team. The drama shows the development and changes of the times from the perspective of ordinary policemen, and praises and expresses the unforgettable hero image with the help of the stories of the ordinary people.

Keywords: *Trident, Police drama, Character, Civilian narrative.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The TV series "Trident" tells the following story: Xia Chunsheng, one of the "four famous police officers" who were all the fashion in the police circle and had unparalleled intelligence and courage, died in the line of duty on the occasion of retirement. The other three, Cui Tiejun, Xu Guozhu and Pan Jianghai, returned to the front lines in search of the truth. After a gap of 20 years, the "Trident" team worked together again and solved important cases one after another with their rich experience in handling cases and perseverance, and finally uncovered the story of a money laundering case 20 years ago. The drama is rooted in social life, and its creation tends to be diversified, young and high-quality. By virtue of its realistic creation, it broadens the aesthetic boundary of TV dramas on the theme of police. The reappearance of "Trident" composed of the three is used to tell about their "second growth", and to shape the image of civilian police who come out from the decadent years and regain the youth spirit of the past and continue to write a brilliant chapter. This new story provides a new narrative mode of police-themed drama. The success of Trident has helped people understand the life of police officers in China, and made the audience highly consistent with the story and characters in the TV series, highlighting the heroism and idealism.

*Fund: This paper is the phased results of films and TV plays on poverty alleviation from the perspective of "New Guizhou Phenomenon", the Humanities and Social Science Project of Higher Education Department of Guizhou Province in 2021, Project No. : 2021QN014.

2. THE ROAD OF RETURN: A PROBE INTO THE PATH OF POLICE-THEMED TV SERIES

A glance at the evolution of Chinese TV dramas reveals that the success of police-themed dramas cannot be separated from essential elements including suspense full of plot tracking, twists and turns of love clues, and human nature conflicts. It is generally believed that the creation of police-themed dramas appeared in the early 1970s. In the 1980s, Plain-clothes Man became a representative. In the 1990s, TV series on the theme of police, such as The Documentary of the September 18 Major Case, No Regrets, The Sword of China, and the Soul of the Police, were widely praised. In the early 21st century, TV dramas based on real events, such as The VI Group of Fatal Case, Conquer, Chief Public Security Bureau, and Undercover, became popular in China. But in 2004, National Radio and Television

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Administration issued Notice on Strengthening the Administration of Censorship and Broadcast of Related Drama, requiring all police-themed TV series out of the prime-time TV. What's worse, it released in 2011 Notice on Effectively Strengthening the Management of the Production and Broadcast of Films and Police-themed TV Programs, promoting review standard, which hamstrings the number of police-themed dramas. Therefore, such TV dramas with huge audience disappeared from the mainstream sight, and entered a "frozen period" in the film and television market.

Ten years after its apparent disappearance from the screen, The Big Case on the Mekong River was broadcast on CCTV in 2014 in prime time, a change from the situation that police-themed TV dramas were not broadcast on the big screen in the past decade. [1] It was followed by Police Captain, which made the audience pay attention to the police-themed drama again. In June 2015, the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) put forward the requirement that there should be at least one or two movies and two or three TV dramas on the subject of police every year, and they must be high-quality ones, bringing such dramas back to the public's attention. In 2016, "Ngor fu", "The Procurator" and "Mystery Kill" were respectively released on Beijing TV, CCTV 1 and Dragon TV in prime time. However, the investment volume and broadcast effect showed that the works did not receive a high degree of attention. In 2017, the public security anti-corruption drama The Name of the People hit the TV screen, breaking the audience rating record of provincial TV stations in the past decade, bringing hope to the newly revived public security drama and indicating the return of public security TV dramas to the mainstream market. Stimulated by the "hot style effect", the creation of police-themed TV dramas reached a small peak in 2018. "Age of Legends" combines youth and idol elements, targeting the young group of anti-drug police. Operation Moscow, with strong plot, fast pace and highly stylistic character, describes the national righteousness and moral integrity displayed by Chinese police in investigating cases in foreign countries. "Youth Police" reproduces the real state of the police in real life, and portrays the vigor and justice of the "youth detective team" on the basis of the crime drama. Although the commercial performance of these works is not satisfactory, but their number and variety of types bring the police-themed TV series a thriving vitality.

In 2019, police-themed TV series have entered the stage of large-scale development, with a sharp increase in number and increasingly diversified types. The Thunder, with the largest investment and the comprehensive influence, laid a favorable groundwork for the coming of the "era of serious drama". "A Journey to Meet Love" combines romantic love with thrilling and suspense elements, and presents the love story between a police officer and a city white-collar by way of road trip, which is a new attempt to the emotional drama of the police. Based on real historical cases, "The Glorious Age: focuses on the first generation of police in China and shows the innovative expression of Chinese anti-spy dramas. In the first half of 2020, there have been four police-themed dramas on the TV with favorable rating. "Court Battle" vividly shows the noble feelings and respectable images of the procurators in the new era through typical cases, and reappears the real case handling scene of the procurators in the contest between emotion and law, good and evil. "Nowhere", starring Wang Kai, has made public the voice of justice that "wherever there is an escape, there must be a chase". [2] Through an old case spanning 30 years, "Burning", starring Jing Chao, reveals the fate entanglement of three families and three generations, truly revives the lives of three generations of Chinese police, and reflects the judicial reform in China over the past 30 years. "Trident" starring Chen Jianbin, Dong Yong and Hao Ping takes a crime solving team named Trident and composed of three old criminal policemen as the leading role. The funny characters dilute the seriousness of the story, and the ideal and faith are integrated into the core of the story to shape the civilian police image of the three retired policemen who pick up their dreams and never give up. In recent years, the creation of police-themed TV series has become increasingly diversified, with different perspectives such as anti-drug, anti-spy, criminal investigation, anti-mafia and anti-corruption adopted to tell police stories on different fronts. The police-themed TV series in the new era are adept at balancing scale and content, and have become an indispensable and important driving force in the creation of realistic dramas. The arrival of the consumption era provides the outlet and imagination space for the rigid and conventionalized daily routine, which also explains the return of police-themed TV dramas.

3. OLD STEED: CIVILIAN HERO

In his letter to Min Kautsky, Engels once discussed the creation principle of shaping characters in literary works: "Everyone is a typical person, but at the same time a very clear individual, just as Hegel

said 'this one'". [3] The success of "Trident" cannot be separated from its portrayal of characters. The creation of characters with emphasis on logic finally presents a series of fleshed-out characters, which deepens the emotion of the play.

The characters of the play are distinct and multi-dimensional. The so-called trident refers to the three policemen of the drama: economic investigation policeman Cui Tiejun, criminal policeman Xu Guozhu, and pre-examiner Pan Jianghai. Twenty years ago, the three of them were famous for working together to solve crimes as quickly as possible, which frightened criminals and made "Trident" famous. But nowadays, Cui Tiejun has an easy job in the police department, Xu Guozhu becomes an ordinary patroman, while Pan Jianghai asks sick leave for a long time, busy doing all sorts of business that can make money outside. As middle-aged men, their career is bottlenecked and their physical and mental state is in decline. Cui Tiejun has stomach disease, Xu Guozhu has high blood pressure and Pan Jianghai has low blood sugar. They are no longer as strong as they used to be. Their loss stems from both the incapacity caused by the growth of age, and the inner insurmountable gap. Xu has been unable to forgive Cui since he caused the death of one of his informants in an accident 20 years ago. They are trapped in regret and guilt, they "beat themselves to the ground," slowly depressed and disheartened. The show opens with an ambitious approach that doesn't gloss over or hide the midlife crises facing the three main characters. As the glorious death of their good friend Xia Chunsheng on his last mission on the day of his retirement, Trident returned, aiming to personally bring the killer to justice. In addition, character characteristics can be revealed in every detail. For example, the nicknames "Big Back", "Big Sword" and "Big Twister" all reflect the characteristics of the three men. "Big Back", Cui Tiejun, who wore his hair with big back when he was young, is good at analyzing cases and coordinating work tasks. "Big Sword", Xu Guozhu, is a man of integrity and hot temper, who also enjoys street wisdom. "Big Twister", Pan Jianghai, engaged in preliminary work, boasts careful thinking, good communication ability, and is responsible for digging information from criminals. In addition, the behavior of the characters in the play is consistent with their own personalities and value choices, so as to avoid the sense of disobedience from the audience.

Compared with previous police-related dramas which focus on creating moral and upright images, the series focuses more on the true state of its characters and portrays ordinary people in police uniforms. "Trident" spends a lot of space to show their struggle and entanglement between the "reality" and "ideal". Cui, who wants to run for chief detective, was found by his wife in the middle of the night when he secretly filled out a form and confiscated it. Xu wants to retire and get married, but he couldn't let go of his righteousness and justice. Pan wants to continue his police career, but is always urged by his wife to resign and make more money as a legal consultant for a big company. This may be the "midlife crisis" they face: the need to take care of their own family and manage their family relationships; on the other hand, their living space is gradually squeezed, and the old methods of handling cases are gradually replaced by the ever-changing high-tech methods due to the emergence of a large number of new police officers and the gradually widening gap between the old and the new. Even if there are ideals, people must also undergo the "torture" of reality. But the best way to overcome the midlife crisis is to stand up after a beating and prove your worth again. At the time of retirement, they step out of their comfort zone and choose to reconnect with the times and learn new skills. This reflects the responsibility and dedication of an old hero, presenting a different inspiring career story. Therefore, "Trident" shows the growth of the protagonists. In the past, police-themed dramas starring young actors, such as "The Thunder" and "Nowhere", all depicted the growth of young police officers. "Trident" tells the second "growth" of middle-aged and old people, such as they finally live out their own, or they come out of the decadent, regain the youth spirit of the past, and continue to thrive.

4. CIVILIAN NARRATION: THE INNOVATIVE EXPRESSION OF POLICE-THEMED DRAMAS

TV dramas on the theme of police have always formed a unique type of narrative mode by their resolute spirit, tortuous plots, suspense and unique visual modeling. [4] There is no denying that more and more police-themed dramas focus on the crime detection itself. They take a large number of man-made accidents, "mystery", "dead situation" as the ultimate pursuit. Therefore, the so-called "strong plot" that relies on external events is the killer mace of such dramas, which will be favored by the audience.

However, more and more TV series go wrong, presenting a large number of similar plots and the abuse of "visual consumption", which will lead to the

audience's aesthetic fatigue of too many man-made accidents. The strong plot narration of police-themed drama is mainly embodied in the careful connection of events. [5] The TV series "Trident" breaks the narrative pattern that the previous case-oriented police-themed dramas, but takes the character as the center, and constructs a new model of the relationship between the characters in the drama. [6] The play spanned twenty years. Thanks to economic development and scientific and technological progress, crimes tend to be networked, technicalized and informationized. As a result, previous case materials cannot be used to solve current criminal cases, and the core of stories also needs to be replaced. Therefore, the trident in the play is temporarily seconded from the criminal investigation team to the economic investigation team and then to the special case team, which makes it logical that they come into contact with the new criminal means in the current society. In the play, they work in various departments and meet different cases.

Another highlight of the show is that each episode begins with a scene from 20 years ago. First, the life of the three when they were young is presented, and then the present situation is shown. This artistic treatment, on the one hand, forms the linkage between episodes and satisfies the audience's aesthetic imagination of the "trident" when they were young. On the other hand, it makes the progression of the plot more natural and portrays the break-up and union of the three in a very delicate way, which makes the audience feel very happy and comfortable. The recollection part seems to be independent of each episode, but it also reflects the connection of logic and plot design, which is an interesting and subtle attempt at narrative. "Trident" is an innovation of TV series on the theme of police. On the one hand, it inherits the ups and downs of the narrative rhythm, and reproduces the tense daily work of the front-line public security police in the process of telling a variety of cases. On the other hand, the novel anti-routine creation brings a distinctive dramatic effect. It gets rid of the previous conceptualized and empty character setting and shaping methods, and shows the spiritual accomplishment and ideal pursuit of the police with the life-like and differentiated individual experience.

5. CONCLUSION

The drama "Trident" reveals the development and changes of the times from the perspective of ordinary policemen, and praises the hero with through stories of ordinary people. Under the context of the current context, the play carries forward the theme and delivers positive energy. Through the narration from the mainstream perspective, the play deeply reveals the inner spiritual connotation of the police team. Therefore, this work not only focuses on "Trident" and the surrounding young police, but also depicts the whole police force. As a matter of fact, "Trident", based on the theme of police, realizes the creative intention of super-wide angle and broad vision. With the help of the multi-scene connection between workplace and family, the charm of the industry and the emotion are shown, the living conditions of ordinary people are depicted, and the Chinese-style relationship and Chinese character are displayed. Thus, the value of the work is sublimated and the empathy of more groups is triggered.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Yan Tian wrote the manuscript, and Zongsheng Yue contributed to revising and editing.

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