



WEEK 7 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: DISORDER¹

Dir. Huang Weikai (T/F 2010)

- Considering the film's title of Disorder, how does the name speak to the thematic elements depicted in the scenes throughout the film?
- To piggyback off of the previous question, do you feel that the film has taken a particular stance for, or against urbanization in Chinese society?
- Given the film's many scenes that depict humans coping with animals in an otherwise urban environment, do you get a sense that part of the film's argument is the struggle to maintain an ecological hierarchy, where humans hold the power in city centers? Or, does it seem as if wildlife is fighting back and trying to regain what is rightfully theirs?
- How does this film work to subvert narrative expectations? Is there a "story" here? Or is it grounded in a more experiential kind of viewing?
- Background context: This film is comprised of amateur footage shot by various journalists and videographers around China, and then compiled by the director from over 1000 hours of footage. His only rule was that no two sequences could come from the same source tape. Given this information, how does the editing and randomness of the scenes depicted present, in a way, a precursor, to the types of short social media driven viral videos of today? (To me, I think it feels a little bit like a chaotic Snapchat Story, or Instagram page.)
- Thinking further about the question above, editing is this film's main tool to propel us from one scene to another, however, the editing techniques being used, are not what we would call "classical style" editing. So, then, what is the film's editing grounded in? How is the director creating meaning, raising questions, and presenting his ideas about the scenes through the use of editing?
- Many of the scenes in the film depict a rather absurd representation of Chinese society, however, this absurdity isn't necessarily correlated to what we might think of as western absurdity, Kafka or magical realism. It's a film that is more about a commonplace daily effect of urbanization, and so then, does it seem like most of the characters in the film have come to accept a measure of the absurdity in their daily lives?

¹Discussion questions were created by Michael Coleman, Digital Storytelling and Film Studies Instructor, School of Visual Studies at the University of Missouri