

Hey Y'all!

Happy holidays! Happy Sunday! I hope everyone had an amazing week! I can't believe this is the last Cavalcade of 2021! I can't believe I have been sending out these movie reviews for going on three, now almost four calendar years! Thank you all very much for being part of the Movie Review Cavalcade! You all are awesome and amazing! In 2022 the Cavalcade will become more interactive and there should be plenty of other surprises and neat bonuses for all you Cavalcaders! And there are a lot of very interesting film reviews to look forward to! I have at least a few reviews currently piled up that I am looking forward to sending out to you guys soon!

Today's film was the most Christmas themed I could think of, I mean it really actually is a very fitting film to watch around Christmas time. Unfortunately, it is not that easy at the moment to watch for western audiences. You could try and [purchase a dvd](#) or try and see if any streaming services have put the film up to view, which I assume will happen soon enough, if the film is not already out there to view somewhere already!

As always links to the MRC Sign-Up Form, Cavalcade Archive, and Cavalcade Categories can be found below! And as always any feedback or recommendations or any thoughts is always welcome and awesome! On to the Cavalcade!

[*Ladies' Market*](#),* a film released in Hong Kong in late summer 2021, is a charming, bittersweet, and eye-mist inducing little tale (clocking in at only 87 minutes!) which takes place over just two consecutive days in Hong Kong. The film follows the trials and travails of an assorted group of characters who all are part of the seller side of that famed island city's "[Ladies' Market](#)," an open-air market that primarily caters to women's fashion and other cheap and disposable goods. One wonders, what will be the future of these kinds of street market vendors in a decade or two? What will be the future of the Cantonese language? And the [Cantonese film industry](#)? I suspect the makers of *Ladies' Market* had at least some of these questions on their minds when they were producing this film.

With all the tumult and upheaval that Hong Kong has faced over the last few years, that city of gleaming [skyscrapers](#) and [neon lights](#), *Ladies' Market* was a refreshing (and refreshingly apolitically political) reminder of who the vast majority of the people of Hong Kong are. They are service workers, packers, shippers, delivery providers, cooks, waiters, waitresses, housekeeping staff, and many other non-white collar workers whose collective efforts are what actually keep the city of Hong Kong functioning on a day-to-day basis.

Ladies' Market allows viewers a glimpse behind-the-scenes of the tourist trap like destination that the film is named after. It brings viewers into the lives of a motley cross-section of people who work and operate stalls within that bustling market. Into how they interact and argue with and care for each other and look after each other as these vendors and their compatriots form a

kind of set of ever-changing make-shift families on an as-needed basis. They are the young and old, the very young, and the very old, and at any given moment they are successful or unsuccessful, operating on the right side or the wrong side of the law, and with quirks, and vices, and schemes, and tragedies of all their own.

I don't really want to give away too much of the plot of this film. Because the filmmakers do a good job of unfurling to viewers this film's cast of characters and the environment they live in and concomitantly of unveiling the backstories of the main protagonists while also hooking the audience into the narrative at hand.

Basically, this film is about the innocence of childhood and how the recognition of that innocence (which was once part of all of us) can help bring redemption to people who have long since been caught up in the sordidness of this upside down world which we all inhabit. It's a mostly fast-paced tale that takes periodic rests to bathe in moments of awe-shucksness (lol). The thrust of the plot involves two separate major (yet on the whole harmless) crimes and two separate police investigations of those crimes, of which all four (crimes and investigations) are simultaneously occurring within the Ladies' Market and which intertwine with each other and bond the people involved in unexpected, vital, and life-affirming ways.

This is not a perfect film by any means, but overall it really is a sweetly enjoyable and well-told tale. There probably are many antecedents to this film in Hong Kong film-lore. But to a young person or someone mostly unfamiliar with the history of Hong Kong cinema this film is a refreshing take on what must be a well-trod genre.

If you can find this film online to view and you have an hour-and-a-half to spare, I would certainly recommend you watch it. You likely will be glad you did!

Well that's it for this week's Cavalcade! Happy holidays everyone! And a very happy new year as well! Hope everyone has an amazing week! As always any feedback or recommendations or any thoughts is always great and amazing! Much more next week and much more after that!

Peace Y'all!

-Nandhish

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*This is a link to a trailer of the Mandarin dub of this film. I believe the original audio is in Cantonese. The trailer features English subtitles. But if I was going to watch this film I would not watch the trailer or just watch a few seconds of it!