

Movie Review: The Ark of Mr. Chow (少年班)

By Ulvi Jafarli



For those familiar with mainland Chinese movies, one of the most popular genres is stories about young people. Naturally, they also very often focus on the tough life of a student.

There are now so many of these movies that it can feel repetitive and boring. However, The Ark of Mr. Chow (少年班) stands out. It is a daring and absurd comedy about misbehaving young geniuses.

I am not a smart person. Ever since I was a kid, I have known that my IQ isn't actually that bad. It might be slightly higher than the average person. But my mother has always wanted me to be one in a million. Every time I fail her, I feel like a complete idiot. I would actually be a perfectly happy average kid. Yet, I was sent to be raised among wolves. These young geniuses are their own little pack of wolves.

The "Shao Nian Ban" was a program begun in mainland China in 1978. The brightest kids were recruited from different provinces to start at a university before they were even 15. In the movie, Teacher Chow (Sun Honglei) travels across China to find gifted kids. After his first trip, he decided to recruit the following 5 kids:

Fung Ho-cheung (Li Jiaqi), an eleven-year-old genius kid, he recognizes his smartness and has the most confidence. Mike (Wang Yuxin), a reckless drop-out from school. He is one the aggressive among the recruited kids. Dafa (Liu Xilong), a strange and naughty kid, amazes everyone in town. Cho Lan (Zhou Dongyu), is a pretty girl who thinks that no one can fool her. She has a crush on Mike, however, Mike likes Elaine. Way (Dong Zijian), a rather average-seeming boy who has been pushed to the head of the class by his ambitious mother.

On the first day of the school, the boys quickly develop a crush on the beautiful and pretty dance student Elaine (Cici Wang). But teacher Chow's main goal is to prepare kids for an international mathematics competition. The recruited kids fail to follow teacher Chow's plan.

The comedic part of the movie starts when Dafa brings a horse to campus and invites Elaine to ride it. Also, Mike and the other boys are not welcomed by their seniors, and battles soon break out.

The movie is filled with mischief and surprises. If you are feeling like school life is tedious and boring, maybe this movie can shock and delight you.

Unlocking the Food City of Shunde

By Daisy Xia

It is now the middle of the semester. Many of us have just finished the finals of our first quarter or module of courses. Now that the first grueling exams of the semester have passed, it is time to unwind. The best way to relax is to find delicious food, enjoy the great weather of southern China in autumn, and stay within your budget!

How about to trip to nearby Shunde?

Like most people, my journey to Shunde food started with the documentary "A Bite of Shunde" (寻味顺德). There is a saying that goes "food in Guangzhou, kitchen in Fengcheng (a former name of Shunde)". The status and reputation of Shunde food in Cantonese cuisine has no comparison.

If you are interested in a gastronomical adventure in Guangdong province, Shunde is a place you must go. Amazingly, this food paradise is only 2-3 hours away!

We arrived at this small restaurant at noon. There was already a long line at the door, showing its popularity. Although it was very hot, we joined the queue. The boss was very enthusiastic and nice and the wait time was not very long.

The clay pot rice can have one or two toppings. The most popular one is the three-flavored beef nest egg rice bowl. The egg is added separately. It is delicious from the very first bite, and the clay pot keeps the food hot and fresh. The price is also very fair, only 40yuan. This store is really worth recommending

Double Skin Milk



After several improvements we have today's double skin milk. It is a sweet snack with a consistency somewhere between light yogurt and pudding. It is now famous throughout China!

Fried milk should be spread throughout Guangdong. The outside is crisp and tender, and it looks super delicious! It is a must try when you are enjoying the famous double-skin milk.

Shunde is the birthplace of double skin milk. According to a legend, an older woman wished to store unsold milk. In one experiment she boiled the milk and found a skin formed on the milk after cooling it down. The skin was surprisingly delicious.

Rice Hot Pot



Do you think you have tried all the ways rice can be prepared? If you have never made a trip to Shunde, you are in for a great surprise. One specialty of Shunde is the rice hotpot. Inside the pot is a thick and rich broth that is made from simmering seafood and other meat. It is like a hearty and heart-warming bowl of love.

If you just finished with a stressful period of exams or long nights in the lab, this hotpot is going to bring so much comfort and happiness.

Tasting food during travel is always full of surprises and it is the most interesting part of the trip. I hope that people who love food will always have a good appetite. It is a bit of joy to eat!

How to get there:

Method 1: Take the high-speed train from Shenzhen North Railway Station (深圳北) to Guangzhou South Railway Station (广州南), then take the city rail to Shunde. The ticket is about 90 yuan, and the journey takes less than 2 hours.

Method 2: Take the bus from the Shekou Bus Station or Longgang Long Distance Bus Station to Shunde (顺德). It will take around 2 to 3 hours and the ticket is 75 yuan per person.

Clay Pot Rice



Clay pot rice is so addictive! Clay pot rice is a traditional Cantonese dish. The term generally refers to rice with your choice of toppings. It is cooked in one pot, then drizzled with a flavorful sauce. There are many clay pot rice toppings such as pork ribs with black beans, Chinese sausages and preserved meat, minced beef and egg or salted fish, mushrooms with chicken, and even frog.

A perfectly cooked clay pot rice's flavor uses all of the ingredients with nicely crisped rice on the bottom of the pot. Cooking clay pot rice can be tricky. The chef must control the heat to ensure all the ingredients are cooked to perfection at the same time and avoid overly burned rice or undercooked meat.

Recommended Restaurant: 红星煲仔饭 30-40 RMB per person

International Students Attend Inaugural Internship Fair in Shenzhen

By Lewis D-G



On Saturday, 16 November, 2019, over 50 smartly dressed international students from Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School eagerly filled a bus destined for the First Overseas Students Internship Fair. The event is an initiative launched by the Nanshan Yuehai Sub-district Government Office, along with the Shenzhen Nanshan Southwind Social Work Service Center. It serves to encourage greater collaboration between Shenzhen's international student community and firms based in Shenzhen. International students from the Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS) and the School of Transnational Law (STL) where given the opportunity to meet with representatives from firms such as Baidu, Oppo, Tesla, Intercontinental Hotels, as well as 50 other firms either founded in Shenzhen or with a large presence in the area.

The event was held outdoors in Coastal City's SCC Building Square on a beautiful autumn afternoon. It began with a grand opening ceremony. Speeches from government representatives included Mr. Zhang Huawei, Nanshan District Standing Committee member and Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission, and Mrs. Yuan Li, Deputy Secretary of the Yuehai Party Work Committee. The speeches looked to emphasize the vital importance of closer collaboration between firms based in Shenzhen and Shenzhen's international student community. Attracting foreign students to Shenzhen and helping them integrate into Shenzhen's vibrant economy is an important priority for the local government.

Furthermore, Mr. David Plekenpol, Chief Strategy Officer of AAC Technologies, shared some of his insights from 15 years of working in China with the international students. He advised students to be "adaptable" and "dynamic", and offered powerful words of support: "If you are here today in Shenzhen, then you are in the right place," he said. At the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the internship fair swung into full motion with students eagerly and enthusiastically approaching the firms they were interested in. The sounds of polite salutations, inquiring conversations, and positive outcomes could be heard coming from all

1. Tailor your CV to a Chinese format

Did you know that resumes in China are tailored differently from conventional Western resumes? There are several differences between the structure of a Chinese CV and an American CV. For example, it is commonplace for a portrait photo to be present in the top right hand corner of the page. Therefore, it is recommended to ask your PKU classmates or other local friends to introduce you to the resume style.

2. Add firm representatives on WeChat

This one may seem strange to our international friends not familiar with China. However, as most communication is done via this app, it is much more conventional for recruiters to follow up with you via this app.



directions. Numerous resumes were being passed between hopeful students and curious firms as PKU students showed off their credentials. Moreover, the sentence "Can I add your WeChat?" seemed to be on constant repeat.

Jackson Collantes, 2nd Year Finance student at PHBS, spoke on his positive experience after the event, saying, "We got to know what kind of skills and profiles Chinese companies are currently looking for in students, so we can train ourselves better." Indeed, it was a learning experience for both companies and students. And everyone agreed this event is fulfilling a significant and growing need in Shenzhen. As Jackson put it, "I hope there will be more opportunities like this job fair in the future."

Swetha Aratipamula, Finance student expected to graduate this semester, followed up with a round of interviews at Dotwell, a major advertising firm, just a few days following the event. As she waits for a possible offer, she said, "This [internship fair] was really great. We don't know how to approach Chinese jobs." But because of the event, she said, "I got three company initiations. I have been here (Shenzhen) for three years and have never seen anything like the internship fair." There was great support for this event from local government, major firms, startups, and international students in Shenzhen. This inaugural event clearly provided momentum to have this internship fair grow and expand in the future. PKU Shenzhen International Affairs Coordinator, Nathan Faber, added, "Shenzhen has the whole world talking about it. It now attracts and cultivates international talent. The next step would be connecting the international talent to the most innovative and influential companies, especially for those companies who want to become global players." A Nanyan Observer piece would not be complete without senior students sharing some advice to future students. Therefore, we shall highlight some important things we observed. We hope future alumni can take advantage of them in the future.



3. Translate your CV

This may seem obvious but many of the attendee's wished they had done this looking back in hindsight. Translating your CV into Mandarin is a fantastic way to highlight your Chinese language skills, as well as increasing the likelihood of the HR departments reading your CV.

4. Opportunities exist everywhere

Obviously at these sorts of events, some stalls will be more popular than others. However, don't be scared to approach the firms you may not be too familiar with. For example, one company offered their international interns free Chinese classes! The point is that don't purely focused on internationally famous companies, as you may be more useful to firms with a less recognizable name.

5. Know some helpful Chinese phrases and pleasantries

If you're a HSK 5 or higher or a Chinese language superstar than you don't need to read this one, but for classmates without the strongest Mandarin skills, we would strongly recommend learning some general sentences. For example "我是北京大学深圳研究生院的研究生" or "很高兴认识您. 我们可以保持联系". Learning some small niceties signal to the potential employers that you not only respect their culture, but also shows that you are learning their language, arguably the most important skill for international students looking to forge a career in China.

Int'l Students Discover More of Nanshan, Shenzhen's Tech and Culture Hub

By Jackson Boyd



On Wednesday, October 23, 40 international students from Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School (PKUSZ), participated in a Discover Nanshan Event organized by the Nanshan District Foreign Affairs Office and carried out by the South Wind Social Work Service Center.

We boarded a bus in front of Building H just before 1pm to travel to our first destination, a tall office building in the illustrious Shenzhen Bay Eco-technology Park area of Shenzhen. I saw the Baidu Tower nearby as we arrived. Our first visit was to Royole Corporation's Shenzhen office. Royole primarily manufactures ultra-thin (0.01mm), flexible displays and sensors that can be used in a wide variety of applications, like automotive accessory controls, handheld devices, and even selfie sticks. They even partnered with Louis Vuitton to create a next-generation luxury handbag with a flexible screen. It was like walking into a toy store of the future, with all the impressive gadgets on open display. Our hosts graciously allowed us free access to all of the devices in sight. We reveled in the fun of playing with the VR headsets, flexible sensors, and flexible screens—and thankfully nothing broke in the process.

The next company visit was Apptronics Corporation. Just one step into their offices and everyone was immediately impressed by their gigantic, high-definition graphics displays. It was no surprise to discover that their specialty is laser projectors which are capable of amazing clarity. The entire lobby wall was one large screen playing a video of a simulated security program analyzing a virtual city. Our host highlighted this technology's superiority in security services, proudly mentioning their displays are used throughout China, including Tiananmen Square. Their projectors even lit up parts of the ancient Forbidden City for the Mid-Autumn Festival. The rest of the Apptronics Corporation visit was like a guided high-tech tour of a future home. We stopped in various showrooms, each demonstrating a different technology. I snuck off with a few friends to sit on a couch and stare at underwater immersive ocean scenes projected onto two walls and a ceiling. It felt like you are actually underwater while sitting on a couch. Somebody remarked that it would be cool to set something like this up in a PKU dorm room. The only thing that could tempt us off the couch was the theater in the next room. We were treated to a 3D film to showcase their high-end projectors which are used at over 10,000 movie theatres in China. That marked the end of our private industry visits, and it was on to the culture portion of the tour.

Our first culture stop was the Seaworld Culture and Arts Center, designed like a modern museum and built on the Shenzhen Bay. I enjoyed peering out across the bay towards the Shenzhen Bay Bridge and Hong Kong on the other side. Yuan Geng, founder of many businesses like Ping An Insurance and proclaimed to be the originator of the special economic zone model, apparently enjoyed the view as well. He's commemorated by a statue facing the bay outside the center in Yuan Geng Square. I

expected the building to house a museum but was surprised to find retailers inside. Granted, they were selling highbrow, high-cost design products and pieces of art, but it was an unfamiliar concept for me. Though we learned it is a multi-purpose space for retail, galleries, theatres, and restaurants. They have art and design exhibits, including a regular collaboration with London's Victoria & Albert Museum. We were able to walk through a free exhibit on the ancient Chinese architecture and engineering technique, Sun Mao, reinterpreted to create modern designs.

Our bus then meandered down some local neighborhood streets and dropped us off in front of the Shekou Sub-district Service Center and Shekou Management and Service Center for Expats (MSCE). We toured the first floor of the building, which has some resources available to the community, like laptops, an event room, a theatre, and English language learning aids. On the second floor, the Shekou MSCE provides important expat services like residence registration, law and visa consultation, legal advice, and even social activities like cultural events and language exchanges. This seems like a useful resource for expats because navigating China with limited language skills can be difficult without help. In his warm welcome speech, Deputy Director of Shekou Sub-district Office, Mr. Huang Hongfu said, "I hope you can stay and work in Shenzhen after graduation." The services provided at the center certainly will help people live and establish careers in Shenzhen. Mr. Huang and other staff members then gifted our group members with a nice tea set and joined us for snacks and espresso.

Our last visit was to the southern end of the Dasha River Ecological Corridor, the same river that flows through University Town. As I walked along the river, enjoying the light breeze and dimming evening light, I felt excited about the development happening along the river, which includes our campus. It was promising to see just how nice the landscape has been improved in this area. Can't wait for our campus to similarly complete its improvements along the river. We even got to see rowers along the river and visited the Hegret Rowing Club building.

We would like to thank the Nanshan District Foreign Affairs Office and South Wind Social Work Service Center once again for helping us 'Discover Nanshan'.
Comments from Participants

"I liked the part where we could interact with well-known companies, getting to know their product lines and collaborations. Also, it was nice to be welcomed by the Shekou service center."

- Li Hao Ying, Norway, PHBS exchange student

"I thought it was great initiative to get a close contact with the vibrant and dynamic technological sector of Shenzhen. I would also say that the best way to be fully integrated in a new culture is by exploring the city and establishing a network with local people which was exactly what the trip allowed us to do."

- Diogo Gouveia, Portugal, 1st Year Economics

"I felt like I learned a lot about the Nanshan District. Although I have been to the Shekou area a few times, I had no idea about the community center for expats or had ever entered a high rise office building dedicated to technology and innovation. I enjoyed the new experience."

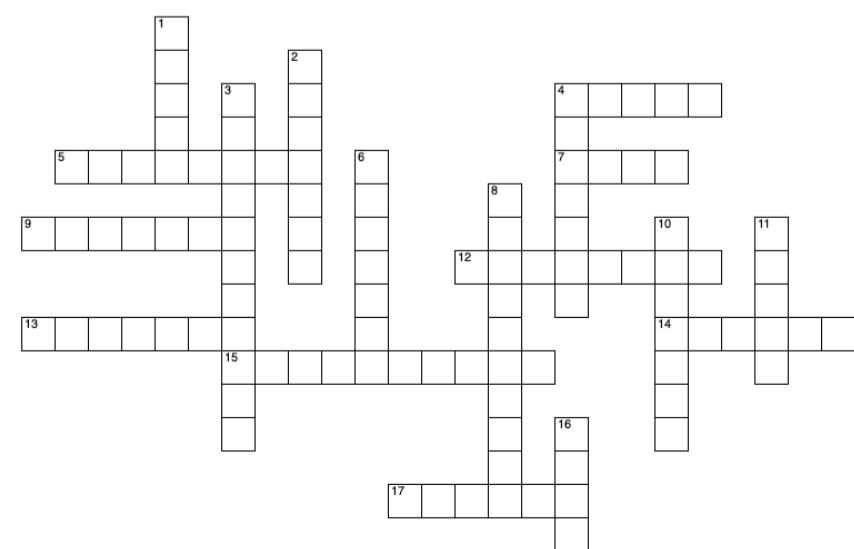
- Ann Tseng, USA, 2nd Year Finance



November Crossword

By Jackson Boyd

Send a picture of the completed crossword puzzle to thenanyan@gmail.com for a chance at a monthly prize!



CLUES

ACROSS

- ____ x 2 (Xi'An noodles)
- Chinese sunny day accessory
- Air _____, for budget flyers
- Like dumplings, but Italian
- Thanksgiving month
- Deepest sea trench
- 1984 author
- Men on U.S. currency
- Northernmost Asian country

DOWN

- Transparent coffee ingredient
- Study of time & money
- Artistic writing style
- British rock & roll pioneers
- Indian rice dish
- Chinese eating utensils
- African country within another country
- Coveted Scandinavian prize
- Be a _____, KTV opportunity

"A Sound Mind is in a Sound Body" Peking University Boxing Association is On the Way

By Mei Siyu

"A sound mind is in a sound body." These words were firstly spoken by former PKU president Mr. Cai Yuanpei as he addressed students of PKU. He clearly connects sport to a person's physique, spirit, and even the realm of life. His view suggests that any intentional or unintentional neglect of physical activity, like opposing sport for the singular pursuit of academics, is counterproductive and damaging. The comprehensive development of a person begins with training their body and mind.

We, the next generation of PKU graduates, regard sports as an instrument of self-development, to improve our student life through a sharp body and mind. The number of sports associations in PKU, 51, is a strong testament to the importance of the physical activity to students.

Boxing has been gaining popularity exponentially in recent years, not due to the idea of the vigorous competition, but as an effective method of exercise with astonishing results. Surprisingly, until last year we didn't have a boxing association. But now, in the Shenzhen PKU campus, students took it upon themselves to become trendsetters and set up the Peking University Boxing Association (PBA), a new association that would spread the good word and get students the good exercise boxing provides.

The founders of the association are PKUSZ students Li Yang (China) and August Rodermans (Netherlands). The PBA trains students from all major universities in University Town of Shenzhen (Besides PKU, also Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Shenzhen University, and Southern University of Science and Technology). They not only cross universities but also cultures, by connecting domestic and international students from all around the world.

Founded in the spring of 2019, the PBA has undergone rapid growth in the past half a year. The association started off with 36 members, one coach, and two trainings per week. Today, their membership has increased to an astonishing 110 students, and they now have four training sessions per week and six coaches.

Official Wechat public account: PKU BOXING

Interview with Li Yang, the president of PBA

The more I learned about PBA, the more I was intrigued and eager to discover more about this inspirational project. The best way to do so is to follow the crumbs, so I met with one of the founders and the current president Li Yang (Marco). He is the embodiment of the PKU school motto with his energetic spirit, talkative personality, and sporty physique.

When we started talking and I asked about the early beginnings of the project, he paused for a second and said, "I am a person who likes to tell stories. Let me tell you the story of the establishment of the PBA." And so he does:

"When I arrived in Shenzhen I felt extremely excited, and this feeling is still unfolding! I have to say that my life here has been a never-ending ride, and my thoughts are ushered in sublimation over the past year.

This year, I started doing sports regularly, including running, fitness, and my favorite - boxing. Every sport brought me more energy, but boxing gave me a different set of feelings. They are the courage of overcoming fear and self-confidence after being continuously challenged, which was also a big variable in my studies and life this year. The appeal of boxing wasn't the only factor attracting me to keep coming back to it, but also the idea to start promoting the sport for others so that more students can be charmed by the sport.

That's how we started the Peking University Boxing Association. In the following six months, we invested a lot of energy to make the association work properly in terms of structure, equipment, activities, and publicity."

That energy really shows. They were able to grow their membership through WeChat announcements, posters around campus, and speaking during international student orientation. They sought out new coaches at the beginning of the semester, even finding talented and experienced PKU students, and have planned well-attended activities like guest speakers.

The secret behind the success is rather simple: passion and care. As Li Yang explains, "Imagine you have a child; you will be delighted by its progress and frustrated by its setbacks. In any case, you still hope that it can continue to thrive, be self-sufficient, and to grow up into something extraordinary. I had many discussions with other student leaders whether it is worth it to dedicate your time to such a project. My answer is a definite yes. Our work is more about a feeling, a sense of responsibility. I started the boxing association with a strong passion. I just want to realize my little dream here: to help others and to promote the traditional spirit of China. Of course, I believe that my life journey has changed thanks to what I have learned from this project and the encouragement I have received from my peers that continues to motivate me."

The passion and enthusiasm in his words left me deeply impressed. Indeed, setting up a new association requires a lot of courage and effort. But, Li Yang also shows that if you want something you shouldn't give up. To the contrary, persist until it's not only a dream but the new reality. That is the true PKU spirit passed onto us and which we must continue to keep alive.



Guangzhou's Local "Goddesses": Meet GNZ48!

By Jiang Dongyuan



@ GNZ 48 Theater located in Zhongtai International Plaza, Guangzhou

GNZ48 is a Chinese pop-idol girl group formed in 2016 with their exclusive theater located in Tianhe, Guangzhou. "GNZ" is the abbreviation of "Guangzhou". However, "48" does not represent a membership of 48. The group currently has 57 members who are divided into three teams. Their regular performances are for the most part by each group in turn, and just 16 individuals can perform at each time.

Unlike other pop-stars who perform occasional concerts and appear primarily on television, GNZ48 has been built on the concept "idols you can meet." Besides weekly performances at their theater, the group also organizes "handshake" events where fans can meet members face to face. To participate, fans need to buy GNZ48's CDs wherein a handshake ticket is packaged. This turns out to be a successful business practice to promote CD selling and enlarge fandom. During handshake events, members can directly appeal to fans using their personality traits, and fans can talk to their favorite members expressing their affection.

Thanks to handshake events and the intensive performance schedule, GNZ48 has gained increasing popularity since its debut, but it is still somewhat marginalized in the entertainment industry. One major reason is that most members lack the talents generally expected from a pop-star. Although a candidate must go through a series of auditions to join the group, it is commonly believed that the main criterion is whether she has the potential to be adored by fans. Moreover, members receive very limited training before performing on stage. Some members cannot perform well, but nonetheless enjoy a lot of support, possibly due to their appearance and personality.

The strategy is not always well received. During their National Day performance in 2016, GNZ48 members sang "Me and My Motherland" (我和我的祖国). They were heavily criticized for singing out of tune, out of sync, and even forgetting the lyrics. One netizen likened their performance to a horrific car crash. After this "disaster," the group began to increase the intensity of training but the improvement, is not very impressive so far. The impressive thing is that "Me and My Motherland" has been featured in all their subsequent National Day performances since then.

Their regular performances also sometimes feature Cantonese songs, which attracts many local audiences and helps them get invited to perform at many local events. They aim to become a nationally recognized pop-idol group. They still have a long way to go.

Don't hesitate to meet them in Guangzhou. Their performance tickets are easily accessible at www.gnz48.com and the price is quite affordable — only 98 RMB for each. Handshake events are held monthly and detailed schedules can be found on GNZ48's official WeChat account and Weibo. Starting from now, add a new delight to your next trip to Guangzhou!