



美国经典电影赏析

Appreciation of American Classic Movies

主 编/马 琴

河北大学出版社

所选影片主要以美国电影协会评选出的百部经典电影为蓝本，以大学生的欣赏品位为编排依据。

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前 言

本书通过对美国具有代表性的 14 部电影所做的赏析,使我们看到了时代的动荡变迁是如何影响美国电影的内容与风格,而美国电影又怎样从各个侧面折射出美国社会的风貌、思潮和心理的,是怎样反映并传播着不断变化的美国价值观念和理想的。

电影既是社会和文化的重要见证,也是语言的艺术。从阅读本书的过程中,读者将领悟到丰富而真实的语言精华,从而调动他们学习语言的兴趣,提高其英语学习水平;另外,读者还会从一个全新的角度进一步理解和评价这些我们熟悉或不熟悉的影片。当然,电影及电影评论中的观点主要反映西方价值观,我们对此要注意鉴别。

与同类图书相比,本书具有以下特色:

- 以美国历史为脉络,品味电影艺术为起点,学习英语语言为目的,了解美国文化为宗旨,培养学生跨文化交际综合素质;
- 所选影片主要以美国电影协会评选出的百部经典电影为蓝本,以大学生的欣赏品味为编排依据,精选出 14 部电影;
- 全英文编写,适当加汉语注释,既适合大学生及英语爱好者作为学习参考资料,也可作为大学电影艺术专业双语教学的教材;
- 栏目新颖众多,图文并茂,每部电影为一个单元,均包括以下各部分内容: I. Background Information 背景介绍、II. Narration 故事简介、III. Scenes 精彩片断、IV. Cultural Notes 文化点滴、V. Commentary 影片评论、VI. Featuring 艺术特色、VII. Exercises 练习,以及 Vocabulary 单词表、References 参考资料。

本书各章作者：杨薇薇 Unit 8、陈曦 Unit 6、张莹 Unit 1/9、朱莹莹 Unit 10、马娜 Unit 5/6、李娜 3/4/13、高华 Unit 11、杨艳 Unit 2/12/14、张承承 Unit 7。主编马琴负责全书的整体策划，并参与了编写、统稿、校稿的全部过程。美籍教师 Mark Nickols 先生审阅了全部文稿。编辑臧燕阳先生为本书的编写出谋划策，在此表示感谢！

本书编写过程中，还得到了河北大学大学外语教研部主任温荣耀教授的大力支持，河北大学教育学院博士生导师傅松涛教授、华北电力大学外语系主任郭雷教授也曾给本人以极大鼓励，在此一并表示诚挚的谢意！

如有错谬，敬请指正。

马琴

2006 年 12 月 1 日

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Unit 1 The Scarlet Letter

Director: Roland Joffé

Starring: Demi Moore

Gary Oldman

Robert Duvall

Running time: 135 mins

Released: 1995

I. Background Information

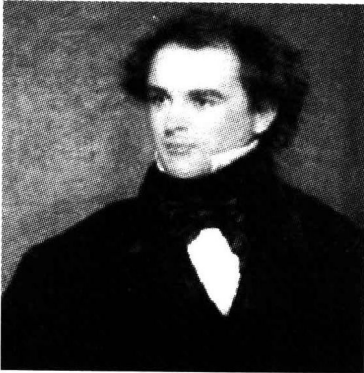
i. Historical background: America in 17th century

Many of the British North American colonies that eventually formed the United States of America were settled in the seventeenth century by men and women, who, in the face of European persecution(迫害), refused to compromise(妥协), passionately held religious convictions and fled Europe. The New England colonies, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were conceived and established “as plantations of religion”. Some settlers who arrived in these areas came for secular(世俗的, 非宗教的) motives— “to catch fish” as one New Englander put it—but the great majority left Europe to worship God in the way they believed to be correct. They enthusiastically supported the efforts of their leaders to create “a city on a hill” or a “holy experiment”, whose success would prove that God’s plan for his churches could be successfully realized in the American wilderness. Even colonies like Virginia, which were planned as commercial ventures, were led by entrepreneurs(企业家) who considered themselves “militant Protestants” and who worked diligently to promote the prosperity of the church.

The religious persecution that drove settlers from Europe to the British North American colonies sprang from the conviction held by Protestants and Catholics alike, that uniformity of religion must exist in any given society. This conviction rested on the belief that there was one true religion and that it was the duty of the civil authorities(当局) to impose it, forcibly(有力地) if necessary, in the interest of saving the souls of all citizens.

ii. Story source

The film is an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic novel about 17th century northeast America, complete with witchcraft, adultery, and the harsh realities of immigrant (and women's) life at the time.



Nathaniel Hawthorne has been recognized as one of America's most important writers. He was born in Massachusetts on July 4, 1804. After his father, ship's captain, died at sea in 1808, his mother then brought her son and two daughters to live with her family. In 1821 Hawthorne was accepted to Bowdoin College. He gradu-

ated in 1825.

Twelve years later, when *Twice-told Tales* was published with Hawthorne's name on the cover, he received much recognition from already well-established critics. In 1837 Hawthorne met Sophia Peabody, a frail amateur artist to whom he became engaged the following year. He left the Custom House in November 1840. Two years later, in July 1842, Hawthorne married Sophia and moved into the Old Manse in Concord. His daughter Una was born in 1844.

In April 1846, Hawthorne became Surveyor of the Salem Custom House and returned to his birthplace. There, anguished by his mother's death, he wrote *The Scarlet Letter*. Hawthorne moved to Berkshires in the spring of 1850, where he soon produced his second novel, *The House of the Seven Gables*.

Hawthorne's third child, Rose, was born in 1851. Then, Hawthorne was appointed Consul to Liverpool, serving from 1853 to 1857. When he

returned to Concord in 1860, his health was broken. He died on May 19, 1864.

iii. Document

The Mayflower Compact

Composed by William Bradford, Adopted November 11, 1620

In the name of God, Amen.

We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact (制定为法律), constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the 11 of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620.

“五月花号”公约

以上帝的名义,阿门。

我们这些签署人是蒙上帝保佑的大不列颠、法兰西和爱尔兰的国王——教会和信仰的捍卫者詹姆士国王陛下的忠顺臣民。为了上帝的

荣耀,为了增强基督教信仰,为了捍卫我们国王和国家的荣誉,我们漂洋过海,在弗吉尼亚北部开发第一个殖民地。我们在上帝面前共同立誓签约,自愿结为一个民众自治团体。为了使上述目的能得到更好地实施、维护和发展,将来不时依此而制定颁布的被认为是对于这个殖民地全体人民都最适合、最方便的法律、法规、条令、宪章和公职,我们都保证遵守和服从。据此于主后 1620 年 11 月 11 日,于英格兰、法兰西、爱尔兰第十八世国王暨苏格兰第五十四世国王詹姆士陛下在位之年,我们在科德角签名如下。

II. Narration

i. Characters

1. Hester Prynne: the main character of the novel. She is a young, strong, principled, and beautiful woman. Everything about her is oppressed by the Puritan life style. She clearly represents the vibrant(生气勃勃), unbridled womanhood set against a back drop of grim, shadowy puritans.
2. Arthur Dimmesdale: the young, handsome, and unmarried pastor of Hester's church. He is not only guilty of committing adultery but also of hiding his sin. However, he is ruined physically and mentally due to his secret.
3. Roger Chillingworth: Hester's old, cruel, and deformed husband. He shows his real cruelty by sending Hester alone to America from England with no way to fend for herself, and then abandoning her there for two years without even writing to her to tell her that he is alive.

ii. Synopsis

In 1666 Hester Prynne arrives in Puritan Boston to find a place for herself and her husband, Roger Prynne, who is to join her later. She meets

Dimmesdale, who is the minister, and is deeply moved by his passionate sermon. Soon Dimmesdale visits Hester; they become powerfully attracted to one another. Two young hearts begin to struggle against a love that is growing stronger with each passing day.

Word arrives that Roger Prynne has been killed in an Indian raid(袭击), and the last barrier between Hester and Dimmesdale vanishes. Hester becomes pregnant. She refuses to reveal who the father is, and the town fathers throw her in jail. After the birth of Pearl, she still does not admit her sin, and is forced to wear a scarlet letter A for punishment.

Roger Prynne appears under the name Roger Chillingworth, and discovers that Dimmesdale is Hester's lover. One night, Roger disguises(假装) himself as an Indian to murder Dimmesdale, but wrongly killed Wilson's son. This causes a great disturbance. Hester takes the terrible risk of reminding Dimmesdale to keep his silence.

Hester and four other women are framed as witches and are sentenced to death. Dimmesdale climbs to the scaffold and declares he is Hester's lover. At that critical moment, the Indians attack into the town, the prisoners to be hanged together with the Indians in jail are saved.

With their Pearl, Hester and Dimmesdale leave for Carolina to find the happiness that has eluded(困惑) them for so long.

III. Scenes

i. Landing on a new land

Mrs. Hibbon: Governor Bellingham, allow me to introduce a young woman who has been traveling with us. . . .

Hester: Mistress Hester Prynne. (*Extending her hand*)

Bellingham: I apologize for the coarseness of my hands, Mistress. But here in the colonies, everyone must work.

Hester: I look forward to the hard work, Governor. As we read in Psalm:
 “I will triumph in the works of thy hands.”

Wilson: Ah, thou canst quote the Scriptures.

Hester: Aye, Reverend. Both testaments, my husband taught me.

Belingham: You must rest, Reverend Cheever. And after I look forward to
 showing you what has been accomplished.

Mrs. Wilson: Welcome, Hester Prynne.

Hester: Wish I could have seen when first ones came when it was wild
 and untouched.

Wilson: Madam, you would do well here to use less lace in your dress-
 making.

Hester: Indeed. Reverend.

ii. Hester comes cross Arthur.

Hester: Oh, goodness! Back up, back up. All right, girl, come on, back
 up. . . .

Arthur: Good morrow! May I be of assistance?

Hester: Not from up there. Come on. Steady. Steady. There you go. Easy.
 Back up. Can't seem to make this horse understand me.

Arthur: Let me try. Come on girl, come on. Come on, back up! Come on
 girl, come on. I'm afraid you're in too deep, she'll not make it.
 Now let me try this. . . .

Hester: I do hope you can get it free; I'm already late for the service. And
 as it is, everyone is talking about me.

Arthur: I've been away and I'm quite behind on the local gossip.

Hester: I've bought the old Newberry place up on the Ballinger's Point.

Arthur: Then I owe you an apology. I've been trespassing. There's a place
 at the point where I like to bathe.

Hester: Really? Well I shan't charge too steep a tariff. Come on, girl. Back

up, oh, back up.

Arthur: One, two . . . two, three. I'm afraid this cart will be stuck here till Sabbath unless I can gather some hands to help. Would you care to ride with me?

Hester: On your horse with you?

Arthur: Aye, unless you can ride. . . .

Hester: I can ride.

Arthur: You take my horse and I'll take yours. There is a shorter cut to the meeting house, but it's difficult ground.

Hester: I shall manage, sir.

Arthur: Are you certain?

Hester: Just you lead the way.

iii. Hester is working by the sea, Arthur comes.

Arthur: Mistress Prynne?

Hester: Ah, Reverend Dimmesdale, you frightened me.

Arthur: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to.

Hester: No, it's a wonderful surprise.

Arthur: It's beautiful. (*Referring to the scene of sea*)

Hester: Ah, yes and frightening. Just as Eden must have been, so untouched. Does it not cry out with its promise that here everything can begin anew?

Arthur: I've brought back your books.

Hester: You couldn't have read them all in four days.

Arthur: I did, I did. I read most of them twice. Thank you.

Hester: You're welcome.

Arthur: Farewell, Hester, I'm not the man I seem, I've lived in this township my whole life, my purpose clear. But now I'd risk everything, my life, my ministry, my soul, just to spend a few moments

alone with you. God help me, Hester, I love thee.

Hester: God help me, I love thee too.

Arthur: Oh, God, have we lost our way?

Hester: No, I dreamed of thee speaking thy heart. I have prayed for it even if I have dreaded it. Was I alive before I laid my eyes on thee?

Arthur: What shall we do?

Hester: I know not.

Arthur: Say something to end it, for I, I have not the power.

Hester: Nor I.

Arthur: Nay! We could be hanged for this. I've put you in too much danger. And I must end it by walking away now and never speaking with you again.

Hester: Go then, do as you've promised.

iv. Arthur brought Hester the news of Prynne's death.

Arthur: Mistress Prynne, I'm here as your Minister.

Hester: Come in.

Arthur: There was an attack, an Indian attack on one of our ships. They said that all aboard were massacred. I regret to be the one to bring you this sad news. I'll leave you to your mourning.

Hester: Are you absolutely certain none survived?

Arthur: They say the tide washed away the bodies.

Hester: God forgive me. I've prayed for long to be set free.

Arthur: No, you didn't cause his death, Hester, God took your husband.

Hester: Yes, but was it an answer to my prayers? Does HE work like that?

Arthur: Perhaps if for in HIS eyes, there was no other way that we could be together.

Hester: I must know what the law is, the period of mourning. How long must one wait, one month, six months, what?

Arthur: In cases where there is no absolute proof of death, seven years must pass before we are free to be seen in public.

Hester: Oh, seven years!

Arthur: Aye.

v. Hester got pregnant.

Governor: Are you with a child, mistress? Answer your betters, woman! Do you carry a bastard child in your womb?

Hester: Yes.

Wilson: Who is the father? You are an innocent next to the one who would hide behind your skirts. We would hang that fornicator by the neck!

Hester: I will not reveal the name, sir.

Wilson: I will tell you his name! His name is Lucifer! His name is Lust! His name is Legion!

Wilson: Gentlemen, what do you hope to accomplish with this? You know very well there is no law against pregnancy.

Governor: But there is against adultery.

Wilson: It would only be adultery if her husband were proved to be alive. . . .

Governor: We can incarcerate her under adultery and the meetings will stop.

Arthur: Governor, if you knew the name of this man, would you still place Hester Prynne behind bars?

Governor: Has she confessed the name to you, Arthur?

Hester: I've confessed nothing to Reverend Dimmesdale.

Wilson: What is the troth?

Hester: He knows nothing of my personal affairs.

Governor: Give us the troth!

Hester: He speaks as my pastor to spare me your harsh hand, but I fear not your punishments! I love and honor the man who has fathered this child! And say what you will, he is my true husband for life. And I shall furnish you with no information which might cause him harm!

Governor: Very well, mistress. You leave me no choice, you are under arrest.

vi. Hester is taken to the scaffold.

Governor: Hester Prynne, though you show no modesty in your apparel, yet you have a chance still to repent your sins!

Governor: Child, do you not believe that you have sinned?

Hester: I believe I have sinned in your eyes, but who's to know if God shares your views?

Governor: Woman, transgress not against the limits of Heaven's mercy! Good master Dimmesdale, you are her pastor, speak to her for all our sakes, soften her, her hardness, her obstinacy.

Wilson: Speak to the woman, my brother. Exalt her to confess the truth!

Arthur: Hester Prynne, you hear what these good men say, and you can see the accountability under which I labor. For your soul's peace, I charge thee, speak out the name of your fellow sinner. Be not silent from some mistaken pity or tenderness for him. For believe me, if he could step down from a high place and stand there beside you on your pedestal of shame, it would be better than to carry a guilty heart through life. What can your silence do for him except to tempt him? Compel him as it were, to add hypocrisy to sin. Speak. She will not speak.