

Are American Remakes of Asian Films Actually a Good Idea? The Simple Answer is No.

BY LYNDESEY CHENG

AMERICAN REMAKES OF ASIAN films create controversy, and it's always a bad idea. The amount of film remakes produced by Hollywood that originated from Asian countries are uncountable.

There are a majority of American remakes of Asian films that range from horror to romance and majority of the time, they are not good and done poorly. The audience may have a misconception of the story from the remake if they haven't seen the original which can be bad for the films.

Hollywood has had a reputation of recreating Asian films that have been successful. They show no originality and creativity in their own films, so they decide to remake ones that already exist in a different language. This is done to appeal to American audiences, so they're interested in the film. According to Caroline Hinds, she states, "I say 'white audiences' because it can't be denied that from the casting and dialogue to the stories and even costuming, the experiences of white people take precedence on screen in Hollywood." This is fairly true in many, many cases when it comes to the film industry.

Rina Cheng, who is a Hmong American, sees the issues. She says, "They're remaking Asian films because of how popular the film was. I feel like American people will do anything to make themselves out there and put their names out there. There's not much diver-

sity in American films so why remake an Asian film into an American film?" For example, there is *Oldboy*, which originated in South Korea and has been turned into an American remake. There have also been American remakes of *The Grudge* from Japan, and *Infernal Affairs* from Hong Kong. These films were already hits in their own country, but America decided it would be a good idea to remake the story.

America dismisses the cultural meaning behind Asian films. Learning that one of my favorite films, *Train to Busan* has a remake in the works, confused me. How would Hollywood be able to reproduce such a masterpiece? During the Korean War, refugees escaped to Busan as it was a safe place; in the film itself, survivors are trying to escape to Busan from the zombies. This leads to cultural appropriation and can be flat out racist and disrespectful.

American remakes could give publicity and popularity to the original Asian version, but it could be bad for them. Some people wouldn't even know that there was an original. Or, if they've seen the American version and thought it was bad, wouldn't it be bad for the Asian version as well as it was the original? Yes, there could be a possibility. The Asian film may not be as appealing to watch.

There could be a lack of credit given to the writers, the cast, the producers, and directors. It's already a struggle for Asians to get representation in the film

industry. The language may be a barrier for American audiences, so Hollywood decides to make a remake to appeal to them. As Bong Joon-Ho, a South Korean director says, "Once you overcome the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films." America should stop recreating Asian films to appeal to American audiences. They should focus on brainstorming their own ideas instead of taking one that's already been done. That's probably why there are so many sequels to the Halloween franchise as it's the same thing over and over while Asian films have originality.

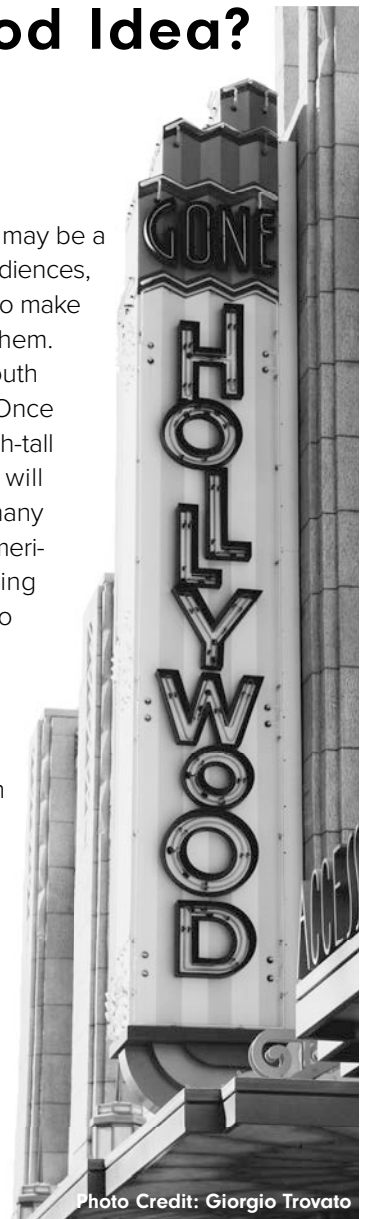


Photo Credit: Giorgio Trovato

Elon Musk's Twitter Fiasco

BY DEVIN GRAY

WHENEVER YOU THINK OF Twitter, you think of terms like "free speech" because you can get away with a lot on the platform. However, at a certain point, billionaire Elon Musk decided that the free speech given wasn't free enough and decided to change that.

Recently the owner of the famous company "Tesla," Elon Musk, decided to buy Twitter after much legal trouble. In April of this year, he closed the deal to buy the influential social media platform for \$44 billion. Many thought this was a questionable move financially as Tesla stock would need to continue to increase at the rate it is going for this move to even be considered somewhat smart. He attempted to back out for months but because of many legal complications, he had no other choice but to accept the deal. After tak-

ing ownership of the platform he immediately started firing top executives and even low-level employees, causing outrage. Overall he said he plans on "bringing back" free speech, and has proven to shake up the business model of Twitter. One such way is by readmitting the 44th president of the United States, Donald Trump.

When Elon said he was bringing back free speech, many expected the outcome to be his admirers and trolls flocking to be platform. Beforehand, hate speech and any other vulgar racism was condemned almost instantly on the platform, rightfully so. While Elon may not have intended to awaken that side of Twitter from the dead, those were the unfortunate results of his actions. Many pages that were banned previously were brought back and they are now getting away with things they were previously banned for. Many racial slurs are skyrocketing in usage, like the hard 'R.' In addition, blatant homophobia, flat-out hate speech, and very offensive memes flood the timelines of Twitter pages worldwide. Because of this and many other preconceived notions of Elon Musk and his fans, many users considered moving away from the platform and pursuing different social media such as Instagram and Tumblr.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. His so-called "free speech" is behind a paywall. Ironic, considering how much he paid for the platform. During a press conference to explain what he plans on doing with Twitter, he is advertising a subscription called "Twitter Blue." This subscription is an upgrade from the previous subscription. In this purchase, you are immediately verified and it is advertised that you can say whatever you want with this check mark next to your name. For the folks already verified, they will have to pay eight dollars in order to keep the verification. Musk states that with this verification your tweets, replies, and any type of media will go in priority in comparison to non-verified users in the scrolling algorithm. And as someone who watches YouTube from time to time, that sounds an awful lot like shadow banning. As he makes these statements, he goes onto the platform and makes jokes about not only the payment plan, but also many other issues on the platform as if he himself is not solely responsible.

This is just gonna go on the long list of questionable things Elon Musk has done. But, hey, with someone with that much money, the only thing you can do is just sit back and watch the madness.

