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By Shaqayegh Habibi

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“Ne Zha 2” (2021) is one of the standout works in Chinese animation cinema, serving as a sequel to the successful “Ne Zha” (2019). Directed by Jiaozi and produced by Yu Yang Luo, it was released in Chinese cinemas in 2021. Like the first film, “Ne Zha 2” is based on Chinese mythological characters and classic Chinese stories, but this time, the narrative is more complex, with even more visually stunning effects.

Story of the Film:

“Ne Zha 2” follows the continuation of the struggles of the main character, Ne Zha. In the first film, Ne Zha, a character from Chinese mythology, tried to escape his doomed fate and eventually became a hero who fought against demonic creatures. In “Ne Zha 2”, the story becomes more complex, and Ne Zha, as a hero dealing with forces beyond his human capabilities, faces even greater and more intricate threats.

In this sequel, Ne Zha must confront new challenges, including battling new enemies, fighting with himself, and accepting the responsibilities placed upon him. New characters are introduced in this version, helping to move the story forward and creating conflicts that display the increasing complexity of the narrative.

Comparison with the First Film:

While “Ne Zha” (2019) achieved significant success in its early steps and introduced a new world of Chinese animation, “Ne Zha 2” (2021) can be seen as an evolved work. Due to technical advancements, a deeper and more intricate storyline, and the introduction of new characters, this sequel gives the audience the feeling that it has moved beyond a simple heroic story into a much larger world.

Additionally, the second version places more emphasis on character relationships and their internal struggles. While external battles and threats dominated the first film, the sequel highlights internal conflicts of the characters and philosophical questions about fate,

freedom, and human responsibility.

Style of Animation:

One of the prominent features of “Ne Zha 2” is its use of advanced animation techniques and visual effects. This film has significantly improved compared to the first version, offering incredibly realistic and visually captivating animations. In this film, 3D animation techniques are seamlessly integrated with special effects to bring the film's fantastical and mythological world to life in a dynamic and exciting way.

The film provides the audience with an immersive experience of a world full of superpowers and mythical creatures, thanks to the artistically used colors, fluid character movements, and its vast, detailed world. Furthermore, the design of the characters, especially Ne Zha and other important figures in the film, is done incredibly well, making them both accurate and visually captivating.

Music and Sound Design:

The music of “Ne Zha 2” plays an essential role in conveying the emotions and atmosphere of the film. The soundtrack, blending traditional Chinese instruments with Western orchestras, successfully creates an exciting yet emotional atmosphere that significantly enhances the depth of the story. The precise sound design of the characters and sound effects also adds to the film's appeal.

Success of the Film:

Just as the first “Ne Zha” film was well received in China and worldwide, “Ne Zha 2” has achieved similar success at the box office and with critics. The film has earned a top spot in the Chinese box office and has become one of the highest-grossing Chinese animations. Moreover, its success at international festivals has made China a prominent player in the global animation scene.