

From 1921 to 2021: Look Back at the History and Keep Striving

By Lin Shujie, Gou Wen

In recent days, a film viewing activity with the theme of "Retrace Their Footsteps from 1921 to 2021 through Their Stories" was held in Ningbo. Among participants, not only were there enterprise representatives, but also international friends, including foreign actors.

A Period of Fight for Ideals

The film *1921* tells the story of the first batch of Chinese Communists who took up the important task of saving the nation from subjugation and striving for their beliefs and ideals in difficult days.

The Shanghai City in 1921 had many foreign concessions and the situation was tense. Thirteen enthusiastic young people from all over the country, with an average age of only 28, set out from the plight of national crisis and turned their youth ideal into a belief of saving the country and the people and seeking truth.

Belleri, Vice General Manager of Ningbo Melan Foreign Trades Service Company, described this film as great and remarkable. "The film brilliantly depicts a period of history in just two hours," he said, "It is a reflection of what the people thought at that time and also what they think today, as well as how they recognize their history."

A Meaningful Film Watching Activity

After watching the film, Er-



Jon and Isidro are playing musical instruments together.

[Photo provided to *Ningbo Times*]

dem Ozturk, who has lived in Ningbo for eight years shared his feeling. From his experiences in Beilun, he concluded that the place is developing rapidly and people's life is getting better. Moreover, he visited the Red Boat in Jiaying, "I was touched by the Red Boat, because this is where the party members started their 'journey'," he said.

Belleri, who has already lived and worked in Ningbo for

almost twenty years, also watched the film. As he said, the city has undergone tremendous changes during that time. He put extra emphasis on the power of the people, saying "what really amazing is how people here is united, working altogether toward the same direction. This is really how these changes took place in such very short time."

He expressed his sincere wishes on the centenary of the

founding of the Communist Party of China. "This is a wonderful celebration. It means that people in China really believe that the founding of the CPC is a great starting point that helps them free up from colonialism and many other problems. It is essential that the CPC continuing adapting and promoting, striving for the well-being of the domestic people as well as a bigger role on the international stage." He also praised China's role in international affairs, "China has helped many countries in the COVID-19 pandemic, including my country, Italy," he said.

An Unforgettable Experience Acting in the Film *1921*

Foreign actors Isidro and Jon, who casted in the film, are now living in Ningbo. At the scene, they played *the Internationale* with musical instruments.

Isidro, a clarinetist, and Jon, an accordion player, sometimes play on the Old Bund of Ningbo, and they joked that if people visited Old Bund, they might recognize them.

This film acting experience was unforgettable for Jon, as he said that the other actors were friendly. In the film, people can also see him playing the accordion.

Isidro said that he felt very proud to be part of the movie. "Because I am living in China and I know this film is really important for the history and the future of China. So acting in there is something to be proud of myself and be happy about it."

Isidro has been staying in Ningbo for around two years and a half. He said he really like the city. Initially, Isidro planned to work in Ningbo for only one year, but after arriving here, he found Ningbo a good place to live and he has made many valuable friendships here.

When asked about his happiest memory in Ningbo, Isidro believed it was playing clarinet on the Old Bund. "When the weather is good, I like to go there. I can perform some Chinese music. Some people would come and talk to me and I heard a lot of interesting stories."



A poster of the movie *1921*.

[Photo provided to *Ningbo Times*]

SPOTLIGHT

Qixi Festival—Enjoy Romance with Your Love

By Dong Na

Tomorrow is Qixi Festival, widely regarded as China's Valentine's Day.

Legend has it that the youngest daughter of the Jade Emperor (the ruler of the heaven as per the legend), the Weaver Girl, became tired of the boring immortal life and decided to descend to the mortal world. She met and fell in love with a cowherd, a union strongly objected by the Jade Emperor who in turn forcibly separated them by the Milky Way. The distance did not weaken their affection toward one another, as they still loved each other and looked forward to meeting once a year on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

In Ningbo, with Qixi approaching, the festive atmosphere begins to get more momentum. Jewelry, catering, cosmetics and other industries have launched related promotional activities. These days, the sales of gold, silver, jewelry, chocolates and other holiday gifts have increased significantly, meanwhile, bookings for flowers and restaurants are rising as well. Said a florist, judging from online bookings, white rose and blue rose, also nick-named blue enchantress, will be among hot sales, while the red rose will still be the best seller, and the turnover of his shop is expected to exceed 100,000 yuan this year.

Many fresh produce e-commerce platforms also joined to sell flowers, such as Dingdong

Maicai, which launched its flower services in last November. According to the person in charge, their main product for this year's Qixi festival is a gift bouquet of 11 red roses, and the overall sales are expected to double compared to "520" period, taking into account both pre-sale and cash sale.

Besides, to celebrate a romantic festival, dining is equally important. In terms of dining, the 6 PM slot of many popular restaurants has been booked on the Qixi day, and other customers have to wait until after 7:30 PM to have a meal on that night.

Experts believe that giving gifts in Qixi Festival is an important way for couples to express themselves. Further coupled with major shopping mall and e-



Girls are embroidering handicrafts to welcome Qixi.

[Photo provided to *Ningbo Times*]

commerce promotions, it is expected that the sales of gold, silver, jewelry, cosmetics and others will skyrocket during the Qixi Festival. In addition, as the travel

and movie-watching activities are limited due to the impact of the epidemic, the consumption of the catering industry may be further improved than in previous years.

INFO&TIPS

Xiangshan Steamed Buns Prove Popular in Ningbo

By Jin Lu

The Huangjiaqiao Bun House, a famous restaurant, has opened its first eatery in the urban area of Ningbo recently. With its traditional snacks, such as steamed buns and soybean milk, Huangjiaqiao has long been a great local success in its hometown — Xiangshan County. Now, these delicacies are hitting the streets of Ningbo City and capturing local taste buds.

The newly opened restaurant is located at the urban district of Ningbo Eastern New City. In the past week, the restaurant has received an order every two minutes during busy hours.

"It is amazing to find a Huangjiaqiao eatery near my apartment in Ningbo. The food here tastes just the same as in Xiangshan," said Ms. Yu, who was born in the county.

"When I was in Xiangshan, customers from Ningbo placed orders online. Over the past few years, we have accumulated great customer base and goodwill. That's why I opened a shop here," Lu Xingzi, the owner of the Huangjiaqiao Bun House in Ningbo, said that they did not spend much on advertising for the opening of the shop, and the food spoke for themselves.

To create a clean and brightly-lit environment, Lu Xinzi designed an open kitchen in his restaurant. "When the customers can see the cooking process, it puts them at ease over food safety," said Lu.

The restaurant opens at 7 AM, Lu has to start the preparation at 5 AM everyday. "In my hometown, steamed buns are just breakfast," Lu explained, "But in Ningbo, people also take them for lunch, and our restaurant can stay open until 1 PM."

For the next step, Lu and his family have their own plans. "We still hope to expand. For example, we can build a supply chain from processing to sales in the future, and even sell frozen buns in supermarkets."

Chief Adviser: Zhou Fangzhou
Proofreader: Dong Na

