

*The Perspective of a Student Film: Using Experimental Techniques to Edit Frames  
in a Repeated Array*

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**Abstract**

This article discusses a story of heartbreak, produced from the perspective of a student film, inspired by philosopher Barthes Roland's book "A Lover's Discourse". Much like a prince choosing a favorite consort, or a jacket seeking its model, it takes same sex love and dialect, putting on the appearance of jealousy, soliloquy, yearning, and attachment in succession. Just like in love, relationships go through a repeated cycle of dialectical validation; using experimental techniques to edit frames in a repeated array, and conveying mood through monologue and repetition of words, this film is distinct from the typical storytelling methods employed by college film students. Repetition is a very important subject in human ideology; the relationship between one person to another is like that of the galaxies; perhaps yesterday he was your sun, your moon, yet one day in the future, you may grow out of reach from one another other's orbit, like the lonely and faraway Pluto. Thus, this film's name is: Calling Pluto- Echo Each Other.

Keywords: Experimental Film, Student Film, Repetition, Dialectic

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## Introduction

Most of the students' work from researchers' university and other relevant departments of film and media are scripting writing film and narrative story as it is more attractive to the majority of the audience. And the reason that students do not choose to make experimental film is that it is difficult to get the recognition from their professors. However, the researchers, the film-making team, find that the communication between people is constantly and randomly arranged and it is difficult to get a complete story. Just like our film, we repeatedly arrange the video clips through an experimental approach. We edit the clip and rearrange it and to make use of the waste material of the image to reconstruct the film. There is no conventional story plot but an experiment of audio and visual language. We adopted an unconventional approach with rhythmic jumping editing style and camera panning to film the movie as well as placing emphasis on the subjectivity of the characters to present the idea of the movie. Repetition is a very important subject in human ideology; which is also a very important theme in this film. The relationship between the two main characters in this film is like that of the galaxies; perhaps yesterday he was your sun, your moon, yet one day in the future, you may grow out of reach from one another other's orbit, like the lonely and faraway Pluto. Thus, this film's name is: Calling Pluto- Echo Each Other (Figure 1. Still of the film).



Figure 1: Still of the film.

## Literature Review and Background of the Study

According to relevant local and overseas researches, they show that the type of movie poses great impact on box office, which implies that the movie genre is one of the important factors to audience. In the book of the scholar, Livingstone(1994) integrates the film classification by different scholars and divides the film genres into 14 categories: action-adventure, biopic, comedy, detective films, gangster films, suspense thrillers, epics and spectacles, horror, science fiction, musicals, social problem films, teen pics, war films, westerns, in which these genres are based on conventional narrative story. As stated in the previous chapter, our team produce an anti-plot romance story in the eyes of students to present different ways of interaction between a couple. Different response will create different results. When these things happen, how should the couple response? Two essential elements adopted in the movie are “repetition” and “dialectic”.

" Repetition " is an important issue in Western Philosophy and Humanistic Thought. In the books of Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (Kierkegaard, 2000), he treats repetition as a single field to study. While in the book of Nietzsche, Eternal return, he states repetition as a profound reflection. He thinks that no matter how you experience the same thing endlessly, the start and the end will not be the same because each repetition is not manufacturing a template and applying the same but to have some variations in every time of repetition. This movie makes use of scattered clips to show repeated scenes in repeated interpretation. Though the repeated scenes look like the same or similar, but each time the performed scene is unique without duplication (or duplication does not exist in the word). When emotion and romance come in life for the first time, and if we perform the scene with our own thought in mind, this may reflect your emotion to your ex-lover and show your repeated dialectic to anger, or this can be the repetition and practice to your life. Every rehearsal is dialectic and it helps us to move forward.

The word "dialectic" comes from classical philosophy. It represents a state of development with continued debate. For example, someone consider an issue with an "affirmative" view, and the opposite side confronts to it, they need to seek a commonly agreed point from both distinctive sides in the debating process in order to solve the contradiction. The commonly agreed point will become the idea of affirmative side; therefore, the truth is obtained at different time. In this film, there is no start or end with continued and repeated communication and proof to present the mental state of emotion.

The story is the critical element to a movie success, and the source of content worth our attention. There are lots of screenplay come from adaptation in the commercial market, and so do the students' work. We hope that student production can get rid of the industry burden to make use of their innovation to film the original movie, that's why our team creates the unique screenplay. Making a film with experimental approach to jump and repeat and rearrange the images and clips to present the mental state of people may not be the mainstream, the followings are the basic information of the movie.

#### Background of the Study

Genre:	Experimental film
Subject of the film:	To present the mental state of emotion, there is no start or end with continued and repeated communication and proof.
Film restrictions:	Student production, it does not consider the budget or the commercial box office. Perhaps it is difficult to attract audience.
Convey objects:	The people who have break-up experience, during and after break-up. The people (who are born in late-70s) who have resonance to late-90s culture.

### Photography and Editing Style:

The transition process will use match cut, each clip will show an independent and complete idea, for example to present a movement, a relevant relationship or an underlying meaning, etc. It is a complete narration, to edit under the basis of a similar or same character or object or movement. It can also be in different kinds of movements with similar movement, or it can be the same movement but they appear twice in different time (Figure 2. References of Photography and Editing Style).



Figure 2. References of Photography and Editing Style.

### Synopsis:

The short film depicts a pair of homosexual lovers who communicate using sign language. Though they cannot speak but they love and conflicts are much stronger than anyone else. The film abandoned the coherence of time and use fragmented structure to construct the story. The two actresses always have conflicts in daily little things. They are confused, pushing, and they fight, have silent cry, hold sign language and throw items. The reason of abandoning speaking dialogue and to use sign language and body language to communicate is to give an experience of silence communication to audience. The story bases on a separated couple who have conflict, debate and kiss every day. The relationship between human as if the galaxy. He might be your Sun and Moon yesterday, but in one day, he becomes the far-away and lonely Pluto that keeps a couple apart. But now the distant Pluto is proved to have the organic molecules for life on Earth. The time sets in 1999, the scattered mumbling starts the film.

Meng, with long hair, is chatting randomly in supermarket. She walks through the aisles, pick some products and put them back. She is wearing a tight shirt with a pair of ripped jeans and walking causally. It seems that she is telling the world that she is the cool girl of 90s with that unique style of clothes. Just like

the repeated dialectic in romance and relationship. When two separate, they become the Pluto of each other. They toss and turn and to have debate in their minds and hope there is a day that they can find the route back to their Pluto of each other. Meng comes back from the outside world and meets Meiqi when she is about to leave. Since then Meng begins to think about the time she got along with Meiqi. The memory with her is just like a fine dust that make people allergic to. The rehearsal begins in different setting, sometime in bed, in the kitchen, in the toilet, in the ballroom; sometimes they are having quarrel, chatting, speechless, jealous and suspicious to each other, sometimes it is real and sometimes it is fake. Meng is immersed into her spiritual world, thinking the scenes of breaking-up with different Meiqi, get back to her, debating and reconciliation. Just like the repeated arrangement of electronic music, it is rearranged to another new song occasionally. All in all, she just wants to find a clue in the chaos. It applies the same when we face the relationship, we need to face it without hesitation to understand it and tolerate it. In a relationship, every one regardless the gender and age, they have a soul that is lonely and unique and we are all find own planet (Figure 3. The characters-Meng and Meiqi, Figure 4. Still of the film).



Figure 3: The characters-Meng and Meiqi.



Figure 4: Still of the film

Music Style: The movie them song adopts the big beat.disco electronic dance music before 2000 BC to match the background of the film in 1999. The song arrangement will include more dream pop materials to present the concept of self-discussion in mind, just like in dream. And the major instruments are synthesizers and electronic drum.

## **Conclusion**

When the world is still appreciating and struggling on the homosexual issues, our short video adopts Lovelorn - Philosophy - Experimental image to display the fractured memory between a pair of homosexual couple who have already broken up. They start to deconstruct the time that they used to be together repeatedly, endlessly rehearsing the plots of conflicts, hugging, kissing and waiting. They both used to be the Sun, Moon, Mars and Mercury in the galaxy to each other, but one has left so soon out of expectation. They look forward to one day that they can find the lonely track to re-start the relationship. Or just to left some words saying “I think I have to go.” Digital video is the most relevant media with the public in this era. And also with this media that we have abundant of visual arts and works to appreciate and enjoy, which is the fun of learning film and media (French and Pooie, 2011). The graduation production not only is a collective memory, but also a chance to show your work to the world and present your ideas to the movie industry. The name of this experimental film is “Calling Pluto”. It presents the free and unique creation of a student without affecting by the industry or the norm, focusing on semiotics to rearrange the clips with an experimental approach, and to express emotion through monologue and repeated words. We hope that this kind of non-mainstream can arouse noise from student production, while at the time of making experimental movie; we have to embrace the center idea of the film.

The content credits to all of the laboratory members from Digital Content and Cultural Research Center, Kun Shan University. The photos are sourced from the crew.

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