Like Father, like Daughter
前世情人的情人

Synopsis

Wen-te, the hero of the film Foolish Bride, Naive Bridegroom, is now a widower. But he is still being harassed by his female neighbours who are trying to marry their son to his daughter Jo-tung. She lives with her girlfriend, but does not dare to tell her father. He finally discovers the truth about them. But he has a little secret himself.

Commentary

From the first image, Leong Siew Hong inscribes her film with her inspiration, Foolish Bride, by using the same comical opening credit style with a song and stop-motion animation. However, the film is not a contemporary remake of Xin Qi’s cheeky comedy, but a sequel! Wen-te, now old and a widower with one daughter to marry, is still the object of fascination for his female neighbours. Maybe they are even the same ones who tried to seduce him long ago...

Indeed, the story seems to repeat. Leong’s use of clips from the original film alternatives between flashbacks and contemporary broadcasts on television, with the contemporary scenes mimicking the old movie.

Being a strong girl and a weak boy madly in love against their parents’ wills, the original couple was daring back then. But what would could be provocative now? When Wen-te discovers his daughter has a girlfriend at a time of Taiwan’s legalisation of same-sex marriage, it can only lead to a happy ending.

The film, smartly using the footage from 1967, illustrates Taiwan’s shift from a conservative to an open and inclusive society. By kicking off Confucian values and advocating free love, taiyupian, and Foolish Bride in particular, may have paved the way to this freedom.