

WORLD FILM CLUB

世界電影俱樂部



BRAVE HEARTS

勇敢的心

DOROTHY SO finds the thread that links two very different films and two astonishing performances

蘇靖殷發現兩部截然不同的電影及兩位演技精湛的演員之間的共通點

There's a standout scene in *The Dark Horse* where protagonist Genesis Potini unveils a new chessboard. He likens the pieces on it to the members of a warrior family. It's a brief but pivotal moment that allows Potini – an outsider until this point of the film – to summon up his Maori heritage and give purpose to the displaced youths of his local community. They include his nephew, would-be gang member Mana (James Rolleston).

In the 1994 New Zealand classic *Once Were Warriors*, that same heritage was deployed as a bleak irony in a drama of alcoholism and domestic violence. In *The Dark Horse*, the warriors on the chessboard become a symbol of hope and transformation.

In real life, Potini, played in *The Dark Horse* by Cliff Curtis (above left and right) in a career-defining role, was a speed-chess savant who suffered from bipolar disorder. The film charts his rise as an unlikely hero; and like the 2010 box-office hit *Boy* (Rolleston's debut), the film discovers hope and even hilarity among the rubble of broken households.

It's a long way from New Zealand to the privileged life of a New York university professor. But the tag line

for *The Dark Horse* – 'bravery is contagious' – could just as easily have appeared on the posters for *Still Alice*. The theme of a brilliant woman struggling with the onset of Alzheimer's is not new – Judi Dench's *Iris* visited that lonely place in 2001. But medical science has moved on, bringing with it new and agonising ethical dilemmas. Julianne Moore's *Alice* (above) is accompanied by her children and unborn grandchildren, who have to choose whether to be tested for the familial Alzheimer's gene – and the consequences of finding out.

So here we have two films from different worlds linked by family, heredity and bravery and – from Cliff Curtis and Julianne Moore, two incredibly moving performances. ■

在《The Dark Horse》中，主角Genesis Potini打開全新棋盤的一幕，令人印象深刻。他將棋盤上的棋子比喻為武士家族的成員。這個關鍵的瞬間，讓當時仍屬局外人的Potini重拾毛利人傳統，為其社區中無家可歸的年輕人帶來生生意義，當中包括身陷罪惡邊緣的侄兒Mana (James Rolleston飾)。

1994年出品的紐西蘭經典之作《夕陽武士》是一部關於

酗酒及家庭暴力的電影，毛利人的傳統在片中卻成為尖刻諷刺的對象。另一邊廂，在電影《The Dark Horse》中，棋盤上的武士則象徵了希望和改變。

片中飾演Potini的Cliff Curtis (上圖左和右) 得到了讓他一夜成名的角色。現實生活中，他曾是紐西蘭的快棋對奕高手，卻身患躁鬱症。這部電影見證他憑藉偏鋒英雄的角色而冒起。《The Dark Horse》跟2010年票房大熱的《Boy》(Rolleston的首部電影) 有點相似，也是在破碎家庭的頹垣敗瓦中，尋找到希望甚至歡樂。

從毛利社區，到紐約大學教授的優越生活，兩者看起來似乎風馬牛不相及，可是《The Dark Horse》的宣傳口號「勇氣能感染他人」，卻也極適合用於《永遠的愛麗絲》的海報。傑出女性面對阿茲海默症並非新鮮的主題，由Judi Dench飾演女主角的《愛莉思的情書》，早於2001年就已經歷過那孤寂的境況。可是醫學發展一日千里，亦帶來前所未有的，而且令人痛苦的道德抉擇。Julianne Moore (上圖中) 飾演的Alice有兒有女，而且即將抱孫，但是她卻必須決定應否接受腦退化症的基因測試，還要面對測試的結果。

以上兩部電影風格南轅北轍，卻同樣以家庭、承傳及勇氣為主題。而Cliff Curtis及Julianne Moore亦為我們帶來了難得一見的動人演出。■



FOR DETAILS
電影詳情

THE DARK HORSE

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STILL ALICE
永遠的愛麗絲

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