

#Boycott Mulan 2020

By: Azure Platter

Recently Disney has been making live-action remakes of their classic animated movies. Movies such as Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, and most recently Mulan. Some of these have been hits, Beauty and the Beast and Cinderella, with both scoring in the mid-70s on Rotten Tomatoes. But with all things in life, these movies have been hits or misses, with the misses including Lady and the Tramp and Mulan 2020.

Mulan 1998, redefined what it meant to be a Disney Princess. She wasn't a damsel in distress like the princesses before her. She wasn't even an actual princess. But she was brave and strong and a role model for young Asian-American kids. It would make sense for Disney to want to cash in on their live-action remakes and the trend of diversity in film, with a live-action Mulan. Except Mulan 2020 failed, and it failed hard. With, just the base criticism being that they took out beloved character Mushu the dragon. But there is much more wrong with this film. So much that many people are calling for a boycott.



Many viewers of the movie criticized it for being "bland" and "another awful remake" on Metacritic. With no witty animal companions and no songs, this movie really doesn't keep pace with the original. There's not even a love interest! Which, usually seen as a good thing, has people begging to bring back Shang. Shang wasn't your typical Disney love interest. He loves Mulan for who she is, the warrior, the savior, the person who wouldn't let her injured father go to war, and instead risked her life to take his place. By doing this Shang became beloved, so to not have him in the movie disappointed fans immensely. Mulan 2020 also took out beloved character Mushu and all the songs, such as beloved *I'll Make a Man out of You*.

Those were issues with the movie, but there's a bigger problem here. A problem with Disney. Disney filmed the movie in the Xinjiang province of China, currently, Xinjiang's Muslim population, the majority being Turkic Uyghur, are being held in concentration camps. So is Disney saying they're okay with Xingjiang's treatment of their citizens? It seems like it, considering they kept Liu Yifei as the lead actress after she voiced her support of the Hong Kong police during the protests for democracy in Hong Kong. Disney even thanked the Xinjiang government for letting them film there.

Disney must've failed their marketing class, seeing as they missed two of the 9 factors of marketing. Risk Management was the biggest they missed, seeing as they didn't factor any of the risks of the places they filmed and who they cast in the current political and social climate. They also missed Pricing. To watch Mulan 2020, you first must have a Disney+ plan, then you

have to pay an additional \$30 to watch that specific movie. That is a total of \$36.99 to watch one movie. It's not even a good movie by many's standards.

In short, you should save that \$30 and just watch *Mulan* 1998 and its sequel *Mulan II* on Disney+. Or you could watch *Hua Mulan*, a 1997 animated movie which follows more accurately to the legend of *Mulan*, on Amazon prime or rent it for 99 cents. If you have a VPN you can rent *Mulan* 2009, a live-action telling of the *Hua Mulan* legend, on Amazon for 0.99 euros or \$1.17 in USD, or just put a hold on it at the Cincinnati Public Library. If you're not in the mood for a movie, check out the book *Reflection: A twisted tale* by Elizabeth Lim from the Cincinnati Public Library or get it for \$10.99 on Amazon. *Reflection* features a trans-*Mulan* and a bisexual *Shang*. Two things fans have been calling for, for years. No need to torture your wallet by watching *Mulan* 2020, while showing support for the Uyghur and Hong Kong people.