

Taipei: Places & Spaces for History & Memory

超級大國民 Super Citizen Ko

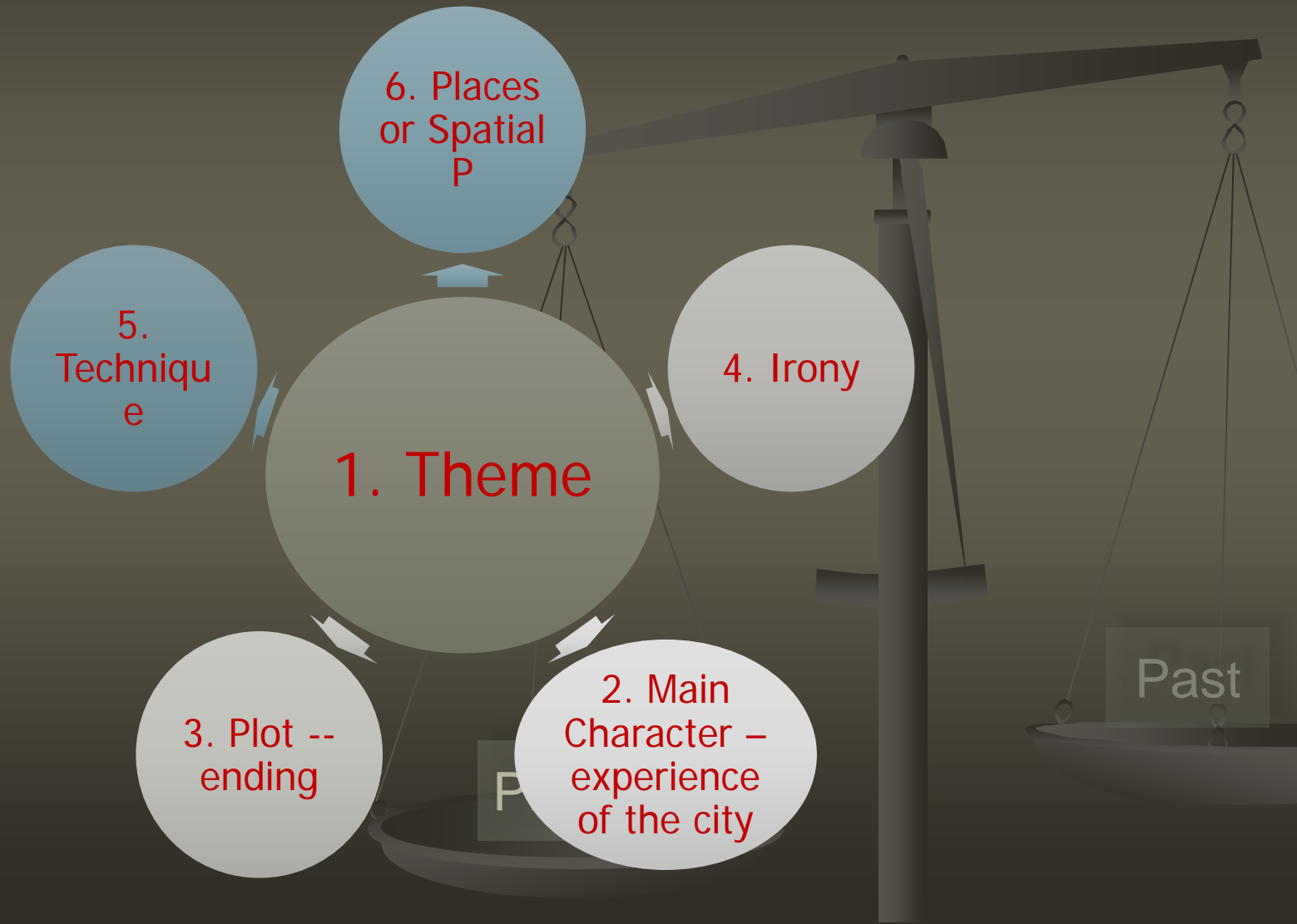


Present

Past

Question No: 7

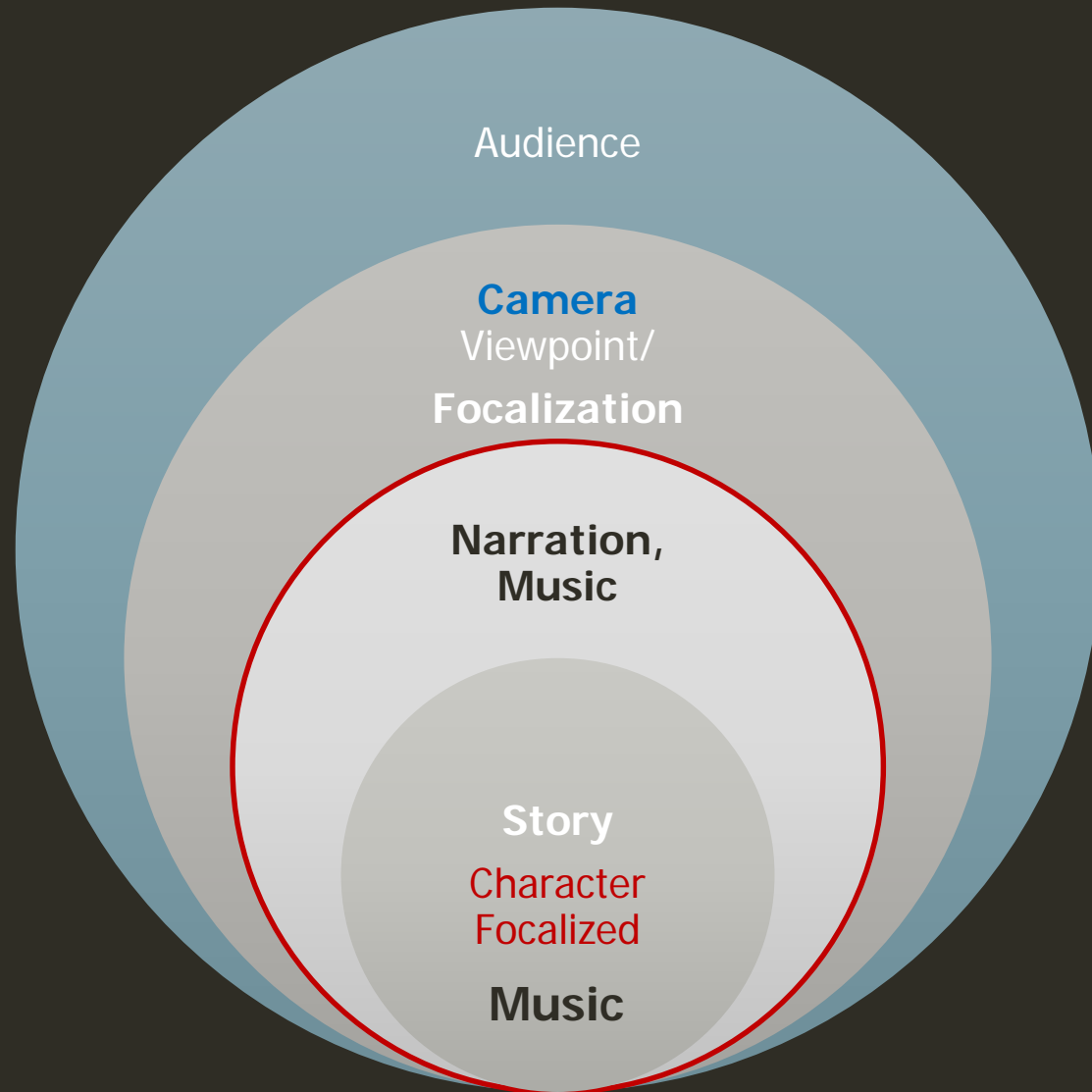
Types: 1 theory, 6 text



Is Red Balloon a
Character in

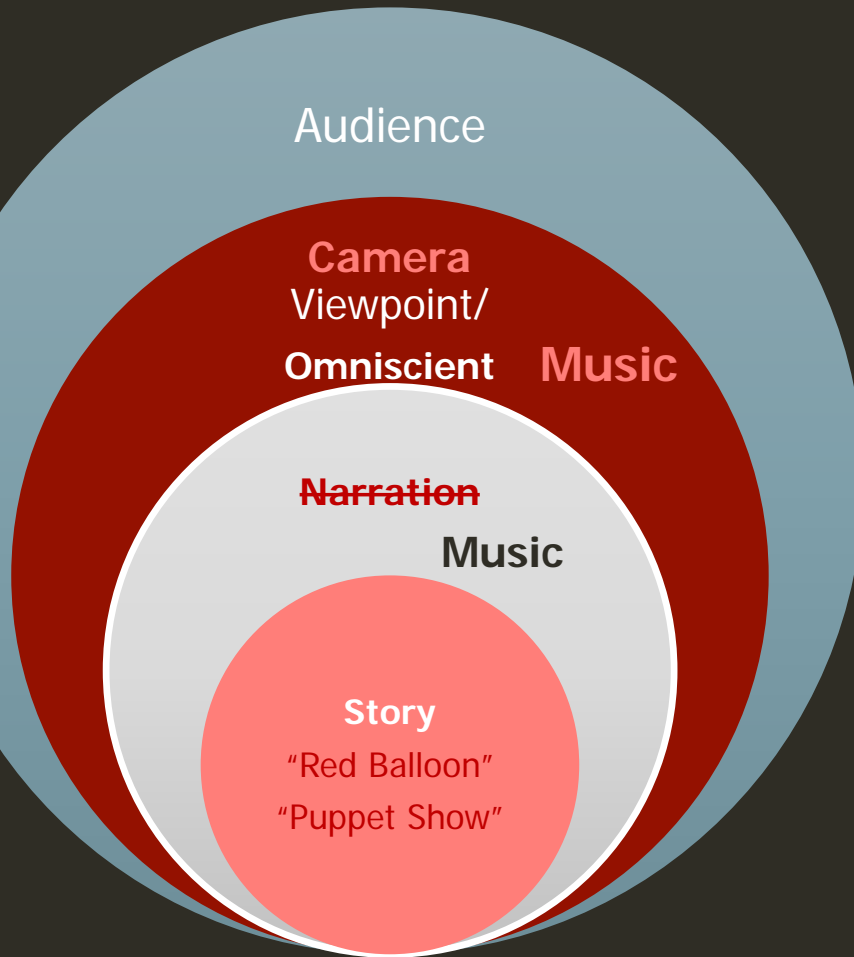
The Flight of the Red Balloon?

Camera Viewpoint & Focalization

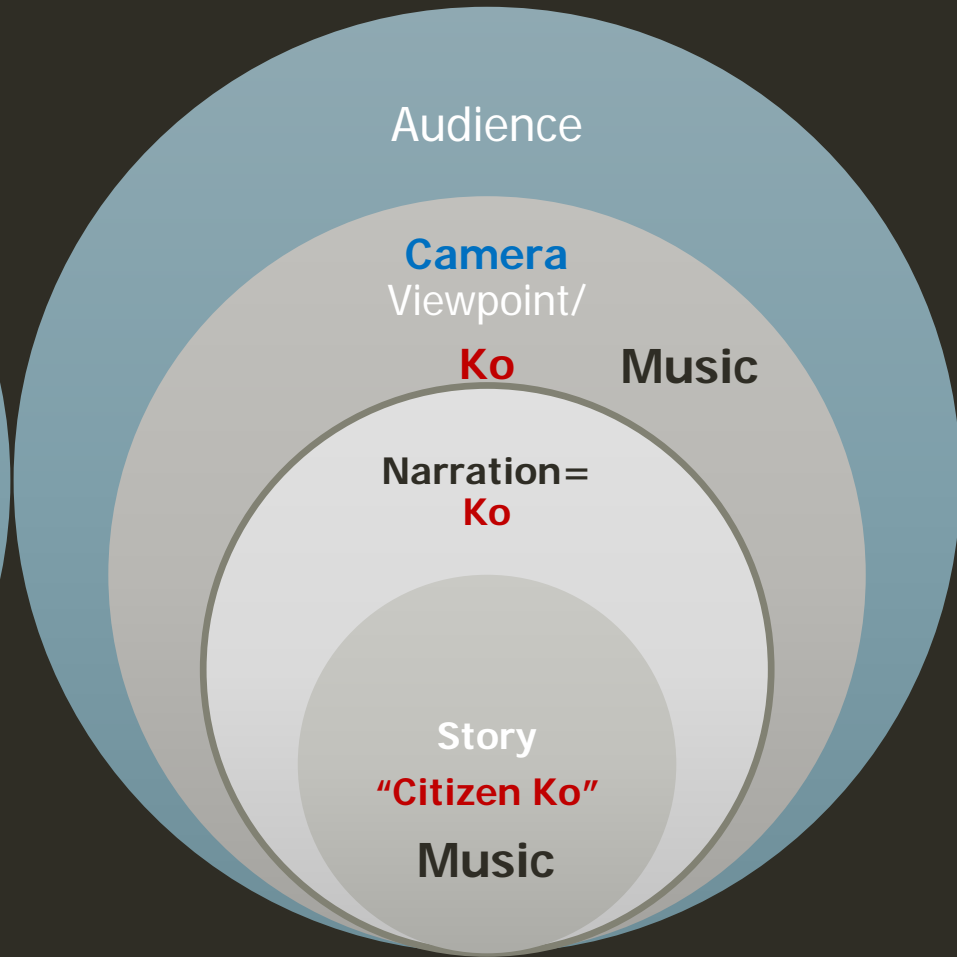


Camera Viewpoint & Focalization

■ Red Balloon

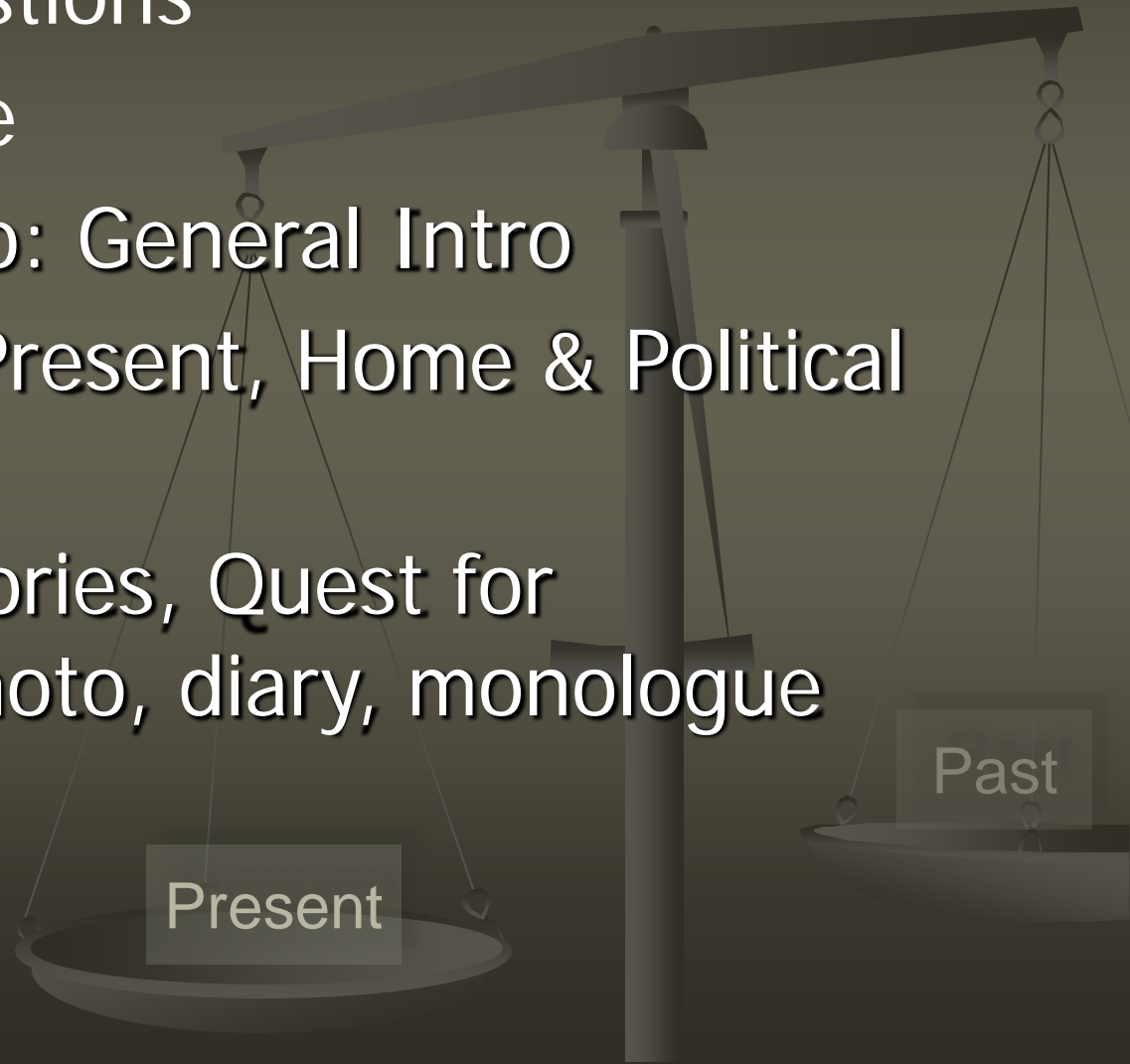


■ Citizen Ko



Outline

- Discussion Questions
- Place and Space
- Super Citizen Ko: General Intro
- Places: Past & Present, Home & Political Sites
- Spaces of Memories, Quest for Redemption: photo, diary, monologue
- References



Discussion Questions

1. G 5 How are **space and place** different from and related to each other? What ideas presented in the textbook about space and place do you find helpful in our analysis of city or city films?

2. G2 (G 5's question) How does Ko go through the changes of the city? What does he experienced? How is "history" represented through the different **places** (2) of Super Citizen Ko, and the protagonist's **spatial practice** (3)?

Discussion Questions

3. G 1 How is the "history" of white terror presented and **contextualized** (by the people he meets and their stories?)
4. G 6 (G 3's question) How are families presented in this film? Ko's, his daughter's, Prof. Wu's and the veteran's. Is there resolution at the end?
5. G 3 What are the functions of **his diary and monologue**?
6. G 7 How is politics in **the present time** presented through TV news and the son-in-law, and as a contrast to that of the past?
7. G 4 How is **music** (for military parades, as non-diegetic music, piano) and **sounds** used in this film? Any other **symbols**?

Places in Super Citizen Ko

1》Xin-Guan building



2》14-15 Park Area



3 · Lion Forest



4) Sheraton Hotel



5) Country House



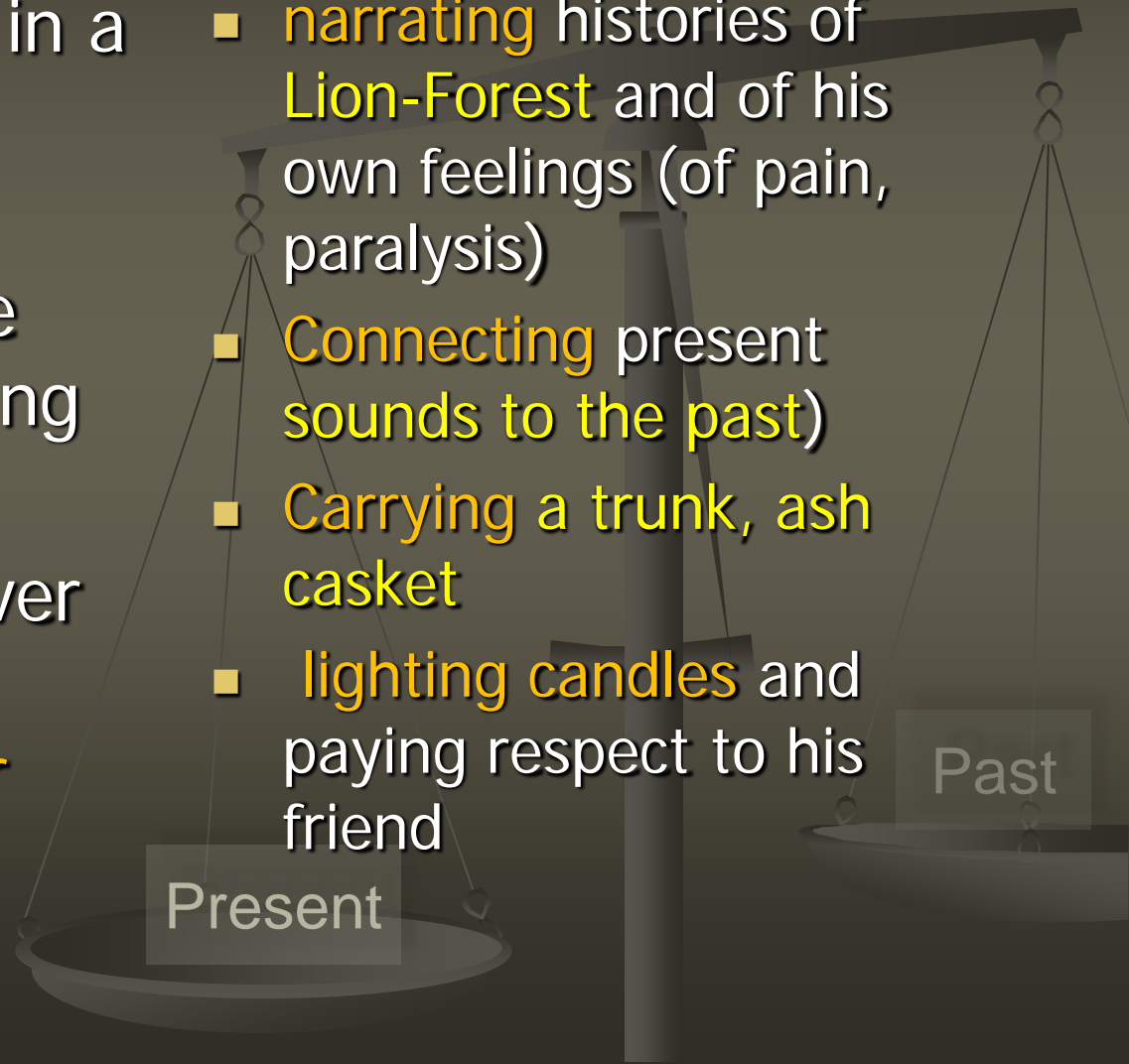
6) Liu-Zhang-Li



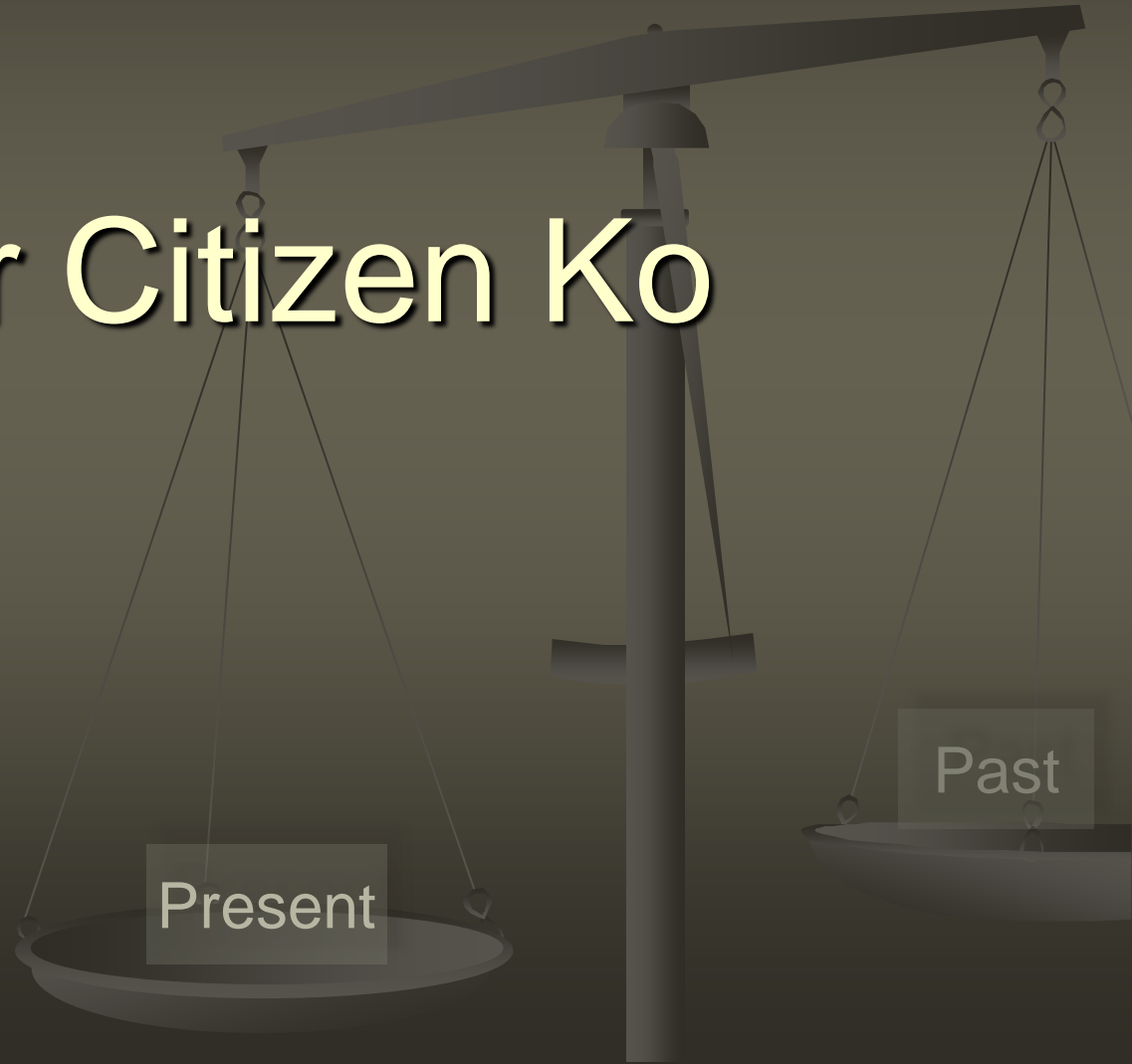
Past

Spatial Practices in Super Citizen Ko

- **walking** in circles in a **room**
- **walking** on the **street**, viewing the new world & making comparison
- bird-eye's view over Taipei's present **places: looking for Machangding**
- **narrating** histories of **Lion-Forest** and of his own feelings (of pain, paralysis)
- **Connecting** present **sounds to the past**)
- **Carrying a trunk, ash casket**
- **lighting candles** and paying respect to his friend

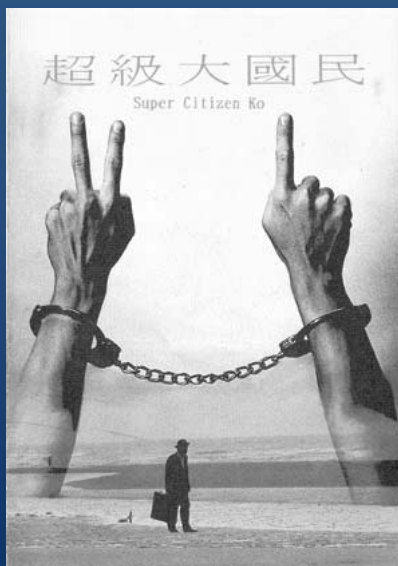


Super Citizen Ko



Super Citizen Ko (1995)

- Best Actor 林楊
- Best Original Music
最佳原創音樂（李壽全、范宗沛）。



Present

Past

Mr. Ko



the world has forgotten me

Present

Post-228 White Terror & Survivor's Guilt

- The execution of Taiwanese intellectuals in the fifties.
■ Only a study group.



只存容顏
入夢來

死者之魂
今安在

生者已老
心已死

A face in a dream
is all that remains now

is all that remains now

Guilty for Two Deaths Quest for Redemption

- 16-yr prison +
- 18-yr self-exile
- Mr. Chen
- His Wife



sent

Plot

1) Returning home:

nursing home nightmare; "heart" problem; monologue; returning home, TV & family

2) Search (1):

- a. Xin-guang Machangding
- b. saxophonist You (music of Japanese military song) ;
- c. prof. Wu (music of 反攻大陸去)
- d. study group arrested

3) Search (2): a. Lion Forest

- b. Sheraton Hotel
- c. family relations
- d. house search
- e. noodle stand of a former police (--white "terror" & wife)

4) Search (3): Loss of wife

- a. hospital--wife's visit
- b. wife's visit at the jail; divorce
- c. blackmail
- d. going to the suburb, Mr. Lin (burial site)
- e. admit his guilt

5) Resolution

- a. House search for evidence of bribery
- b. daughter's account; wife's suicide
- c. going to the graveyard
- d. daughter's reading the diary
- e. Ending

Characters

MR. Ko

--family

Friends

1) Yo

2) Wu

3) Lin

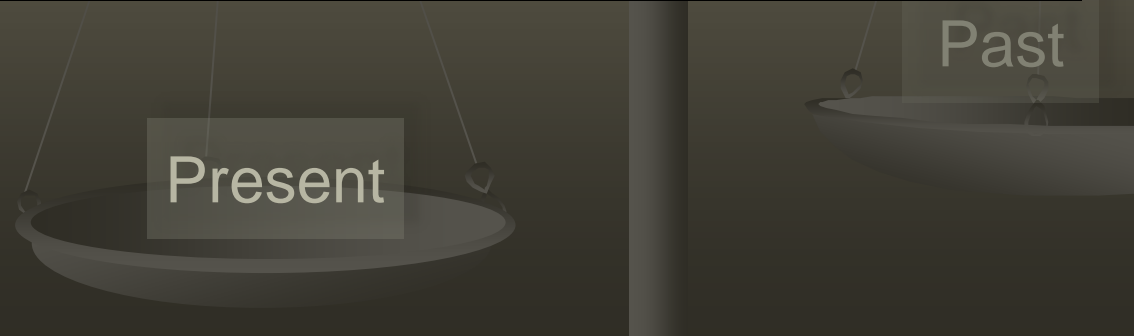
4) Chen

1) Policeman (of
Garrison
Command)*

1	游民順	男	28歲	樂師	十二年
2	吳勝國	男	31歲	教授	十八年
4	林文揚	男	32歲	記者	無期徒刑
	許毅生	男	30歲	教師	無期徒刑
5	陳政一	男	35歲	醫生	死刑

吳美貞 女 18歲 學生 三年

以上共犯，意圖以非法手段顛覆政府
依動員戡亂時期臨時戒嚴法
判決如上



Friends & Foe

Yu



Wu



He's lost it again

Soldier

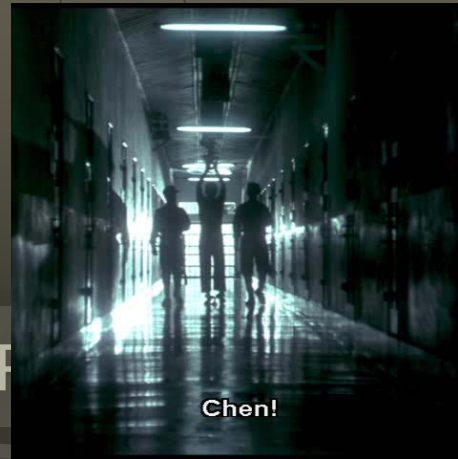


Lin



Ko, are you now
living in the nursing home

Chen



Chen!

Past

萬仁 Wan Jen

- Society has become messier, probably because history is not really understood. History has been forgotten instead. 「從全民開講到全民亂講，社會變得越來越混沌，大概是因為歷史沒有被真正的釐清吧，因為歷史已經快要被遺忘。」萬仁這麼感慨。 <http://www.hi-on.org.tw/article0.asp?Serial=0120030109470>
- In an interview, he explained how the film was based on survivors' accounts (of being tortured, being imprisoned while the family complained or committed suicide).

Present

Past

超級大國民 Super Citizen Ko

2-3. Places & Spaces of Memories

His Search & Spatial Practice

4. Families & The ending

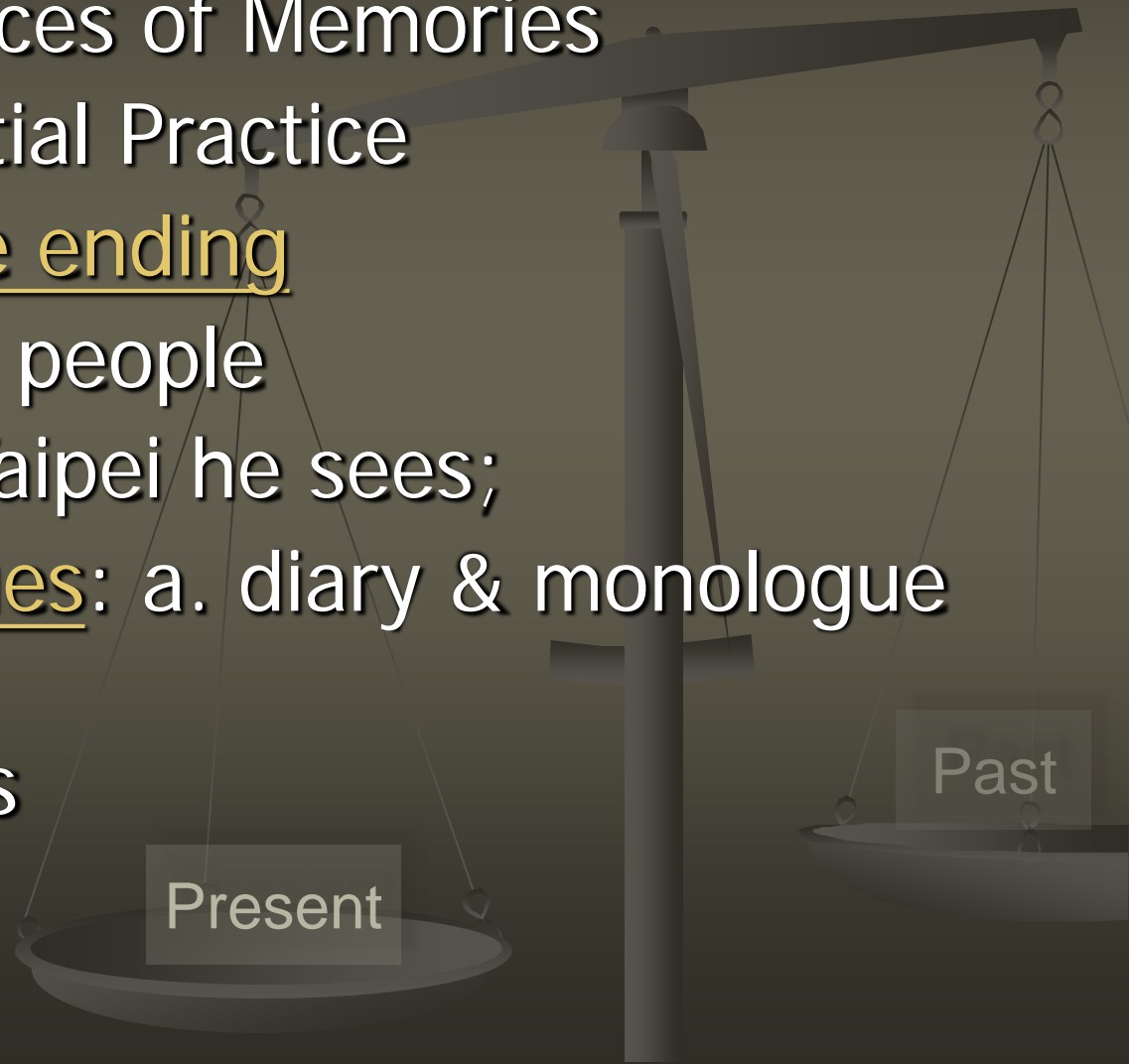
5. The Past & the people

6. The 'present' Taipei he sees;

7. Filmic Techniques: a. diary & monologue

b. filmic angles

8. Music & sounds



2. Remembered Taipei: Places

- From Power center to Machangding (馬場町) –led by a voice

Present

Past

2. Remembered Taipei: Lion Forest

- 在青少年盤據的西門町、歡樂的獅子林大樓 =
 - 五十年代警備總部司令部的保安處
 - 日據時代的東本願寺
- Ximending → Garrison Command in the 50's → a temple during Japanese rule



2. Remembered Taipei

- Sheraton Hotel: fork and knife sounds → clanking sounds of the fetter
- 來來大飯店，老人從鏗鏘鏘 鏘的刀叉聲裡，聽到比著「二條一」手勢的腳鐐聲。



Past



3. Spatial Practice: Final Reconciliation

- Sorry for coming late
- Only a breath between you and me
「活著的人，命運和你們一樣，除了比你們多了一口氣之外」
- The sun will shine, but maybe it's too late?



只是這麼渺小的一點點光線

Present

Past

2. Memories – his Attitudes

- From self-isolation and loneliness to **active remembering and compensation**.
- His action: learning, writing and searching for his lost friends.



Present



4. Families



Broken Families: he divorces his wife, Mr. Chen's wife denies their relationship.



Past

5. History thru' Friends & Foe

Yu – Japanese rule



Wu-KMT rule



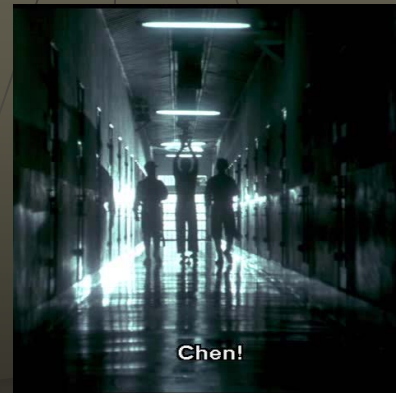
Soldier – also suffers



Lin – Taiwanese identity?



Chen – urban center to margins



Past

5. His Search – Yu: more ironies

- His friends (1): 游仔 – remembers the **Japanese military songs** (for patriotism)→



Past

His Search :Wu – more ironies

- His friends (2): the paranoid –listens to songs of “Reclaiming mainland China” (反攻大陸)



Present

Past

5. His Search – more ironies

- His friends & foe (3): the police – time changes
- His friends (4): cannot go to his parents' funerals, keeps his idealism.



5. History of Lost Ideals



青春和理想 就像一張消失的照片 或 forgotten in the damp forest.



6. Filmic Techniques: Diary & Monologue

- Legal Document + Personal Diary
- Emotionalism but not sentimentalism achieved through both identification and **the use of irony.**
- Identification -- writing in silence + narration

判決如上

依動員戡亂時期臨時戒嚴法

以上共犯，意圖以非法手段顛覆政府

1	游民順	男	28歲	樂師	十二年
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許殺生男 30歲 教師 無期徒刑

比著戒嚴法「二條」
唯一死刑的手勢
陳樣的背影
是我此生最後記憶

Shall be my last memory
in this lifetime

生者已老 心已死
死者之魂 今安在
只存容顏 入夢來

A face in a dream
is all that remains now

6. Filmic Techniques: Camera Angles

- Subjective + Objective Shots



Identification through camera eye

Past



7. Present Taipei

- 1. Power Centers: 遠企大樓、新光大樓
- 2. Changed Political environment: demonstration and bribery.



esent

7. Present Taipei

- 1.Modernization:
TV, gods on motorbikes.



Ending



**A day will come when the sun
will grace us with its warmth**

Present

The ending?

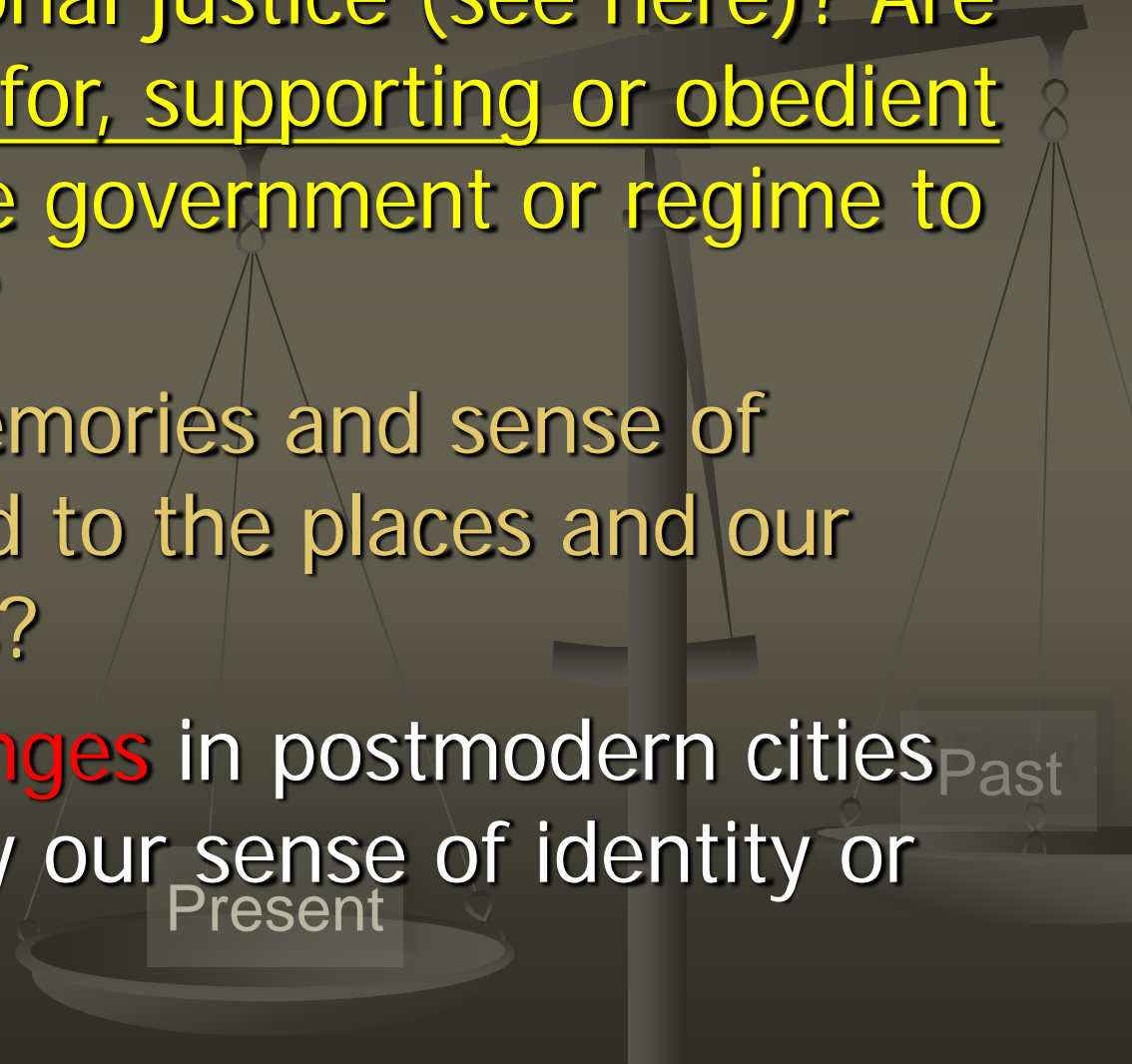


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More Questions ...

- What is transitional justice (see here)? Are people working for, supporting or obedient to an oppressive government or regime to be criminalized?
- How are our memories and sense of identities related to the places and our spatial practices?
- Do the **fast changes** in postmodern cities necessarily deny our sense of identity or stability?



References

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