

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my view on whether filming movies in the city centre should be banned. Switching on the television or watching movies in the cinema, once can easily find scenes which are filmed in the core of cities – people walking on the main street in the metropolis, gorgeous towers or skyscrapers, famous tourist hot spot - to name but just a few. Some believe that this causes disturbance to citizens, whereas others assert that it should be allowed for the city's good. After serious deliberation in the long run as a whole, I stand strongly for the view that filming in the city centre should be accepted.

My inclination is attributable to a rate of reasons. The first popping into my head is that filming in the city centre will boost the development of tourist industry. When it comes to promotion of tourism, what immediately comes to mind is advertisement. Filming in city centres, however, can also plan an important role in putting the city on the global map, as people from all around the globe will see the special features of different cities where they haven't been to. Just take Hong Kong as an example. If film production team from other countries opt for making movies in the city's core area – central, audience may see the beauty of the unique and picturesque skyline of Victoria Harbour. With a closer insight into how the city looks like, viewers may have the desire to feel the special ambience there, with a view to understanding more about the city, or recalling the impressive moments of the movies they've watched.

In addition to helping tourist industry thrive, under no circumstances should we overlook the benefits it brings to the local movie industry. As a matter of fact, when production team comes to the city, not only the foreign film industry, but also the local one will get the invaluable opportunity to learn. For instance, few years ago, production team from America came to Hong Kong and filmed movies in city centres like central, eventually producing the movie 'Transformer 4'. During their arrival, local film makers could, in fact, share ideas with foreign counterparts and put their head together, so that both of them can appreciate the merits of one another, pathing their way to improve and succeed in the film industry with cut-throat competition.

It is a usual contentious by the opponents that filming in the city centre should be prohibited as it creates nuisance to citizens – main roads are blocked owing to the film production. While it is true that they will be negatively affected by this to some extent, the effect, in fact, can be mitigated with a proper regulatory framework. By issuing further guidelines to film makers on regulations concerning disturbance in public space, they will be more aware of to what extent will they cause inconvenience to citizens. For example, they may have to avoid working on the movie during rush hours when citizens all seem to be in a hurry. Besides, main roads shouldn't be totally blocked in order to let the pedestrians go. With these and other measures in place, the negative effects potentially posed by filming movies in city centres could, hopefully, be kept to a minimum. All total ban, on the other hand, would no longer realise all the benefits previously illustrated.

All in all, filming movies in city centres is a benign practice that ought to be permitted, instead of being scrapped. It is conducive to both tourism and film industry of any city, with slight disturbance to the

public which can possible be alleviated. After all, it is worth our support and so it is my earnest hope that more movies filmed in city centres could be produced in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong