

## Zhou Enlai Convenes Meeting to Discuss the Handling of *The Life of Wu Xun* and Strengthening Leadership in Film Work

24-03-1951

After the release of the film *The Life of Wu Xun*, directed by Sun Yu (Sun Yu [1900–1990], a native of Zigong, Sichuan, was a film director and screenwriter), dozens of articles praising the film appeared in newspapers and magazines in major cities such as Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai. In response, Zhou Enlai convened a meeting with Shen Yanbing, Lu Dingyi, Hu Qiaomu, and others to discuss strengthening leadership over film work.

The meeting decided to launch a critique of *The Life of Wu Xun*, but emphasized the need to first communicate thoroughly with the screenwriter Sun Yu. Additional decisions made at the meeting included:

1. The central issue in current film work is ideological and political leadership. A Central Film Work Committee should be organized to draft a resolution on film work.
2. The strength of film scriptwriting must be enhanced. Scripts from stage plays that have already been performed and received favorable audience reactions should be solicited nationwide and selectively adapted into film scripts.
3. The primary standard for film criticism should be the film's overall political orientation; for the time being, excessive emphasis on artistic merit is inappropriate.

Subsequently, on May 20, *People's Daily* published an editorial written by Mao Zedong titled "*The Discussion of the Film The Life of Wu Xun Should Be Taken Seriously.*" This marked the beginning of widespread criticism of Wu Xun and the film *The Life of Wu Xun* within China's cultural and educational circles.

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Let me know if you'd like a summary version or further context about the political and historical background of this event.