

Recommendation Section

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In “Inception”, the protagonist helps others seek redemption while struggling with his emotional trauma.

Similarly, “Star River Tavern” allows characters to relive memories with loved ones, while requiring a balance between love and reality.

“Lu Fan Yan Shi” is like a lucid dream of fleeting love that intertwines fading memories and harsh realities.

“Tales of the Neon Sea” challenges players to confront questions of identity and existence in a virtual world.

All these works focus on the intertwining of dreams and reality and emphasize love, memory, and self discovery to find inner peace in reality.

The Recommendation of “Tales of the Neon Sea”

Wantong Lu

“Tales of the Neon Sea” is an adventure game that takes players into a fantastical cyberpunk world through an interesting plot, retro pixel style, and diverse puzzles, and slowly opens the truth through the fog.

The game is set in a world where humans and robots coexist. Players take on the role of a private investigator tasked with solving an unusual murder in a futuristic world, which often involves moving between the real and virtual worlds. This experience is similar to exploring and uncovering the truth in a lucid dream, where you are aware you are dreaming but can explore it with clarity.

Throughout the game, players control two characters: the detective and his kitten, William. Players will solve one puzzle and case after another in the game by surveying the scene, analyzing items, and questioning NPCs. With every step, players will ask themselves: Will they succeed in revealing the real lies, or be swallowed up by the enigma?

If you want to try the game, you can find out comprehensively below. Firstly, there is an excellent art style. The retro pixel style combined with the exquisite picture performance and beautiful music can bring players an unforgettable visual experience. What is more, the worldview of the game may collide with your thoughts. If robots had faith, what would gods look like in their eyes? If robots had the same rights as humans, would they still betray us?

If there is no boundary between flesh and machine, what can be called alive? These characters and stories encourage players to think about self, consciousness, and society, which echoes the self-exploration in lucid dreams. Lastly, the surreal can be revealed. Lucid dreaming allows people to transcend the limits of the real world in their dreams, and everything presented in “Tales of the Neon Sea”, such as the phenomenon of “visual hallucinations” many years ago appeared at this time, the mysterious evidence package, and the dark shadow wearing a bird’s face, all providing players with an opportunity to transcend reality.

Let’s explore a virtual world full of possibilities freely!



The Star River Tavern

Tianjun Huang

Written, composed, and conducted by Shanghai Rainbow Chamber Singers artistic director Jin Chengzhi, the large-scale choral drama “Star River Tavern” depicts the story of the lead character, who has recently endured the grief of losing his father and his wife departing. Driving through the far north’s forest in a state of despair, he comes across an odd tavern. The only reason the tavern can remain is via “sharing memories” and does not welcome normal humans. Here there are enigmatic bystanders and proprietors, and the option of “remembering” or “forgetting” is available.

He met a lot of people in this tavern, all of them had been in his real life. The chubby cat, Anne, Carl, and the comet are a few examples. Even though he knew these people were dead, he continued to see, miss, and get intoxicated with them in his dreams while they were still at the tavern. Essentially, the lead character’s adventure at the bar is motivated by his love for his father and is a reflection of his inner world, pining for a bygone life, and refusal to accept reality. Every character is turning into a star in the sky, signifying that his memory will live on forever.

The lead character in this tavern may be anyone, any anyone with experiences of their own, opinions, and thoughts. You can make yourself at home at the Star River Tavern for as lengthy as you’re carrying around thoughts, the desire to dream, and recollections. People keep their dreams, feelings, and remembrance in this tavern.

Aside from the peculiar and unusual costumes worn by the characters, the dream of the tavern nevertheless features realistic and discernible life scenes, individual decisions, and people’s pleas for justice.

Aside from the peculiar and unusual costumes worn by the characters, the dream of the tavern nevertheless features realistic and discernible life scenes, individual decisions, and people’s pleas for justice. It’s a dream, but it will still be incredibly moving when you wake up. The choral play lasts for almost ninety minutes in total. Please enjoy it!



The Recommendation of Film “Inception”

Tracy Huang

The film Inception integrates the theme of “lucid dream” into the narrative perfectly, telling a fantastic journey between lucid dreams and reality. The main character, Cobb, is a dream thief who designs dreams and penetrates others’ subconscious minds to steal confidential information simultaneously. In one mission, he needs to gather a team and implant the idea of giving up the inheritance of a commercial company on Robert. In layers of shared lucid dreams by Cobb’s team, Cobb and his teammates not only need to face external threats, but Cobb himself has to face inner pain and regret feeling, to get the courage to face reality. He also leads the direction of lucid dreams to guide the target person to change his mind.

Where is the boundary between dream and reality? This film will take you to explore this question. By interweaving reality and fantasy on each level of the dream, the film shows the contradiction and complexity of the human heart. The dream is considered a fictional space where the characters will not be constrained by reality. For example, the architect can control the environment and characters can fly. In addition, some fantastic scenes like gravity reversal and city folding in the dream can immerse the audience in the impossible world. However, although dreams are fictional, the emotions experienced by the characters in the dreams are deep and real thus projecting feelings and influencing decisions in reality. There is a phantom that Cobb meets with his dead wife and children in his dream, which reveals his deep regret for his wife’s death and the hope of seeing his children again. The reconciliation between Robert and his dying father in the dream makes him give up the inheritance of his business company and choose to live his own life. This sense of emotional reality makes dreams and reality coexist in the characters’ minds. At the end of the film, the ambiguity makes it difficult for the audience to determine whether Cobb has returned to reality, leaving room for thinking about the boundary between fantasy and reality and blurry the boundary between dream and reality.

Overall, the reason that I recommend this film is that it is not only a profound exploration of the human subconscious but also has a significant theme. It tells us that self-healing is inevitable, but we should learn to accept reality and heal inner scars. Let it go bravely and realize the true self.





A Twist of Two Loves

Zoe Nong

Have you ever had the experience of realizing you did not treat your love heartedly before when you are separated from your loved one, and after you two can finally reunite, your loved one almost forgets you? Lu Yanshi, a character in a novel called *Lu Fan Yan Shi*, *The Criminal* Lu Yanshi, experienced the same with his wife.

Written by Yan Geling, a famous American-Chinese writer, this novel tells a story that happened during the republic period, the cultural revolution, and the post-reform and opening-up period of China. During imprisonment in the north-west of China during the Cultural Revolution, Lu Yanshi gradually realized his love for his wife, Feng Wanyu. After the revolution ended, he returned to Shanghai, where his home is, only to find his wife cannot recognize him with Alzheimer, and his son and daughter loathe him for his absence and affectionlessness to their mother.

Yan adopts different writing techniques such as flashbacks, appearance descriptions, and brilliant psychological descriptions to narrate the emotional changes between Lu Yanshi and Feng Wanyu through several historical periods in China. Recalling the interaction with his wife and how Wanyu expressed her affection implicitly while enduring 20 years of penal servitude, Lu Yanshi was filled with remorse. His love for Wanyu kept building up, and thinking of Wanyu and her love was his spiritual support. Meanwhile, in Shanghai, Wanyu's love for her husband and memory were fading as the years passed by. She failed to reunite with him when she still remembered his look and his favourite food and worried about his well-being.

Yan wrote the love story between Lu and Feng to tell the pity of two lovers who cannot confirm each other's love before their departure and leads readers to think about how huge changes in history affect individuals. For me, I see how a couple and two twists of love intertwine. Lu's dream about seeing his beloved wife and taking care of her was realized, while Wanyu's love for her husband seemingly became a dream, as her thoughts were vaguer and more uncertain because of the disease. However, Wanyu miraculously showed amity towards Lu Yanshi after they reunited, which shows her love for Lu has not disappeared. Their relationship was affected by the changing history, but love is preserved, and it revealed the truth of humanity. This novel, for me, not only tells how uncertainty in our lives leads us to different paths but also guides us to grasp every opportunity in our lives to cherish our loved ones.