



在一起(Together) Review

By Lorenzo Perazzitti

在一起 (Together) is a Chinese TV series created and released in 2020. It is based on real people's stories during the fight against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in Mainland China. The show is a report drama filmed in a documentary style. Although "Together" joins a list of several series and art pieces launched in 2020 touching on the pandemic, it is special as it reflects the great feat of fighting the epidemic through small incisions to show the big theme, small people to reflect the actual historic moment.

The show is clearly a dramatized TV series, but the story is presented more as a documentary of the real-life period. The detailed design and high-quality filming was well received by the critics and audience alike. The series is based on the real-life characters and stories from all walks of life during the epidemic period. Over the 20 episodes, portraits of some of the heroes of the epidemic period are created and a panoramic picture of the difficult moments of the people's war is displayed in cross-sections. The most fundamental theme of the drama displayed is the Chinese people's spirit of unity and solidarity.

The drama tells stories about common people in the fight against the virus: Among them are medical workers who built a white wall for the people without hesitation; other medical team personnel from all over the world who supported from all directions; military doctors who upheld the fine traditions of revolutionary soldiers, acted upon orders, and never retired; ordinary and great takeaway brothers and special car volunteers; ordinary citizens who rescued each other and helped each other; and workers who actively participated in the hospital activities and assistance.

There are disease control, community and public security personnel, young and old people, who stayed in Wuhan as volunteers to fight the spread of the virus. They all must overcome various difficulties. These ordinary people constitute the main force in the fight against the Covid-19 virus across the country and have made remarkable contributions to the fight against the epidemic. The message that the series wants to give to viewers is to always help those in need, and overcome fears without hesitation. The series is in Chinese; it may seem difficult to understand for a foreign audience, but for people with intermediate Chinese skills, it is accessible and useful as a study tool to understand and improve your knowledge of highly relevant words used in daily conversations. As a student who previously studied Chinese, I strongly encourage you to find some time you can devote to watching a few episodes.

Exploring Shenzhen —Historical Charm with Modern Twist in Nantou Ancient Town

By Raihbooo Yan



Today, we take all of you to an ancient town. This ancient town is in the center of the Nanshan District and has a history of 1700 years! After 17 months of transformation, it was reborn again. The ancient town of Nantou was announced as a cultural relic protection unit in Shenzhen. The government also strives to build an immersive and cutting edge history museum to make the spot an emblem of Shenzhen culture. In Nantou Ancient Town, there are ancient gates, rare blue bricks and tiles, charming stone streets and some interesting modern elements. When getting closer to the gate, you can see the ruins of the ancient city wall, which is full of history. You will also be delighted by Lingnan style buildings, restaurants and the occasional young person wearing Hanfu (a style of traditional Chinese clothing). Let's take a look at some spots.

Xin'an County Office
Xin'an County Office is one of the highlights of the ancient buildings. In the first year of Wanli Ming Dynasty (1573), the Ming Dynasty government expanded the Dongguan Shouyu Qianhu Base, established Xin'an County, and established the county's governance in Nantou, including area within present-day Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Here, you can experience ancient Chinese officialdom settings. Dongguan Hall



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The Dongguan Hall is also known as "Bao'an Office". It has a gray roof and glazed tile surface. It is carved with birds, beasts and flowers. The name of Liang Jinao's handwritten script Shimen Kaishu Museum was the only one preserved in Shenzhen during the Tongzhi period. Here, you can feel the beauty and exquisiteness of Chinese architecture at that time. Museum This is a pocket-size museum, you can visit in half an hour. The second floor exhibition hall of the museum is quite similar to the Shenzhen History Exhibition. Here you can know the previous lifestyle, entertainment, travel, trade, etc. of Shenzhen people.

Modern Elements

The ancient town has many modern exhibitions, so visitors can experience the "ancient" and "now", "new" and "old". A special 4D display is vivid, taking us through time, as if walking on the streets of an ancient city thousands of years ago. If you are coming with your family, the old town square is not to be missed. The square is large and the surrounding green environment is good, full of vitality. Very interesting is the bamboo pavilion. Every bamboo here is imported from Vietnam, piled and weaved by hand, it is worth sitting and playing on.

An Underrated Food Spot

Don't overlook the food scene of Nantou!

There are countless Cantonese snacks, for example, steamed rice noodles, sweet and delicious sweet water, pastries that you can't put down, and a tofu shop that has been passed down for three generations. In addition to Cantonese-style snacks, there are many other provinces' cuisines, such as Nanjing duck blood vermicelli soup, Sichuan hot pot, Hunan cuisine and so on. There are also a lot of coffee shops and western restaurants with comfortable environments.

Tips

Bus: Take M176 and you can see when you get off at Nanshan Public Security Bureau (南山公安分局) There are also many buses that go to Nantou bus stop and Xin'an Ancient Town bus stop. They all are convenient! Metro: Traveling by metro is not so convenient for this location, but the closest metro station is Taoyuan station (桃园) on Line 1 No entrance fees Remember to wear a mask! The recommended visit time is about 3h. There will be special exhibitions and programs on major holidays A longer version of this article is published on our website: thenanyan.com

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Golden Week! It is a splendid name—the best part is reality lives up to the name.

Golden Week is the long holiday (about a week) taken to celebrate National Day in China. This year was the most special of all, as National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival fell on the same day, October 1.

Now, PKUers are back on the Shenzhen campus for the rest of the long period of studying in 2020. But, we should hold on to the joys of the trips.

The Nanyan Observer had a few quick chats with some student travelers. They shared interesting stories and good places to visit with us.

Let's see where they went and what they did!

GOLDEN WEEK

Travel Snapshots from the Golden Week

By Fong Tsz Hei

24 hours in Guangzhou --- Another MEGA-city in Guangdong

Cheung Siu-Yu (张啸宇), from the School of Transnational Law (STL), experienced the cozy lifestyle in Guangzhou, especially the laziness of lounging in an air-conditioned room away from the sun during the hot hot (never-ending) summer. "I slept almost half of the day on the 1st of October..." he recalled.



Siu-Yu arrived in Guangzhou on the Mid-Autumn Festival. He headed towards the Guangzhou Tower, surprisingly saying that "I was thinking that not many people here visiting the Guangzhou Tower, but I finally found that the most characterized view must be the crowd downside the tower."

The city was still filled with people during the holiday, but there wasn't as much hustle and bustle as usual anymore because most of the people who work in big cities went back to hometown for vacation.

Guangzhou is a complex city with many different sides to experience, including both of the prosperous and simple sides. It will make you love it in only one night.



Small Sanmen Island --- Exploration nearby Shenzhen

The School of Chemical Biology and Biotechnology (SCBB) is a place full of explorers. Zou Jialing (邹佳伶) is one of the scientists there with a strong adventurous spirit. He "marched" to the sea and camped on the top of a small island with fellow society members of the "Kun-Peng" Society. On the first day, they crossed the sea by boat from Shenzhen to reach the island that's actually located in Huizhou City. That night, they caught a lot of fishes and crabs with the sea breeze.

"We were well-equipped before this trip, and going to make the crab congee on the next day. But nobody would have thought that the crabs ran away in the night," he laughed. "Only hams were left for the congee!"



Shuangyue Bay --- PKU & HIT together

Congested Shenzhen is always inspiring the students in the School of Urban Planning and Design (SUPD) to take a few excursions. Zou Jialing (吴佳楠) is a thoughtful girl who applied her academic knowledge to plan her tour. She said that the traffic is really worst in Guangdong province. She has never seen bad traffic like this before. There are scenic spots but also many people in Guangdong, thus congestion is usual during weekends and holidays.

She and her new friends at the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) wanted to go diving. They



picked a convenient place, avoiding the traffic jams, and went to Shuangyue Bay in Huizhou. During their trip, connections between PKU and HIT were extended from the academic to the daily life. Jianan and her buddies chatted a lot



and felt very lucky to know each other. Unfortunately, Jianan could not dive together with them because she felt a little uncomfortable at that time, but her friends took good care of her.

This trip is meaningful to her not only because she met new friends but also gradually made her get used to her new life as a graduate student. Overall, traveling brings people together and is a way to practice consideration towards others. If you want more good friends, just join a trip together and you will find them!

Back to Xiamen --- The East Sea different from the South Sea

Qiu Wenjing(邱文静), from STL, graduated from Xiamen University. She went back to meet with old friends during the break. Xiamen is familiar to her and she found the differences between Shenzhen and Xiamen, especially the sea, saying that "I think the sea view from Xiamen is much wider than Shenzhen." (Shenzhen and Xiamen are both coastal cities, but located in different provinces and alongside distinct seas—the South and East Sea respectively.)

Each time she sees the sea of Xiamen, she recalls the memory of staying up all night with friends to wait for the dawn on the first day of 2017.



What's more, Xiamen showed thicker cultural deposits and deeper connections between people, instead of the metropolitan self-striving spirit in Shenzhen. For example, Shapowei is the oldest port and marketplace there, and it's still keeping the lifestyle of the old days. Wenjing recommended the food along the street, and told us to take a look there if we were going to Xiamen.

Autumn in Beijing --- Missed the Forbidden City

In autumn, the south breeze comforts us taking away the heat from the city. However, one of our friends visited the autumn of the north, in Beijing. Beijing gives a classic view of a Chinese October.



Hou Zhizhong, from Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS), originally planned to take a look at the 600 years exhibition of the Forbidden City, but sadly he did not get the tickets. Thus, he went to another historical site, Badaling Great Wall. The Great Wall is too far from downtown and it took him 5 hours to get there. He then only had 2 hours for climbing.



Although it was not hot in Beijing, the travel was still exhausting. Zhizhong found a restaurant near the Zhengyangmen Gate of Beijing, he said the foods were not bad and he reenergized after a good meal.

As you can see, there are many ways we spent the Golden Week! There is much to explore, whether you are heading down to the seas of southern China or up to climb the hills of the north.

Traveling through China to celebrate her birthday is a specific feature of the modern lifestyle here. Although the holiday is gone, the memories will stay.



“Miracle” Shenzhen SEZ Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Hou Zhizhong



On October 14, the celebration meeting for the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was held. For this momentous occasion, President Xi Jinping visited Shenzhen to deliver an important speech. The visit and anniversary captured the attention of all Shenzheners and spread the message of the incredible modernization and progress of Shenzhen throughout the world.

In his speech, President Xi highly affirmed the fruitful achievements of Shenzhen’s construction and development, comprehensively summarized the valuable experience accumulated in the 40 years of reform and opening up and innovative development of the special economic zone, and put forward a clear call for promoting reform and opening up and higher-quality development of the special economic zone.

The speech outlined the new development goals of the special economic zone and President Xi issued a mobilization order for reform and opening up in the new era, which aroused strong responses from graduate students in our campus.

Andrew Fong: In the past ten years, Shenzhen has experienced a profound and influential transformation of the city and its located industries. Ten years ago, the notorious word “Shanzhai”, which means cheap copy of electronic devices, was coined after the young city: it was viewed as the capital of cheesy stuff. But now, because of Tencent, Huawei, DJI, BGI, we know it is not what it used to be anymore. We enjoy what technology and business ideas bring, and also, we students celebrate big chances and challenges that we are going to face in the near future. Shenzhen is indeed a place for energetic youth.

Richard Li: I am from Northern China, and I have never been here before. Shenzhen to me is like a far but familiar city. It is far because of its location. And the familiarity lies in news and our perception that Shenzhen is like the capital of innovation and technology. And actually, studying and living here confirms that idea and it feels like a home for youth and newcomers who want to start a brilliant career and have fresh experiences.

Chinese Knot Making Event Appreciates the Beauty of Handicraft

By Wang Haozhe



Are you a handicraft enthusiast?

On October 17, 2020, the University Town Community Government organized a Chinese Knot cultural event for students and faculty in the Home for International Friends on the PKU Shenzhen campus.

Each participant was allowed to challenge themselves in creating their Chinese knot!

A group of 30 students and teachers from PKU Shenzhen and the other universities of University Town gathered together to experience making this traditional Chinese craft. We were lucky enough to have the senior teacher Liao Caijun, who has rich experience in this field gently leading participants through the process step by step.

Have you ever noticed red Chinese knots hanging on a wall?

Many people are familiar with this craft, but few fully understand it. Therefore, Ms. Liao started the event with the introduction of the long history and profound cultural connotation of the Chinese knot. It represents luck and blessing.

The knot we made was a typical and relatively easy kind. It requires not only patience but also some basic tools to make the knot successfully. You must have scissors, paperboard, and strings.

A multitude of other materials can also be used, such as silk, copper coin, or some small ceramics. Different types of Chinese knots may use various kinds and amounts of materials.

The main steps include weaving, pulling and trimming. Trimming is the last step of making, but it could be the best way to test the techniques and patience of the maker. The specific steps of making a Chinese knot are complicated; try checking out videos on Tik Tok if you are interested.

The enthusiasm was high. Students gathered around the teacher and discussed with each other about the techniques of tying and the details of each step.

By the end of the event, everyone had their creation to take home as a souvenir.

Chinwe Alli (STL): “It was an amazing event and I enjoyed every bit of it. Tying a knot was quite difficult at first but eventually, I was able to tie one from scratch to finish! I heard that in China, these knots are considered to bring luck; I hope it brings me luck also!”

Jiang Rongke (STL): “It was my first time to make a Chinese knot. This program really helped me learn some Chinese traditions that I did not pay attention to before, it was also well organized and we had a lot of fun.”

Jiang Shengze (HIT): “What a wonderful day! It was my first time to be a volunteer since I have been here, but what I experienced was beyond my expectation. I not only learned how to make Chinese knots but also made friends with two foreign students, one of whom was also a fan of Real Madrid!”

Juandi Sanchez Fernandez (STL): “What a fantastic way of immersing oneself in Chinese culture! No need for ice-breaking games this time. Those who got the trick immediately helped others make their knots. An activity that seemed to be individual ended up being a team working one that put us, Chinese and international students, all together.”

The event was part of the 2020 Taoyuan Sub-District Min Sheng Wei Shi Shi Project and Nanshan District New Era Cultural Practice Series.



Mooncake Making Night Shares the Spirit of Mid-Autumn Festival

Written by Miko Jiang



School starts and then Mid-Autumn Festival arrives so quickly!

In order to celebrate this traditional holiday of China, the first Mooncake Making Night of PKUSZ was held on September 29th at the Home for International Friends on campus. A diverse group of 20 international and Chinese students from different graduate schools on campus attended this meaningful activity.

In China, it is a tradition to share mooncakes with family and acquaintances for the Mid-Autumn Festival. Families gather to have a lavish dinner. After that, they share mooncakes under the light of the full moon. The Mid-Autumn Festival is on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar. On that night, the moon is bright and full. The round moon and the round mooncakes symbolize harmony and completeness.

To begin the event, International Affairs Coordinator, Nathan, welcomed everyone to take part in this special activity and then, members got to introduce themselves and their hometowns. Finally, the mooncake making began!

For most of the participants of the event, it was their first experience ever making mooncakes! Nathan led them through the procedures of how to make classic Guangdong-style red bean paste and salted egg mooncakes.

During the preparation, every participant seemed to be intrigued by how to make a mooncake from scratch. They listened to the instructions carefully and helped each other make a “perfect” and “special” mooncake. People were amazed to see the little dough baked into a real mooncake.

Most importantly, the mooncakes were surprisingly tasty!

“I have never thought I could make a mooncake on my own before!” Deng Xinhe from PHBS exclaimed.

They were also encouraged to take a few home to give friends or family as a meaningful gift for Mid-Autumn Festival. There were special take away boxes just for this purpose.

After the mooncakes were done baking, there was one more special activity!

Participants were invited to write special PKU and PKU Shenzhen postcards to friends and family to spread the holiday spirit.

Normally, Mid-Autumn Festival is for friends or family to unite together. But of course, many friends and family remain parted, especially this year for students on campus. This was a great chance to write to loved ones about your feelings by postcards and share the warmth of the holiday.

Some students started to write their words on postcards instantly. After that, every member helped clean the room.

Accompanied by laughter, happiness and satisfaction, the Mooncake Making Night was over~

Let’s see how people felt about this special Mooncake Making Night:

Lin Shiyi:

“What a great night! From the beginning of the self-introduction, to the middle of the mooncake making and baking, together with the final postcard, thank the organizers so much to plan the event so carefully! The experience is fantastic! The atmosphere is warm and happy! I give 100 points!”

Juandi Sanchez Fernandez:

“The mooncake event brought us all, Chinese and international students, together. It is a beautiful way to learn how to bake this typical Chinese delicacy while you make friends. We also wrote some postcards to our families and friends, such a nice way to honor the most fraternal meaning of this festivity!!”

Cao Siyu:

“May we all be blessed with longevity Though far apart, we are still able to share the beauty of the moon together.” (“愿人长久，千里共婵娟”) I hope the happy memories of Mooncake Making Night can be long and always be with us.”

Jose Shin:

“The Mooncake Making Night was an interesting event. As an international student, learning how to do such an important dessert was a unique experience. Additionally, sharing the experience with Chinese and international friends made the activity more enjoyable.”

Chinwe Alli:

“I enjoyed the event and had a great time bonding with the Chinese students. It was my first time making a mooncake and I am glad it turned out nice and tasty.”

Deng Xinhe:

“The feeling of taking part in tonight’s activity is: It turns out that I am so clever and skillful!! I had low expectations for myself, but the first mooncake I made turned out to be successful. My classmates also praised it for its beauty and perfection.”

Campus Food Scene: New Cha Chaan Teng!

By Hailey Qiu



Get to know the Cha Chaan Teng!

Originating in Hong Kong, the Cha Chaan Teng is also known as the Hong Kong Style Café. Cha Chaan Teng can be historically traced to around 1950s when the western lifestyle became increasingly popular among Hong Kong people.

Back then, western cuisine was only served in fancy restaurants and ordinary people could not afford them. Under this backdrop, Bing Sutt (ice room) emerged and soon became extremely popular in Hong Kong, serving light western foods with a Hong Kong touch. This special type of café would sell drinks and snacks at affordable prices.

As the life pace was getting faster, Bing Sutt gradually evolved into Cha Chaan Tengs and started to offer a larger variety of food, adding rice, noodles, steaks and other main courses in both Chinese and western cuisines. Traditional Bing Sutt foods are also served in modern Cha Chaan Tengs, and they are still widely enjoyed by people from different social classes. Popular foods served in Cha Chaan Teng include: Yuan Yang (a mixture of coffee and tea), Stocking Milk Tea, Pineapple Bun (crispy and sweet bun with butter), Wonton Noodle, Beef Chow Fun, Duck and Rice, etc.

Stocking Milk Tea is also known as “Pantyhose Tea” because it is often brewed in a large tea sock that

looks like pantyhose. Made from black tea and evaporated milk, it has a smooth and creamy texture, and tastes good!

The Beef Chow Fun is a classic Cantonese noodle dish. The flat rice noodles, called “Hor Fun”, is stir-fried with beef and crispy vegetables.



No pineapples in the pineapple bun! The name comes from its cute appearance resembling pineapples. One should have the bun with the slice of butter placed in between. It is much beloved by locals!

Cha Chaan Teng usually turn tables very fast and waiters normally deal with a large volume of costumers in a day. The experience in Cha Chaan Teng might be different from others.

Some useful tips:

1. You are encouraged to order and eat quickly
 2. You do not need to tip the waiter and do not expect world-class service
 3. You may be seated with strangers during peak hours
 4. You may research the abbreviated slangs before going to Cha Chaan Tengs
- Luckily, a Cha Chaan Teng, called “墨语轩”, newly opened in our campus!