

**Press Release**

22 May 2015 (5 pages)

Folklore Dance Drama

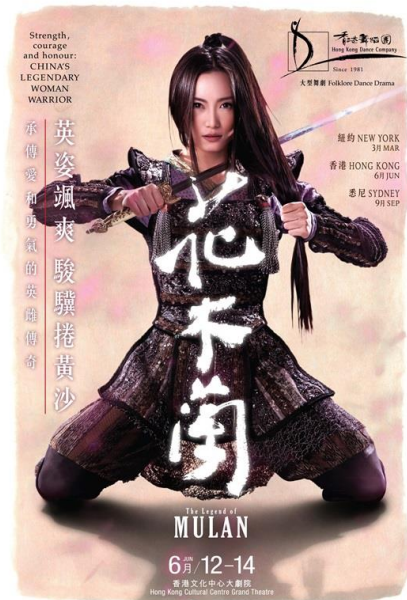
# *The Legend of Mulan*

The Legend of  
MULAN  
花木蘭

*Strength, Courage and Honour:  
China's Legendary Woman Warrior*

WINNER OF 2014 HONG KONG DANCE AWARDS:

Outstanding Production and  
Outstanding Ensemble Performance



**New York March | Hong Kong June | Sydney Sep**

Mulan proves herself a stronger warrior than her male counterparts! This June, our heroine returns, bravely going to war in place of her father disguised as a man! Adapted from the epic poem *The Ballad of Mulan* (dating to the fifth century), the folklore dance drama *The Legend of Mulan* just returned triumphant from its Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts debut in March in New York, and will be staged at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre June 12<sup>th</sup>–June 14<sup>th</sup> before travelling to Sydney as a highlight of the celebration events for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*The Legend of Mulan*, an original work that premiered at the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Festival, subsequently received two accolades at the Hong Kong Dance Awards in 2014 for “Outstanding Production” and “Outstanding Ensemble Performance.” Not only do we witness Mulan’s grace in her pre-army days, but we are also awestruck by her daring when faced with bloodshed in the battlefield. The music for this dance drama contains a modern take on well-known Chinese folk tunes, enhanced with multi-media images narrating this well-known ancient folktale.

“No matter how deep the philosophy, how unusual the experience, how great the achievement, they all stem from everyday life. Mulan might have been motivated to join the army in place of her father, but she knew that deep in her heart, all she wanted was a peaceful life. The extraordinary tale of Mulan originates from her longing for a humble and simple existence, which has moved us for more than a millennium.”

—Yang Yuntao, director and choreographer of *The Legend of Mulan*

## The Story of Mulan

Mulan is distraught by the news that her aged father's name is on the conscription list. Without an elder brother to take his father's place, Mulan joins the army disguised as a man. From years of fighting on the battlefield, she builds up a close comradeship with her fellow soldiers and is promoted to Generalship. When the war is over, she gives up a rewarding position at court and returns home to take care of her father. When Mulan meets her old comrades again in her female attire, they could not believe that General Mulan, whom they have fought side by side for years, is actually a woman!

Traditional Chinese virtues are exemplified through the unusual adventures and touching story of Mulan, who shows extraordinary courage when it comes to protecting her country and family. A heroine with moral courage and intelligence, Mulan's exceptional wisdom and vision transcend fame and fortune. Over time, the story of Mulan rose in popularity as a folktale and became widely taught in schools. It has also inspired a number of screen and stage adaptations, including the hit animated Disney movie released in 1998.

### **Programme Summary**

The Hong Kong Dance Company brings to the stage an inspiring re-telling of the household folktale of ***The Legend of Mulan*** in a dance drama. Traditional virtues are exemplified through the unusual adventures and touching story of Mulan, a peasant girl who disguises as a man to join the army in place of her aged father. A heroine with moral courage and intelligence, Mulan's exceptional wisdom and vision transcend fame and fortune. Winner of two Hong Kong Dance Awards 2014 for "Outstanding Production" and "Outstanding Ensemble Performance."

**12-14.6.2015 (Fri-Sun) Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre**

**\$300 \$250 \$180 \$100 Tickets available now at URBTIX | [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)**

**Ticketing Enquiries 3761 6661 | Programme Enquires 3103 1806 | [www.hkdance.com](http://www.hkdance.com)**

### **Programme Info**

Date & Time	12-14 June (Fri-Sun) 7:45pm 13-14 June (Sat-Sun) 3:00pm
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre
Ticket	\$320 \$250 \$180 \$100 Ticket available at URBTIX 50% off – Full-time students, people with disabilities and the minder, senior citizens aged 60 or above and CSSA recipients
Booking	<a href="http://www.urbtix.hk">www.urbtix.hk</a> / 2111 5999
Programme Enquiries	3103 1806 / <a href="mailto:hkdance@hkdance.com">hkdance@hkdance.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.hkdance.com">www.hkdance.com</a>

### **Meet the Artists**

Date & Time	To be held after the performance of 13 June 7:45pm
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre

### **Autograph Session with Dancers**

Date & Time	To be held after the performance of 14 June 3:00pm
Venue	Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre



The young Mulan is played by a member of the Children's Troupe of the Hong Kong Dance Company. From an early age, Mulan trained in martial arts with her father; the two share a deep bond.



Courageous Mulan wins the trust of her fellow soldiers.



The raked platform radically transforms the performance space, accentuating the dangerous landscape of military expeditions.



During the arduous expeditions, soldiers dash across cliffs in face of danger.



After more than a decade of war, Mulan reminisces about her former life, longing for that time when she weaved at the loom.



After the war, Mulan resumes her identity as a maiden, showing her grace and gentility.



Although Mulan returns triumphant to see the Emperor, she asks to be released of her military duty to reunite with her father.



The stage is supplemented with multi-media projections, enhancing the visual impact of *The Legend of Mulan*.

## Production Team

### Yang Yuntao

Director & Choreographer



A member of the *Bai* ethnic minority in Yunnan, Yang Yuntao graduated from the Minzu University of China's Faculty of Dance. Yang has been a dancer in the Guangdong Modern Dance Company and the Beijing Modern Dance Company. He won the Bronze Prize at the 1st Central Modern Dance Competition. As Principal Dancer in *Ma and Le Visiting the Sky*, Yang won the Gold Prize in the 2nd National Lotus Awards Competition and was named Outstanding Male Performer in the 6th China Arts Festival. With *South of the Cloud* he won the Gold Award in Solo Dance at the 7th National Dance Competition for Ethnic Minorities. He joined the Hong Kong Dance Company in 2002 as Principal Dancer, and received the Hong Kong Dance Award 2003 from the Hong Kong Dance Alliance for his performance in *Water Margin* and *The Song of the Earth*. Yang joined the City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC) in 2005, and received the Hong Kong Dance Award 2006 again for his performance in *The Conqueror*. He joined the Hong Kong Dance Company (HKDC) in 2007 as Assistant Artistic Director. He received the Award for Best Artist (Dance) of the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2009 from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Yang has choreographed for Guangdong Modern Dance Company, Beijing Modern Dance Company and CCDC. His choreographic works for the Hong Kong Dance Company include *Border Town*; *The Smiling, Proud Wanderer*; *Everlasting Love*; *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*; *Spring Ritual • Eulogy*; *Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013*; *The Legend of Mulan*; *The Butterfly Lovers* and *Storm Clouds*. *Spring Ritual • Eulogy* was bestowed Outstanding Achievement in Production in the 2013 Hong Kong Dance Awards and was presented in Beijing and Taipei respectively in 2013. *The Legend of Mulan* received two 2014 Hong Kong Dance Awards – for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Ensemble Performance, and was presented at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York in March 2015. Yang has been HKDC's Artistic Director since 1 November 2013.

<b>Associate Choreographer</b>	Xie Yin
<b>Playwright</b>	Gerard CC Tsang
<b>Music Director &amp; Composer</b>	Matthew Ma
<b>Set Designer</b>	Yuen Hon-wai
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Karin Chiu
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Yeung Tsz-yan
<b>Digital Image Designer</b>	John Wong



## Hong Kong Dance Company

### “Dancing across East and West, Moving to the Tempo of Hong Kong”

#### Mission Statement

We are nurtured in the cultural tradition of China, combining with the creativity of contemporary art, to impress the world with Chinese dance of Hong Kong character.

#### History

Established in 1981 with the aim of promoting Chinese dance, the Hong Kong Dance Company was incorporated in 2001 as a charitable and non-profit-making institution, and is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Since its inception, the Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions, many of which were highly popular with critical acclaim. Recent productions include *Qingming Riverside*; *The Smiling, Proud Wanderer*; *Snow Fox*; *Eagle Companions*; *Two Swallows –Ode to Wu Guanzhong*; *Spring Ritual • Eulogy*; *Plateau Bluebells*; *Feng Shui*; Pop Classics: *Joseph Koo's Dance Melodies 2013*; *The Legend of Mulan*; *The Butterfly Lovers* and *Storm Clouds*.

The Company has toured internationally as well as around Mainland China as a way to encourage cultural exchange. The Company was invited to perform at the “Meet in Beijing 2008” Arts Festival to celebrate the Beijing Olympics, and took part in the opening ceremony of the East Asian Games in 2009. In 2010, the Company participated in “The Ninth China Art Festival” in Guangzhou and the World Expo in Shanghai. In January 2013, the Hong Kong Dance Company presented *Qingming Riverside* at The Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. *Spring Ritual • Eulogy* was presented at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing in September 2013, and the Novel Hall for Performing Arts in Taipei in December 2013 as part of Hong Kong Week 2013. *The Legend of Mulan* was presented at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York in March 2015.

#### Media Inquiries

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