**The Ballad of Mulan Copy**

Bi-line (under 20 words)

The real heroine behind the Chinese Legend that inspired Disney’s animation *Mulan*.

Or

The real woman behind the legendary Chinese female warrior who disguised as a man to join the Empire’s army.

45 words

Woman, warrior, Legend. For ten years Mulan disguised as a man has fought for the Chinese Empire, but now it is time to go home. Grist to the Mill and Red Dragonfly brings you the real Chinese heroine that inspired Disney’s animation and live-feature *Mulan*.

91 words

Woman, warrior, Legend. For ten years Mulan disguised as a man, has fought for the Chinese Empire. Now the fighting is coming to an end, one last battle and she will be going home – but can she return to her old life, become a woman again. A search for identity in a violent world.

From the team behind Edfringe Sell-Out '*The Unknown Soldier*' Grist to the Mill and working in collaboration with British-East-Asian theatre company Red Dragonfly, we bring you the real Chinese heroine that inspired Disney’s animation and live-feature *Mulan*.

145 words

Woman, warrior, legend. For ten years Mulan disguised as a man, has fought for the Chinese Empire. Now the fighting is coming to an end, one last battle and she will be going home - but can she return to her old life, become a woman again. A search for identity in a violent world. Commissioned by and performed by West Yorkshire-born British-Chinese actress Michelle Yim, developed with the support and funding from Arts Council England. Produced by the team behind Edfringe Sell-Out 'The Unknown Soldier' Grist to the Mill, in collaboration with British East Asian theatre company Red Dragonfly Productions, we bring you the real Chinese heroine that inspired Disney's animation and live-feature *Mulan*. *'A powerful exploration of gender, war, and identity, as relevant and timely today as ever. Expect a little humour, a lot of heart and a refreshing focus on the darker aspects of a familiar tale'* **★★★★** Tulpa Magaine, Adelaide Fringe

**Presented by** Red Dragonfly Productions and Grist to the Mill Productions

**Written and Directed by** Ross Ericson **Performed by** Michelle Yim

**Music by** Pearl Yim **Costumes by** Elizabeth Cooke **Armour and Weapon by** Philip Dell

**Website:** www.reddragonflyproductions.co.uk **twitter:** @RDprod\_theatre **Facebook:** @reddragonflyproductions.uk

**Website:** www.gristtheatre.co.uk **twitter:** @gristtheatre **Facebook:** @gristtheatre

**Date and time:** According to Venue

**Duration:** 60min **Ticket Prices:** According to venue

**Themes:** Chinese poem, Chinese history, war, identity, gender expectations

**Warnings:** description and sounds of war and violence, screaming

**Suitable for:** age 10+ and adults **Post-show talk/workshop:** available with artist

Reviews

*‘A powerful exploration of gender, war, and identity, as relevant and timely today as ever. Expect humour, a lot of heart and a refreshing focus on the darker aspects of a familiar tale’*

**★★★★ Tulpa Magazine on ‘The Ballad of Mulan’**

*‘Michelle Yim is absolutely terrific as Mulan. She holds the stage with a commanding presence as well as charm and warmth.’*

**Stage Whispers on ‘The Ballad of Mulan**’

*'Full of ambition, politics and cultural tension'*

**★★★★ Adelaide Theatre Guide on ‘The Empress and Me’**

*‘Delivered with style and feeling by [Michelle Yim]’*

**★★★★ The Scotsman on ‘An Evening with Miss Wong’**

‘A wonderful experience to explore the culture and traditions of ancient China through their own mythology, in a manner that will appeal to everyone.’

★★★★ **British Theatre Guide on ‘The Autumn of Han’**

‘Captivating piece of theatre.’

★★★★★ **LondonTheatre1 on ‘DiaoChan: The Rise of the Courtesan’**

*'Absolutely fascinating'*

**RECOMMENDED SHOW - Fringe Review on ‘The Empress and Me’**

*'[Michelle] Yim is a winning performer.'*

**The Stage on ‘The Empress and Me’**

**Red Dragonfly Productions** strives to bring stories from the East and Far East to a British and European audience. Working in collaboration with Grist to the Mill Productions, the team has already brought three classic Chinese stories to the British stage. ‘The Autumn of Han’ 2014-2015, ‘DiaoChan: The Rise of the Courtesan’ 2015-2016 have successfully toured the UK and ‘Monkey and The White Bone Demon’ graced the British stage in 2019. Red Dragonfly also encourages and nurtures new British playwrights with East Asian heritage through their annual new-writing competition Taking Flight Festival.

**Grist to the Mill Productions** is passionate about bringing theatre, exciting new-writing and stories with a new perspective to the British and International stage. Ross Ericson is the founder and resident playwright. The company's production of 'Casualties', a gritty story about the soldiers in the bomb disposal unit in the Afghan war, was nominated for Best New Play at the OffWestEnd Award in 2013. Working with sister company Red Dragonfly Productions, the team has adapted various Chinese classics into a European theatre format and toured around the UK, promoting intercultural interest and creating opportunities for British East Asian artists. To date Ross Ericson has 4 plays published by Bloomsbury, Methuen Drama: ‘Casualties’, ‘The Unknown Soldier’, ‘Gratiano’ and ‘Henry Fielding’s Tom Jones’. The thought-provoking ‘The Unknown Soldier’ continues to tour after a Sell-out season at Edinburgh Fringe in 2016 and even after the centenary, touching the hearts and thoughts of the audiences everywhere.