

CHINA / DANCE



UNDER SIEGE

This October, Melbourne Festival audiences will get to see one of China's most epic stories is reinvented as one of this century's most ravishing spectacles.

Renowned Chinese choreographer and dancer **Yang Liping** presents **Under Siege**, her stunning vision of the climactic battle between Chu and Han armies; an encounter that changed the course of Chinese history. **Yang Liping** rewrites the epochal tale known in Chinese opera and lore as *Farewell My Concubine* with a high-octane mix of performers from ballet, hip-hop, kung-fu and Peking opera.

Beneath thousands of suspended steel blades a war rages, black-clad warriors billowing through space like smoke. Two warlords wreak carnage without end, but their fates might lie in the hands of a woman whose loyalty extends beyond death.

Using traditional Chinese art forms combined with contemporary techniques Liping weaves into her performance elements reminiscent of a Peking Opera (Jinglu), from the elaborate headdresses and masks worn to the dramatic rise and fall of the narrator's voice. Bodies soar and spin through space with extraordinary elevation while a fluent ballet distinguishes the role of the concubine.

Under Siege is an extraordinary feat of theatre, a visual and kinetic treat that sears the senses.

This stunning production sees her teaming up with Academy and BAFT award-winning set and costume designer **Tim Yip** (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), lighting by 2013 *Knight of Illumination* winner **Fabiana Piccioli** and installation design by **Beili Liuto** stir up a visual maelstrom of breathtaking imagery.

Yang Liping soared to national stardom in her homeland in 1986 and has since become a singular force in Chinese dance, creating striking solos and choreographing lavish ensemble works.

Chief Choreographer / Director Yang Liping
Costume and Set Design Tim Yip

★★★★ "Breathtakingly gorgeous."
Financial Times

★★★★ "Absolutely stunning. A work of strong vision and serious spectacle." Evening Standard

Arts Centre Melbourne - State Theatre

Thu 5 – Sun 8 Oct

Thu—Sat 8pm

Sun 5pm

1 hr 40 mins, no interval

Premium \$109

A Reserve \$89 / \$79

B Reserve \$69 / \$59

C Reserve \$49 / \$39

Under 30s \$30

www.festival.melbourne

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