

**Beijing Dance Theater returns to BAM with the US premiere of *Wild Grass*, Oct 15–18**

**Wang Yuanyuan's latest work is inspired by the poems of the iconic leftist writer Lu Xun**

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***Wild Grass***

**US Premiere**

Beijing Dance Theater  
Choreography by Wang Yuanyuan

**BAM Harvey Theater** (651 Fulton Street)

Oct 15—18 at 7:30pm

Tickets start at \$20

**Master Class:** Beijing Dance Theater

With Wang Yuanyuan

Mark Morris Dance Center (3 Lafayette Ave)

Oct 18 at 3pm

Price: \$25

[BAM.org/master-classes](http://BAM.org/master-classes)

**Brooklyn, NY/Sep 3, 2014**—Chinese choreographer **Wang Yuanyuan** and her Beijing Dance Theater return to BAM in *Wild Grass*, an evening-length work inspired by the poems of Lu Xun, one of the most iconic left-wing writers in Chinese literature. The piece celebrates the individual's will to persevere in a hostile environment.

Comprising three distinct but related movements (“Dead Fire,” “Farewell, Shadows,” and “Dance of Extremity,”) *Wild Grass* evokes the imagery and sentiments of Lu's poems. Dancers run, turn, scrape, and glide on three specially designed floors that also echo Lu's atmospheric writing: “At the foot of the mountains grow icy trees, whose leaves resemble pine needles. All cold. All pale.” The dance features original music composed by Su Cong, who won the Academy Award for Best Original Score with Ryuichi Sakamoto and David Byrne for *The Last Emperor* in 1987.

Wang Yuanyuan's dances grow out of the culture in which she lives and works. Her *Raise the Red Lantern* (2005 Next Wave) tackles the human cost of traditional Chinese family values. *Haze* (2011 Next Wave) addresses the energy and frantic pace of life in modern China. *The Golden Lotus* (later revised as *Lotus*) is based on a classical text which was banned for centuries for its eroticism and political insinuation. *Wild Grass* pays tribute to a writer revered by Mao Zedong but one who never fully embraced the Communist movement.

A poet, novelist, essayist, translator, and literary critic, Lu Xun became the titular head of the League of Left-Wing Writers in 1930s Shanghai. He is considered one of China's great writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and his work is often cited as the beginning of modern Chinese literature.

#### About the artist

Beijing Dance Theater Artistic Director **Wang Yuanyuan** is one of China's leading modern dance choreographers. Born and raised in Beijing, she studied choreography at the Beijing Dance Academy, where she later taught and helped redesign the curriculum. She earned her MFA at the school of dance at the California Institute of the Arts School of Dance in Los Angeles. Wang is at the forefront of the development of modern dance in China. In 1998, she was named resident choreographer for the National Ballet of China. The following year she premiered *Butterfly Lover* at the People's Hall for the 40th anniversary of the National Ballet, as well as a Chinese version of *The Nutcracker*. In recognition of her excellence in choreography, she was invited to serve as guest choreographer at New York City Ballet in 2003. She has choreographed important works for top Chinese filmmakers, including a ballet version of *Raise the Red Lantern* for director Zhang Yimou and the dance sequences for Tan Dun's music in *The Banquet* (a Chinese adaptation of *Hamlet*) for the director Feng Xiaogang. Wang has served as a choreographer for important historical events including for the handover of Hong Kong in 1997 and the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing (again in collaboration with Zhang Yimou). In 2008, she co-founded the Beijing Dance Theater, which made its BAM premiere in 2011 with *Haze*.

For press information contact David Hsieh at [dhsieh@bam.org](mailto:dhsieh@bam.org) or 718.636.4129 x9.

#### Credits

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#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)  
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

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