

Acclaim for Qian Yi

The Peony Pavilion

The New York Times Magazine,

"Painting a Princess" by James Oestreich

"At 23, ... she is now China's reigning opera princess, and in 'The Peony Pavillion' her talents are in full flower."

The New York Times

James Oestreich

"A radiant and energetic performance throughout the six segments."

The New York Times

Bernard Holland

"She is a graceful charmer... The body is discreet but the eyes speak ambiguously of both innocence and knowingness."

The Wall Street Journal

Heidi Wilson

"Her armory of gestures and expressions seems endless. And she uses them...to show the metamorphosis of her character."

The Wall Street Journal

Sheila Melvin

"Thus has the 24 year old Ms. Qian come to captivate New York audiences...long standing ovations that have greeted her performances will undoubtedly be moments she will treasure forever."

The Los Angeles Times

Mark Swed

"Qian Yi...is a radiant presence ... and sings aria after aria after aria with heavenly poise."

New York Magazine

Peter G. Davis

"Wen Yu Hang and Qian Yi ...Perform with extraordinary discipline, a focused concentration that never threatens to falter for a moment throughout this huge epic. Their skill is awesome and their ferocious belief in the material is infectious."

New York Post

Shirley Fleming

"Qian Yi, celebrated in China and the only one of the original cast to make it to the U.S. She is a sight to melt the heart."

The Star-Ledger

Ken Smith

"Headed by the radiant actress Qian Yi from last year's cast, the performers are uniformly devoted."

USA Today

David Patrick Stearns

"Female lead Qian yi matched her rarified vocal grace with physicality that suggest weightlessness...Part 3 when she returns as a ghost has some of her most ethereal singing."

Staten Island Advance
Michael J. Fressola

"A new star, the poised and beautiful young singer and actress Qian Yi ascended during the course of the evening and a powerful transformation occurred in the audience...In the West, singers don't worry much about how they look when singing a demanding aria. Miss Yi, who is some sort of wide ranging soprano, can sing with power and nuance without disarranging her lovely smile."

Newsday
Justin Davidson

"The music – especially Du's snaking aria sung by the slender siren voice of Qian Yi – had a tender allure."

Shanghai Journal of Culture,
"A Du Liniang Crosses Centuries", Reng Zhi Chu
"Qian Yi brings to life Du Liniang and revitalizes Tang Xianzu's 16th century masterpiece"

WNYE- TV
Eye one The Arts, Celia Ipiotis
"When she sang of her great loss, Qian Yi's voice brought tears to my eyes. The lyrical sounds she exhaled were like the those private sighs and wails that stir one's temples and extinguish all hope."

The Village Voice,
Kyle Gann
"The young heroine Du Liniang - spellbindingly sung by Qian Yi."

Ghost Lovers, Spoleto 2002

"Truly one of the most extraordinary performers you've ever seen."
Nigel Redden, Director of Lincoln Center Festival and Spoleto General Director

The Washington Post
"An Operatic Adventuress", Josh Broder
"More Surprising is the children's response to Qian Yi, playing the ghost...Fluttering footsteps create a remarkable illusion of floating. Blazing eyes beam out at them with a wicked glee that's downright unsettling."

The Post and Courier, Charleston, SC
Jennifer Hawes
"Taking the role of the flirtatious ghost is Qian Yi, who was cited as the best actor in China by China's Cultural Ministry. 'People are mesmerized by her,' says [Chen] Shi-Zheng...Spoleto General Director Nigel Redden calls her, 'Truly one of the most extraordinary performers you've ever seen.'"

The Post and Courier, Charleston, SC

"Ghost Lovers opera entertains and fascinates", Robert Jones
"The actress is Qian Yi, whose beauty really is unearthly...'Ghost Lovers' sounds and looks haunting."

The New York Times
Bruce Weber

"Ghost Lovers...starring Qian Yi as the lovely and seductive ghost...The elegance and beauty of Qian Yi...make for a gentle exotic spectacle."

Charleston City Paper
Review of Ghost Lovers at the 2002 Spoleto Festival USA
Kristen Rhodes

"She can literally communicate more with her index finger than many actors can with their entire bodies."

The Orphan of Zhao, Lincoln Center Festival 2003

The Wall Street Journal
Heidi Waleson

"And Qian Yi, so splendid as the lead in "The Peony Pavilion," made the Orphan wide-eyed and virtuously upright."

Snow in June

The Boston Globe
Ed Siegel

"Qian Yi delivers the aria that gives the play its emotional force."

Boston Herald

"Qian's performance builds to an extraordinary crescendo when she sings the operatic aria from the story in Chinese. Her voice, and the character, soar."

The New York Times
Bruce Weber

"Winding through the ensemble is the girl, played by Qian Yi ... with haunting, electrifying exoticism. The otherworldly quality of her performance ... is a flat-out thrill."