



Chinese
Heritage
Association of
Australia

澳洲華人歷史文物會
Exploring and Sharing

the History and Heritage of

Chinese who have come to Australia

DISCOVERING THE REAL MULAN 花木蘭

In 1998 an animated version of the story of Fa Mulan appeared on our cinema screens, inviting us into the tale of a young girl who disguised herself as a boy to take her father's place in the Chinese army. Naturally, she sang a lot, saved the emperor, defeated the villains and, after she was unmasked, won the heart of the soldier with the strong masculine chin. All this while proving that girl power, in any form, rocks.

Of course, since this was produced by a well-known entertainment corporation, famous for its stable of animated animals which could talk, sing and dance, Mulan was accompanied by an all-talking, all-singing, all-dancing mini dragon ancestor guardian and a cricket that chirped and produced perfect calligraphy.

At the end of last year, after a tumultuous year full of lockdowns and cancellations, a live action version of *Mulan* came to online streaming and DVD release. Is this the real Mulan, another pseudo-princess brought to a big entertainment corporation version of life?

Or is there much, much more to Mulan?



Portrait (Mulan)

Ink and colours on silk

British Museum (Public Domain)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61949893>

Join CHAA President Cheryl Cumines as she investigates Mulan –
a shadowy legend, a real historical figure or a new image of a cartoon character for the
twenty-first century?

DATE: Saturday, 3rd July, 2021
TIME: 2.30 – 4 pm
VENUE: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,
Mitchell Theatre,
280 Pitt St Sydney NSW
COST: \$10 M / \$15 V
BOOKINGS: Kathie – 4861 3078 or dblunt@bigpond.net.au