

The Proletariat



Workers and peasants stormed the artistic stage during the Cultural Revolution. Their images became the subjects of art, and they themselves became its creators — through their own efforts and through constructive criticism given to professional artists. The following examples are selections from some fields of art that flowered during that period.

Storms the Stage

"Mounting the platform to criticise Lin Piao and Confucius."



A WORLD TO WIN 1986/7

The White-Haired Girl is one of the model works created during the Cultural Revolution under the guidance of Chiang Ching. Here are some comments of peasants who had seen ballet for the first time.

In the old society, everything in our village, even the sky and the earth, belonged to the landowners who ruled over us. The hell that Yang Pai-lo and Hsi-eul went through in the ballet was the lot of every poor peasant.

I am now an old woman, but this is the first time I've seen a ballet. I had no idea what this thing called "ballet" could do for me. I find it's not only easy to follow and to understand, but it's also a lesson. We poor and lower middle peasants, we welcome this kind of revolutionary ballet with open arms.

This ballet teaches us to not forget the crimes of the propertied class, to not forget our class hatred; it teaches us that it wasn't easy for us the masses of people to seize power in our country and that we must firmly hold on to the reins of this power.







From sculptures entitled "Wrath of the Serfs".

