



The Kitchen Center
for video, Music, Dance,
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October 20, 2000

**A “sheroic” fantasy-action opera combining martial arts,
myth and revolutionary history**

Fred Ho: *Warrior Sisters*

The New Adventures of African and Asian Womyn Warriors
Opera World Premiere

November 28-December 2 [Tue-Sat] 8pm \$20

Post-performance discussion: November 30 [Thu]

Open Dress: November 27 [Mon] 4pm \$5

Concept and music by **Fred Ho**
Book and libretto by **Ann T. Greene**
Directed by **Mira Kingsley**
Performed by **The Afro Asian Music Ensemble**

“*Warrior Sisters* is a powerful rallying cry for courage in the face of oppression, and a cogent statement about the essential role of women in the attainment of social justice.”—Bill Shoemaker, *Jazz Times* (October 1999)

Magic, martial arts, myth and revolutionary history combine in composer/saxophonist Fred Ho’s *Warrior Sisters* – a “sheroic” fantasy-action opera fusing the high-octane adventure of Chinese opera, epic West African praise songs, and socialist-realist agitprop. Spanning one century and three continents, *Warrior Sisters* is the incredible odyssey of three legendary womyn warriors, Fa Mu Lan (the 1000 year old Chinese female avenger), Nana Yaa Asantewa (the Ashante warrior queen), and Sieh King King (the Chinese American feminist reformer), who come together to free their imprisoned sister-comrade Assata Shakur, the modern-day African American revolutionary. *Warrior Sisters* shatters the conventional images of womyn in western opera as femme fatales or docile, virtuous ladies with rebel warriors, military generals and social agitators. Fast-paced and action-packed, *Warrior Sisters* celebrates the struggle to end patriarchy and imperialist oppression.

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Commissioned by the Mary Flager Cary Charitable Trust, Aaron Davis Hall, Arizona State University, the National Endowment for the Arts Opera/Musical-Theater Program, Dance Theater Workshop and Big Red Media, Inc.

About the Artist:

Fred Ho is known as a composer, baritone saxophonist, writer, and radical activist, as well as the leader of the Afro Asian Music Ensemble and the Monkey Orchestra. He has worked as a construction worker and hand-to-hand combat specialist trained in stealth assault techniques. Ho's epic music/theater work, *Journey Beyond the West: The New Adventures of Monkey*, was featured in the 1997 Brooklyn Academy of Music Next Wave Festival. Recordings include the double-CD opera, *Warrior Sisters: The New Adventures of African and Asian Womyn Warriors* (Koch Jazz). Ho also composed the new opera *Night Vision: A New Third to First World Slaughterhouse Vampyre Opera*, with librettist Ruth E. Margraff. A writer and editor, Ho is the recipient of an American Book Award. His most recent book is *Legacy to Liberation: Politics and Culture of Revolutionary Asian Pacific America* (AK Press).

For Tickets call The Kitchen Box Office at 212-255-5793, ext. 11. For press comps, please contact Isabelle Deconinck at 212.255.5793 ext. 14. The Kitchen is located at 512 West 19th Street (between 10th and 11th avenues).