



Above: Liu Yifei, known for her role as “Mulan,” is the star of the web series.

Left: The new web series “A Dream of Splendor” is a big hit with the online audience.

Women-oriented web series a raging hit in China

Some say that the female scriptwriter's adaptation is a step ahead from Guan's original 'A Coquette Saves a Courtesan.'

Yao Minji

The new web series “A Dream of Splendor,” featuring “Mulan” star Liu Yifei and aired earlier this month, was the first big hit in China this year.

Likes and comments on user review site Douban.com suggest the popularity of the series is attributed to audiences' longing for a well-produced love drama set in ancient times, as well as the theme “girls help girls.”

Adapted from a Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) drama, the series tells the story of

three former courtesans who convert a boutique tea shop into a thriving restaurant.

More than 300,000 voters have given the 40-episode sitcom an 8.8 out of 10 rating on Douban until episode 14.

Some of the top comments are:

“Girls help girls. Brilliant! Hope none of the three women would fall into honey traps in later episodes. Let's just focus on business!”

“It respects my intelligence.”

However, as the show grows in popularity and

the tale develops, another voice is swiftly gaining traction.

“How come Guan Hanqing had the audacity to create a narrative about a prostitute rescuing another, but the adapted story 700 years later had to have the prostitutes insisting that they are no longer prostitutes and that they should be free?”

This particular comment has got nearly 10,000 “thumbs-up,” with a few similar ones equally appreciated.

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