

# DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

Die *Sinologie* des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften freut sich, Sie zu folgendem  
**ONLINE-Gastvortrag** einladen zu dürfen:



**Wang Chong 王翀**

*Théâtre du Rêve Expérimental, Beijing*

## Is Madame Mao Dead?

Madame Mao is criminalized, condemned, and banned. But she is far from forgotten. The works she supervised are still being performed. People are eager to know more about her. Is she really dead?

The talk will discuss the performance *Revolutionary Model Play 2.0* (world premiere 2015), a collaboration between students of the LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore), playwright Zhang Binghao, and director Wang Chong. This experimental play revisits key episodes of the life of Jiang Qing during the Cultural Revolution, when she created the *yangbanxi* (Model Plays). It is after seeing one of these works that the writer-protagonist is inundated by a flood of memories which takes him back to the revolutionary decade. Here, he tries to uncover Jiang Qing's legacy with the help of one of her earliest biographers, Roxane Witke, an American historian who interviewed her in 1972 and then wrote *Comrade Chiang Ch'ing* (1977) on the basis of these interviews. Wang Chong's performance confronts the past in a way that rejects any possibility of a unitary representation of Jiang Qing. Her story is told by a multiplicity of voices, fragmenting the recollection of the past. The idea of multidimensionality is emphasized by the presence, on the stage, of four video cameras, through which four characters can speak simultaneously, each telling a different story. To accentuate diversity, the multi-ethnic and multilingual cast speaks French, Tamil, Malay, Mandarin, German, and Filipino, in addition to English. By implementing avant-garde techniques which explore different ways of staging performance, Wang Chong creates a postmodern spectacle based on mediated and contingent versions of the past, confronting the audience with a radically new mode of perception.

**Wang Chong** is the founder and artistic director of Beijing-based performance group *Théâtre du Rêve Expérimental*. He is the most internationally commissioned Chinese theatre director. His works have been performed in 20 countries. Wang's productions include: *The Warfare of Landmine 2.0*, winning Festival/Tokyo Award; *Lu Xun*, noted by The Beijing News as The Best Chinese Performance of the Year; *Teahouse 2.0*, winning One Drama Award.

Since 2016, Wang has stopped using cell phone and social networks. He currently lives in The De-electrified Territory (TDT), a self-designed Beijing apartment that has no electricity and no electronics.

**Datum:** Mittwoch, 07.04.2021  
**Zeit:** 16:00 Uhr  
**Ort:** **ONLINE**

<https://univienne.zoom.us/j/92579932891?pwd=b2QyaytleTAxTWFGdE5VcFFod3crUT09>



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