



The Peking Acrobats

Mr. Ken T. Hai Company Director and Producer

Mr. Steven Hai Creative and Artistic Director

Mr. Zhang / Ping Technical Consultant

Mr. Jiang / F. Jun Stage Manager

Ms. Zhao / Wen Xi Orchestra Director

Mr. Eli Schellinger Technical Director

Mr. Yu / Fei Translator

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Friday, March 9 @ 7 PM
Saturday, March 10 @ 2 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Bouncing Poles
Plate Spinning
Hoop Diving
Teeter Balance
Darling Diablos
Contortion by Candlelight
A "Strapping" Kung-Fu Ceremony

Intermission

Lion Dance
Five Girl Contortion
A "Jar"-ring Experience!
Umbrella Artistry
Wushu Kungfu
High Chair
Flag Act / Human Pyramid
Bicycle Pagoda
Finale

The program for this performance will be selected from the above. Peking Acrobats reserves the right to make alterations in the order of the program or in the cast due to illness or any cause whatsoever. The use of cameras and flash or video photography are strictly prohibited.

The Peking Acrobats recommend that parents advise their children that what they see on stage takes years of practice and should not be tried at home!

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Peking Acrobats

For the last thirty-two years, The Peking Acrobats have redefined audience perceptions of Chinese acrobatics. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs and display their technical prowess at trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting and gymnastics. They push the limits of human ability, defying gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control. The Peking Acrobats are often accompanied by live musicians who skillfully play traditional Chinese instruments. The time-honored Chinese music coalesces with high-tech special effects and awe-inspiring acrobatic feats, creating an exuberant entertainment event with the festive pageantry of a Chinese carnival.

Since their founding in 1986, The Peking Acrobats have been featured on numerous television shows and celebrity-studded TV specials. These include Nickelodeon's *Unfabulous*, *Ellen's Really Big Show* (hosted by Ellen DeGeneres), *The Wayne Brady Show*, *That's Incredible*, ABC's *Wide World of Sports* and NBC's *Ring In The New Year Holiday Special*. They have also appeared on HDNet TV's In Focus series, and have appeared in 3D on NBC/Comcast's new 3D Channel. The Peking Acrobats set the world record for the Human Chair Stack on FOX Network's *Guinness Book Primetime* television show in 1999, balancing six people precariously atop six chairs twenty one feet up in the air without safety lines, astounding audiences with their bravery and dexterity. The Peking Acrobats have also made their way onto the silver screen. Company members were featured in Steven Soderbergh's hit film *Ocean's Eleven* playing alongside Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt and

George Clooney. The Peking Acrobats alumnus Shaobo Qin also appeared in that film's two sequels, *Ocean's Twelve* and *Ocean's Thirteen*.

The Peking Acrobats achieved another milestone in the fall of 2003, when they made their orchestral debut at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, CA. They performed as part of the Hollywood Bowl's Fireworks Season Finale, where the company blended their unique brand of acrobatics with the majestic sound of the 100-piece Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, conducted by John Mauceri. Since their Hollywood Bowl debut, The Peking Acrobats have performed with many of the most prestigious symphony orchestras in North America, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, featuring members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; the San Diego Symphony Orchestra; the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra; the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra; and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. The Peking Acrobats return often to the Hollywood Bowl, where they perform with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra as special guest artists.

Over their thirty-two year career, The Peking Acrobats have achieved international acclaim, dazzling audiences around the world. In 2005, The Peking Acrobats premiered in Italy on a five-week, twelve-city tour. Their opening in Milan became a spectacular media event that was covered nationally by the Italian press. In city after city, The Peking Acrobats took stage before sold-out crowds, and the reviews were filled with accolades attesting to their superb performances. Since their Italian debut, The Peking Acrobats have performed in seven European countries on six European tours.

The Peking Acrobats are part of a time-honored Chinese tradition, rooted in centuries of Chinese history and folk art. Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments. Because of this, high honor is conferred upon those skilled enough to become acrobats. The Peking Acrobats seek to uphold this rich and ancient tradition, bringing it to new technical heights while integrating twenty-first century technology. In the words of Clive Davis of the *New York Post*, "The Peking Acrobats [are] pushing the envelope of human possibility," combining agility and grace in remarkable feats of "pure artistry."