



# **THE PEKING ACROBATS®**

**2007 Tour 1-Hour Program**

**LION DANCE**

**FEET BALANCING**

**HOOP DIVING**

**COLORFUL CONTORTIONIST**

**KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT**

**THE NOSE KNOWS IT**

**ACROBATIC AMUSEMENT**

**SQUEEZE PLAY**

**IN THE HIGH CHAIR**

**FLAGS UNFURLED / HUMAN PYRAMID / BICYCLE ACT**

**FINALE**

*Total Running Time for this Program is approximately sixty minutes.*

*The program for this performance will be selected from the above. The Management 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, flash or video photography and tape recorders are strictly prohibited.*

*The Management recommends that you advise your children that what they see on stage takes years of practice and should not be tried at home!*

**(Continued on next page...)**



## **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** **2007 Tour One Hour Program Credits**

### **THE PRODUCERS:**

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Ms. Cynthia A. Dike-Hughes, Vice President  
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AND

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### **STAFF FOR THE PEKING ACROBATS®:**

Company Director:	Mr. Ken Hai
Group Leader:	Mr. Shao Kun
Technical Consultant:	Mr. Lui Fei
Stage Manager:	Mr. Jiang Jun
Orchestra Director:	Ms. Yuan Yuan
Technical Director:	Mr. Steve Kirkland



## **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** **2007 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR** **PROGRAM NOTES**

Since their debut in 1986, **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** have redefined audience perceptions of Chinese acrobatics. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs; they are experts at treacherous wire-walking, trick-cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting and gymnastics. They defy gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control. They push the envelope of human possibility with astonishing juggling dexterity and incredible balancing feats, showcasing tremendous skill and ability. They are masters of agility and grace. Accompanied by live musicians skillfully playing traditional Chinese instruments, high-tech special effects that coalesce with the music and awe-inspiring feats to create an exuberant entertainment event featuring all the excitement and festive pageantry of a Chinese Carnival!

Many of the magnificent acts we see today, despite their sophistication, were performed in ancient times. The history of Chinese acrobatics is rich in tradition and dates back over 2000 years. Throughout the history of China the acrobatic arts flourished, but in varying degrees. Originally, court entertainments were formal and monotonous, quite the opposite of the lively, folk arts of the people. And, it did all begin with folk arts: tumbling, juggling ordinary household objects and balancing. Common games of the people, such as “Rang Hitting,” or throwing a small wooden strip the size and shape of a shoe sole at a target, developed accuracy. Modern day Whip Feats are traced back to this game. Myth and religion also influenced the acrobatic performing arts. The Lion Dance is Buddhist in origin. The lion was seen as the reincarnation of a woman, who was teased into revealing her true identity. This dance was a symbol of spiritual renewal and also revered for dispelling bad luck.

Eventually, however, the excitement of the acrobat’s amazing feats caught and held the attention of the ruling class. Acrobatic performers were routinely invited to the court to entertain and impress visiting dignitaries. The varied acts of tumbling, singing, dancing and juggling became known as “The Hundred Entertainments” during the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). Records of acrobatic acts can be found as early as the Ch'in Dynasty (221 B.C. - 207 B.C.) and Chinese acrobats through the ages have continued to perfect what has become an evolving folk art form. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** ability to perform the astounding is rooted in centuries of this Chinese history and folk art.

Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments. Generations of families carry on this highly acclaimed and popular tradition. Children begin training at a young age and adhere to a rigorous training schedule which they follow for the rest of their lives. Today the acrobat in China is considered an artist. Because of the unusual and difficult nature of the feats involved,



high honor is conferred upon those skilled enough to become acrobats; an acrobat can be considered the Chinese equivalent of an American opera star. It is telling that the Chinese acrobatic tradition just gets stronger, due to the continued innovation of the artists and the endless enthusiasm from their adoring public.

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** have been featured on numerous television shows and celebrity-studded TV Specials including THE WAYNE BRADY SHOW, THAT'S INCREDIBLE, and ABC's WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS, NBC's RING IN THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SPECIAL and on NICKELODEON'S new hit show *Unfabulous*. They set the world record for the Human Chair Stack on FOX's GUINNESS BOOK PRIMETIME TV show where they astounded audiences with their bravery and dexterity as they balanced six people precariously atop six chairs 21 feet up in the air without safety lines! **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are also making the scene on the silver screen as company members were featured in Stephen Soderbergh's hit film *Ocean's 11* and *Ocean's 12* playing along with Hollywood's elite such as Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt and George Clooney. Qin Shaobo of **THE PEKING ACROBATS** Company will appear in *Ocean's 13*, featuring many of the original cast members as well as Ellen Barkin and Robert DeNiro. Watch for **THE PEKING ACROBATS** in this next chapter of this exciting series, slated for release in June 2007!

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** are also pleased to announce the tremendous success of their DVD, released on their 2006 North American Tour, which was recorded on their 2005 North American Tour as a television special for HDNet and is available for sale to the general public for the first time on this tour. The show, shot in High Definition format, has aired many times on HDNet television. **THE PEKING ACROBATS**<sup>®</sup> are excited and honored to have been selected by HDNet to participate in such innovation, thereby putting this attraction on the cutting edge of modern technology.

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** continue to perform for Symphony Concert audiences across America. Fans will recall that this milestone in their career was achieved when they made their debut at the Hollywood Bowl. 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. The acrobats infused Bowl audiences with their powerful maneuvers in a multi-cultural, multi-media spectacular. Between the 'fireworks' on stage and the fireworks in the air, audiences experienced theatrical alchemy at its finest! These concerts have led to many other performances with Symphony Orchestras across the US such as the San Francisco Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, to name a few. Clearly, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are now bringing their unique artistry to a whole new audience!

In December of 2006, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to Europe for a six-week tour of the Netherlands, Belgium and Holland. Sparked by their tremendous success during their 2005 tour of Italy, this tour took them to many exciting and fascinating locales, where they enjoyed sharing their ancient artistry with an ever-



widening European audience. They visited Amsterdam and many Dutch cities within Holland, as well as Brugge in Brussels and several cities they had yet to visit in Italy. Here, again, is another triumph for **THE PEKING ACROBATS** as they share their incredible talents, abilities and culture with an entirely new audience.

Fans will recall that **THE PEKING ACROBATS** premiered in Italy in February 2005, where they astounded Italian audiences with their incredible talents. That five-week, twelve-city tour took them to Milan, Pisa, Bologna, Naples and many other fascinating and exciting cities in Italy. The performers endeared themselves to the Italian audiences where they performed stellar shows to sell-out crowds and so it no surprise that they returned there by popular demand!

A performance by **THE PEKING ACROBATS**, therefore, brings with it the opportunity to view the epitome of a rich and ancient folk art tradition, highlighted by today's technology melding the ancient and traditional with the modern wonders of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Therefore, it is with much pride and pleasure that we embark on the Twentieth North American Tour of **THE PEKING ACROBATS®**. So, sit back, relax and enjoy as our performers reveal to you their mastery of an ancient art form, thousands of years in the making!

As the Seattle Times reports: "*Nearly everything **THE PEKING ACROBATS** did last night was amazing - and stunning, and breathtaking and WOW!*" and Clive Davis of the New York Post sums it up thusly: "***THE PEKING ACROBATS** [are] pushing the envelope of human possibility...Pure artistry!*"

Revised October 2006.