



## **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** **2012 North American Tour Program**

**COLORFUL CONTORTIONIST**  
**KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT**  
**DIVING DARING DO**  
**LET'S HAVE A BALL**  
**THE HAPPY CHEFS**  
**A SOUPED UP STRAP ACT**  
**DARING DIABLOS**  
**IT'S A TIGHT SQUEEZE**  
**IN THE HIGH CHAIR**  
**HUMAN PYRAMID / BICYCLE PAGODA**  
**FINALE**

*As this program represents our short program, there will be NO intermission.*

*Actual program content for all performances will be selected from the above.  
This program is subject to change without notice and at the discretion of management.*

*For educational shows, we recommend that instructors visit [www.iaipresentations.com](http://www.iaipresentations.com) and our Client Resources page, for Study Guides to give students a cultural reference point for experiencing the performance.*

*The Management reserves the right to make alterations in the order of the program or in the cast and crew through illness or any other cause whatsoever. The use of cameras or recording devices of any kind during the performance is strictly prohibited. The Management also recommends that you advise children that what they see on stage takes years of practice and should not be tried at home!*

**(Program Credits on Next Page...)**



*An IAI Presentations Production*

## **2012 Tour Program Credits**



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

Company Director:	Mr. Ken T. Hai
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Stage Manager:	Mr. Jiang F. Jun
Orchestra Director:	Mr. Hu W. Feng
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Translator:	Mr. "Tony" Chu (Chao Ming )
Assistant Translator:	Mr. Zhang W. Ping

### **Tour Direction by**



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*An IAI Presentations Production*

## **2012 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 feats of daring, 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 the live musicians, playing traditional Chinese instruments with modern flair, high-tech special effects that coalesce with the music, and all of this in harmony with the Acrobats awe-inspiring feats, an exuberant entertainment event appears before your eyes, featuring all the excitement and festive pageantry of a Chinese Carnival infused with fresh, explosive energy!

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 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 revered for dispelling bad luck.

Eventually, however, the excitement of the acrobat's amazing feats caught on and held the attention of the ruling classes. 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. No doubt, the Chinese acrobats of the Han Dynasty would be awe-struck and amazed at how their modern-day counterparts have elevated their art form, and the fact that their folk art tradition, begun so many ages ago, is still going strong, even into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments to their acts. Generations of families have carried on this highly acclaimed and popular tradition. Children begin training at a young age and adhere to a rigorous training schedule which they follow over the length of their careers. 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; in China, an acrobat can be considered the Chinese equivalent of an opera star in the West. 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.

Over the years, **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. They have also appeared on NICKELODEON'S hit show Unfabulous, and ELLEN'S REALLY BIG SHOW, hosted by comedian and talk show host, Ellen DeGeneres. 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! Internationally, they have appeared on the ARTISTGALLA, a benefit show that was filmed live at the Drammens Theatre in Oslo, Norway.

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**An IAI Presentations Production**

As part of their Twenty-Fifth Silver Anniversary Tour, in April 2011, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were filmed live in concert by Center City Film & Television for NBC/Comcast's new 3D Television Channel. The 3D Television Special was filmed at Popejoy Hall in Albuquerque, NM and has aired on NBC/Comcast's 3D Television Channel over the last several months. The program features **THE PEKING ACROBATS** in performance, as well as including interviews with the show's producers, cast, and crew. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are proud to once again be on the cutting edge of entertainment technology, with the release of their performances in the 3D format. Fans who may have missed this exciting program should watch their local listings for more information on this new 3D TV Special to experience **THE PEKING ACROBATS** like never before!

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** are also making the Hollywood scene on the silver screen as former company members were featured in director Stephen Soderbergh's hit film *Ocean's 11*, playing with Hollywood's elite such as Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, and George Clooney. Qin Shaobo, an alumnus of **THE PEKING ACROBATS**, also appeared in that film's two blockbuster sequels, *Ocean's 12*, and *Ocean's 13*. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were the featured performers at the glamorous Hollywood Premiere Party of *Ocean's 13* and they impressed the star-studded audience with their incredible acrobatic feats!

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** are pleased to announce the recent release of their second DVD, this time, commemorating **THE PEKING ACROBATS** 2011 Twenty-Fifth Silver Anniversary Tour. This incredible DVD was filmed in High Definition format, and those who enjoyed their first DVD release should not miss this thrilling ALL-NEW DVD, which features amazing acts, beautiful costumes, traditional Chinese music played on exotic instruments, and the high quality production values expected from **THE PEKING ACROBATS**, all in crystal-clear High Definition. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** still enjoy the continued success of their first consumer DVD, initially released on their 2006 North American Tour as a television special for HDNet. This DVD, also in High Definition format, has aired many times on HDNet television. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are excited and honored to have been selected by HDNet to participate in such technological innovation. Both of these quality DVD products are available at all public performances by **THE PEKING ACROBATS** and on the internet at [www.iaipresentations.com](http://www.iaipresentations.com) and make great gifts for family and friends.

**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! Concerts such as these 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.

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to the Hollywood Bowl for three separate appearances, most recently performing with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra in September of 2008 with Maestro Tom Wilkins conducting. The company was thrilled at the opportunity to play this prestigious venue once again. The Hollywood Bowl audiences so warmly received them, and it was like a homecoming celebration for the performers.

Continuing their tradition of innovation with the Symphony Concerts, in May of 2011, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** performed in sold-out Symphony Concerts with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in Canada. These concerts mark the first time **THE PEKING ACROBATS** have performed with Canadian Symphony Orchestras, and the shows were sold-out, explosive entertainment events, that were critically acclaimed, and thoroughly enjoyed by audiences in those cities. Expanding **THE PEKING ACROBATS'** reach to yet another audience in Canada, these engagements will undoubtedly lead to many other such performances with Symphony Orchestras across North America and, in between their theatre tours, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** continue to bring their unique artistry to a completely new audience of theatrical patrons.

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An IAI Presentations Production

On New Year's Eve 2011, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** performed with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, Mariusz Smolij conducting. This was a truly gala event and an experience not to be missed! Attended by thousands of people, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** treated the celebratory crowd at the Amsoil Arena in Duluth, MN to their special form of artistry, combined with the incredible sound of the 80-piece Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra. All of these elements made for a magical night of entertainment and fun! Together with this performance, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** also played family shows on New Year's Day in Grand Rapids, MN at the Reif Performing Arts Center, much to the delight of audiences there. It was a great way to ring in the New Year and to welcome 2012 by performing for the appreciative crowds in Minnesota, the heartland of America!

**THE PEKING ACROBATS** have also expanded their reach into the European market. For the past five years, they have toured throughout the Continent and visited such countries as Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. They have traveled to several of these countries two and three times over, visiting many exciting cities such as Milan, Bologna, and Naples in Italy, Bruges in Belgium, as well as Amsterdam and the Hague in the Netherlands.

Their affinity for and popularity with European audiences does not end there, however, as they will return to Europe once again in November and December 2012, when they will tour throughout the Netherlands and other European countries, marking their sixth European Tour. Here again, is another triumph for **THE PEKING ACROBATS** as they share their incredible talents, abilities, and culture with ever-widening audiences, building their reputation as the finest Chinese acrobatic troupe in the world! On all of these European tours, the performers have endeared themselves to the European audiences, and so it is no surprise that they are asked to return there by popular demand, again and again. The warmth and appreciation of the European people makes **THE PEKING ACROBATS** feel right at home, and the future holds many more such successful tours for **THE PEKING ACROBATS**' much to the delight of their growing numbers of European fans!

For their 2012 North American Tour, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** live performances will be more awesome and spectacular than ever before, featuring all new acts and new twists on old favorites, incredible costumes, and special effects. As in previous years, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** will feature live musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments with 21<sup>st</sup> Century style and sophistication, adding yet another dimension of grace and beauty to **THE PEKING ACROBATS** incredible artistry!

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. It is with much pride and pleasure that we embark on the Twenty Sixth North American Tour of **THE PEKING ACROBATS®**. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy as our performers reveal to you their mastery of a fascinating and ancient art form, thousands of years in the making, and celebrate with us over 25 years of awesome entertainment!

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 2011.

**(End of Program and Notes)**