



~ **THE PEKING ACROBATS®** ~
2012 Twenty-Sixth North American Tour
COMPLETE PRESS RELEASE AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE PEKING ACROBATS®, a troupe of China's most gifted tumblers, contortionists, jugglers, cyclists, and gymnasts complemented by live musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments will bring their 2,000-year-old tradition of acrobatics to North America for an extensive 40-city tour of North America, including many cities in Canada. Their Twenty-Sixth North American Tour will begin in January 2012 and continue through April 2012. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** will appear at _____ (venue) _____ on _____ (day and date) _____ at _____ (time) _____.

THE PEKING ACROBATS played to sold-out houses and earned rave reviews during their twenty-five previous headline Theatre Tours from 1986 through 2011. When **THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to Broadway in New York City, they made headlines. Their sold-out three-week engagement thrilled audiences of all ages. The reviews said it all, with virtually every word of these glowing articles quotable, here are a few highlights:

“The things these kids can do before breakfast...seem to push the envelope of human possibility. If daring and dexterity turn you on, this is a show that will probably twist you around in your seat...it’s amazing and exciting!”

~ Clive Barnes, New York Post

“Amazing! Zounds! The vocabulary of exclamation seeks expression as the medium of awed and surprised reaction to the wondrous feats of THE PEKING ACROBATS! In their graceful efforts...these brightly costumed tumblers, acrobats, cyclists, jugglers and clever clowns provide 90 minutes of family fun that infuses springtime in New York with an extra measure of joy.”

~ Lawrence van Gelder, New York Times

“The physical feats of THE PEKING ACROBATS seem almost...surreal, defying laws of body mechanics and physics. It’s like watching ‘Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon’ LIVE, without camera tricks creating special effects. All the members of this troupe are amazing athletes with grace and charisma in addition to their razor-sharp precision...everything entertainment should be, uplifting, awe-inspiring and an exploration of the full extent of human potential. When a show can fill you with the wonder of a 10 year-old, you know you have had a good time...that’s success!”

~ Angela Jones, Dance Insider



THE PEKING ACROBATS have been the featured performers on numerous television shows and celebrity-studded TV Specials including appearances on THE WAYNE BRADY SHOW as well as NBC's RING IN THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SPECIAL, NICKELODEON'S UNFABULOUS and ELLEN'S REALLY BIG SHOW, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** set the world record for the Human Chair Stack on Fox's GUINNESS BOOK PRIMETIME where they astounded television 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 Hollywood scene on the silver screen as 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**, appeared in that film's two blockbuster sequels, *Ocean's 12*, and *Ocean's 13*. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were also the featured performers at the star-studded Hollywood Premiere of *Ocean's 13* in June 2007.

THE PEKING ACROBATS are still enjoying great success from the release of their first DVD, recorded on their 2005 North American Tour as a television special for HDNet. Their performance, filmed in High Definition format, has aired numerous times on HDNet television. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are excited and honored to have been selected by HDNet to be among the first performing ensembles of their kind to participate in such an innovative technology as high definition television, reaffirming **THE PEKING ACROBATS** commitment to bringing their unique and ancient art form into the 21st Century! **THE PEKING ACROBATS** DVD's are currently available for purchase by the public at their performances and on the internet at www.iaipresentations.com.

THE PEKING ACROBATS continue to be on the cutting edge of technology. During their 25th Silver Anniversary Tour, Center City Film & Video filmed the Company in 3D format for NBC/Comcast Communications to be shown on their new 3D Channel. For this exclusive taping, a five-camera shoot was implemented and 3D TV audiences will be treated to **THE PEKING ACROBATS** experience in this exciting format updated with 21st Century technology. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were truly honored to be shown in yet another groundbreaking entertainment media, and to be the first Acrobatic ensemble of their kind to do so. By casting their incredible art form in the latest 3D technology, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** elevate their craft to new heights, and imprint their unique and indelible stamp on the history of Chinese acrobatics for posterity to enjoy, and to be inspired by, for many years to come. Here again, is another example of how **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are furthering the Acrobatic traditions begun by their ancestors, thousands of years ago.



THE PEKING ACROBATS achieved another milestone as they made their debut at the Hollywood Bowl in the Fall of 2003. 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. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** musicians played traditional Chinese instruments with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra as 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!

Since their Hollywood Bowl debut, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** have performed with some of the most prestigious Symphony Orchestras in North America today. These include 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. In the Fall of 2008, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were invited to return to the Hollywood Bowl where they performed with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra as Special Guest Artists. In May of 2011, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** performed Symphony Concerts with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in Canada. These concerts marked the first time **THE PEKING ACROBATS** have performed with Canadian Symphony Orchestras, expanding their reach to yet another concert going audience. No doubt, these engagements will 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.

In February of 2005, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** premiered in Italy where they astounded Italian audiences with their incredible talents while on their five-week, twelve-city tour that took them to Milan, Pisa, Bologna, Naples, and many other fascinating and exciting cities within Italy. The performers endeared themselves to the Italian audiences where they performed stellar shows to sold-out crowds. Their opening in Milan was a spectacular media event that was covered nationally by the Italian press. All of Italy knew that **THE PEKING ACROBATS** had come to entertain the Italian people with their ancient artistry! In city after city, the reviews were filled with accolades attesting to their superb performances - **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were the toast of every city they visited!



In December of 2006, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to Europe for another six-week tour of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy. Sparked by their tremendous success during their 2005 tour of Italy, this second European 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 the Netherlands, as well as Brugge in Brussels and several cities they had yet to visit in Italy. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** were so popular, that the show was booked again for yet another, third European tour that same year! They returned to Italy and the Netherlands in October of 2007 and, on this tour, they performed for new audiences in those countries and, for the first time ever, audiences in Switzerland were able to witness their fascinating brand of artistry!

Their affinity for and popularity with European audiences does not end there, however, as in December of 2008, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to Europe, again, this time for their Fourth European Tour. And again, in December of 2009, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** returned to Europe for their Fifth European Tour where they visited many cities in Holland and Belgium. Here, again, are more triumphs 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! 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!

THE PEKING ACROBATS ability to perform the astounding is rooted in centuries of Chinese history and folk art. Records of acrobatic acts can be found as early as the Ch'in Dynasty (221 B.C. - 207 B.C.). In fact, the name China is actually derived from the Ch'in Dynasty. According to Fu Qifeng, author of Chinese Acrobatics Through the Ages, acrobatics originated from the people's daily life, drawing from their experiences in work, war, and sacrificial rites. During the Warring States Period, acrobatics became widespread. It was believed that practicing acrobatics could steal people's will, increase their physical strength and the accuracy of their movements.



During the Han Dynasty (207 B.C. - 220 A.D.), acrobatics flourished, and this wide variety of juggling, tumbling, and magic acts came to be known as the "Hundred Entertainments." It was at this time, according to historian Fu Qifeng, that Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty presented the first grand acrobatic performance at the Imperial Court. The Emperor Wu Di invited a number of important foreign dignitaries, thus making this performance the first time in Chinese history that acrobatic art was presented for diplomatic purposes. The foreign guests were so impressed by what they saw that they agreed to enter into military and trade alliances with the Han Emperor.

Continuing the tradition of Chinese acrobatics inspiring confidence and impressing one's guests, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** have also been expanding their reach in the Corporate and Special Events milieu. They have performed for such prestigious clients as Johnson & Johnson Medical in Beijing, China; the Unisys Corporation in Macau, China; the Smithsonian Institute Associates in Washington, DC; the International Monetary Convention in Beijing, China; Ferrari/Maserati in Beverly Hills, California; Lucent Technologies and Pepsi-Cola in Hawaii; and at Walmart's 2010 Shareholder's Meeting in Fayetteville, AR.

In addition to these engagements, they have been the featured entertainment at private events at such prestigious venues as the Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, among many others. These private performances are a logical outgrowth of the tradition of Chinese acrobatics, which began centuries ago as entertainments designed to impress Heads of State and dignitaries in ancient times. So it is fitting that today, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are part of events where they impress modern guests at many prestigious state, corporate, and international galas.

In China today, professional acrobatic troupes have many outlets for displaying their talents. Some appear on Chinese television shows as the broadcast industry in China has expanded to include several television channels featuring diverse programming. Some travel throughout China bringing their own unique costumes, stage props, and acrobatic styles to factories, villages, army units, remote areas, and frontier outposts. Still others have formed joint ventures with Theme Parks as an economically thriving China has fostered the growth of its own family entertainment industry, where they perform seasonally as part of the theme park's entertainment, much like here in the U.S. As time goes by, 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® ~ 2012 Twenty Sixth North American Tour

Daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs...trick cycling...a kaleidoscope of magnificent movement...powerful precision tumbling, somersaulting, and gymnastics...amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control...astonishing foot juggling dexterity...incredible balancing feats showcasing tremendous skill and ability...extraordinary exhibits of agility and grace...live musicians displaying their talents by skillfully playing traditional Chinese instruments....high-tech special effects and all the excitement and festive pageantry creating an atmosphere like that of a Chinese Carnival!! All of this is just a part of the magnificent show offered by **THE PEKING ACROBATS** from the People's Republic of China. Last year, this engaging troupe marked its twenty-fifth Silver Anniversary North American Tour following sold-out headline Theatre Tours from 1986 - 2010. And now, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** return to American soil for their Twenty-Sixth North American Tour where they will continue to impress audiences with their unique brand of ancient artistry.

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. In China there are approximately 100,000 acrobats studying at schools dedicated to the art. After ten or eleven years of extensive tutoring, often beginning as early as age 5 or 6, the student will join a professional troupe, usually a citywide organization that draws its members regionally. Only the best acrobats find themselves members of an elite world-touring troupe such as **THE PEKING ACROBATS**. For centuries, dating back to the Ch'in Dynasty (221 B.C. - 207 B.C.), Chinese acrobats have continued to perfect an evolving folk art form. Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments. 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.

Each new movement or action takes many years to practice and perfect. Those who have seen **THE PEKING ACROBATS** on any of their previous tours can be assured that they will see new, exciting acts and new twists to their old favorites, to celebrate twenty-six years of awesome entertainment! For this tour, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** will again be pulling out all the stops, to make this their most memorable tour to date. Featuring the acrobats performing their unique brand of artistry in incredible costumes, with dazzling special effects, and, live musicians playing traditional Chinese



instruments, who share the stage with **THE PEKING ACROBATS**, adding yet another stunning dimension to **THE PEKING ACROBATS** Twenty-Sixth North American Tour!

THE PEKING ACROBATS have built a tremendous reputation over the years, performing not only on stages around the globe, but also on many popular television shows, including NICKELODEON'S UNFABULOUS, and ELLEN'S REALLY BIG SHOW, hosted by daytime talk show host and actress, Ellen DeGeneres. They have performed with world-famous Symphony Orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. They have performed for prestigious Corporations around the world, including Unisys, Ferrari/Maserati of Beverly Hills, Walmart, and for the International Monetary Convention. They have performed five consecutive European tours in recent years, visiting such countries as Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands. They have been featured in star-studded feature films, including Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's 11*. They have been featured on High Definition Television, and presented on 3D Television. Their incredible popularity and longevity as a performing entity is a testament to the awesome power of their performances. Their renown continues to grow with each passing year, refining their unique brand of ancient artistry and inspiring crowds of all ages, from all walks of life, performance by performance.

A performance by **THE PEKING ACROBATS**, therefore, brings with it the opportunity to view the epitome of a rich and ancient folk art tradition in addition to the pageantry and spectacle of the modern Chinese Theatrical Circus. As the Seattle Times has reported: "*Nearly everything the Peking Acrobats did last night was amazing - and stunning, and breathtaking and WOW!*" and Chris Pasles of the Los Angeles Times stated: "*The Peking Acrobats regularly passed from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable.*"



THE PEKING ACROBATS have performed the world over for more than twenty-five years to standing ovations and packed houses, including such far-reaching corners of the globe as Australia, Europe, throughout the Americas, the Middle East, Africa, and numerous Asian countries. Now, over 2,000 years of tradition, perfection, spectacle, and awesome entertainment comes to _____ (city) _____ - are you ready to be amazed?

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