



THE PEKING ACROBATS®

GENERAL 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 50-city tour of North America. Their twenty-first US Tour will begin in January 2007 and continue through April 2007. **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 previous headline Theatre Tours from 1986 through 2006. 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 featured 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 and NICKELODEON'S UNFABULOUS. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** 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 proud to announce their very first DVD which was recorded on their 2005 North American Tour as a television special for HDNet. The show was shot in High Definition format and has aired numerous times on HDNet television. **THE PEKING ACROBATS** are excited and honored to have been selected by HDNet to participate in such an innovative technology as high definition television, reaffirming **THE PEKING ACROBATS** commitment to bringing their unique and ancient art form and tradition into the 21st Century! **THE PEKING ACROBATS** DVD's of this performance are currently available for purchase by the general public at their performances and on the internet at www.iaipresentations.com or www.chineseacrobats.com.

THE PEKING ACROBATS achieved another milestone in their career 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 it's finest! A few of the prestigious symphony orchestras **THE PEKING ACROBATS** have performed with since their Hollywood Bowl debut include: The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival, The San Diego Symphony Orchestra, The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. No doubt these engagements will lead to many other such performances with symphony orchestras across the US and, in between their theatre tours, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** continue to bring their unique artistry to a whole new audience.



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 sell-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! Here, again, is another triumph for **THE PEKING ACROBATS** as they shared their incredible talents, abilities and culture with an entirely new audience. The warmth and appreciation of the Italian people made **THE PEKING ACROBATS** feel right at home and they look forward to the time in the near future when they may return to this beautiful and very hospitable country.

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.). Interestingly, 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 and increase their physical strength and the accuracy of their movements.

During the Han Dynasty (207 B.C. - 220 A.D.) acrobatics flourished, and the wide variety of juggling, tumbling and magic acts came to be known as the "Hundred Entertainments." It was at this time, according to Fu Qifeng, that Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty presented the first grand acrobatic performance at the Imperial Court. 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 alliances with the Han Emperor. In China today, professional acrobatic troupes have many outlets for showcasing 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 their 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.

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 a Chinese 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®

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE - NORTH AMERICAN TOUR 2007

Daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs...treacherous wire walking...a trick cycling 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 twentieth North American tour following sold-out headline Theatre Tours from 1986 - 2006.

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.

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! 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 performed the world over 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, 2,000 years of tradition, perfection and spectacle comes to _____ (city) _____ - are you ready to be amazed?

Revised March 2006.