

3-19-1999

## Peking Acrobats®

Center for Performing Arts

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### Recommended Citation

Center for Performing Arts, "Peking Acrobats®" (1999). *Center for Performing Arts Memorabilia*. Book 146.  
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**THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS**  
and  
**The Graycor Companies**  
present

**THE PEKING ACROBATS®**



**March 19, 1999**

**Governors State University  
University Park, Illinois**

## THE PEKING ACROBATS®

Welcome to the magnificent world of THE PEKING ACROBATS®. Here, the impossible is made possible and "daring" only begins to describe their amazing performance.

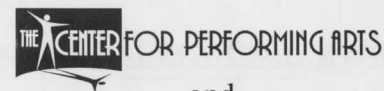
THE PEKING ACROBATS® are comprised of the finest acrobatic troupes in China today and have received acclaim from countries around the world. An outgrowth of the GREAT CHINA CIRCUS popular during the 1920's, this troupe became an integrated professional acrobatic company in 1958.

Many of the magnificent feats we see today, despite their sophistication, were performed in ancient times. The history of Chinese acrobats is rich in tradition and date back over 2000 years. It began with folk arts: tumbling, juggling ordinary household objects and balancing. Common games of the people, such as "Rang Hitting," 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, and often teased in revealing its true identity. It was a symbol for the spirit of renewal and was revered for dispelling bad luck.

Throughout the history of China the acrobatic arts flourished, but in varying degrees. Originally court entertainment's were formal and monotonous, quite the opposite of the lively folk arts of the people. 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 courts to entertain and impress visiting Emperors. These varied acts of tumbling, singing, dancing and juggling became known as "The Hundred Entertainment's" in the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). The years have worn on, however, and we are pleased to bring you this, the Twelfth North American Tour of THE PEKING ACROBATS® coming to America!

The acrobatic arts have always maintained their popularity with the people. Today the acrobat in China is considered an artist. Generations of families carry on this highly acclaimed tradition. Children begin training at a young age and adhere to a rigorous training schedule which they will follow for the rest of their lives. And now, relax and enjoy THE PEKING ACROBATS® - Thousands of years in the making and ready for you - are you ready to be astounded?



and  
The Graycor Companies  
proudly present

## PEKING ACROBATS®

Tour Program  
There will be one intermission.

LION DANCE  
CONTORTIONIST  
JAR JUGGLING  
BALANCING FANTASY  
PLATE SPINNING  
HULA HOOPS  
SQUEEZE PLAY  
FEET BALANCING

PAGODA OF CHAIRS  
HUMAN PYRAMID  
HOOP DIVING  
BOWL BALANCING  
WATER METEOR  
STRAPS  
TRAPEZE  
THE POLE CLIMB

### FINALE

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 is 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!**

#### Staff For The Peking Acrobats

Company Director  
Group Leader  
Technical Consultant  
Stage Manager  
Stage Manager  
Orchestra Director

Mr. Ken Hai  
Mr. Chang De Ping  
Ms. Lee Yu Ling  
Mr. Brian Birkenkemper  
Mr. Chu Chin  
Ms. Liu Yen

#### The Producers

IAI Presentations Inc. (Don Hughes President)  
(Cynthia A. Dike Vice President)  
P.O. Box 4, Pismo Beach, CA 93448  
Telephone (805) 773-9080  
Fax (805) 773-9083  
International Asia Inc (Ken Hai President)  
P.O. Box 720682, San Diego, CA 92172

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**RAMONA QUIMBY**



**SATURDAY MAY 22, 1999**  
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