



If you enjoyed
The Peking Acrobats
 Chico Performances recommends:

Broadway Musical

A Year With Frog and Toad

Friday, February 5

Based on the beloved book by Arnold Lobel and a hit on Broadway, *A Year With Frog & Toad* was nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The story follows two great friends, the cheerful and popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad, who learn important lessons about friendship as they proceed to work their way through the seasons of life, including planting gardens, swimming, raking leaves, and sledding. Pure family fun!

The Handsome Little Devils

Squirm Burpee Circus: A Vaudevillian Melodrama

Tuesday, February 9

The Squirm Burpee Circus is an exhilarating, fantastical adventure featuring classic Vaudeville comedy, high-skill circus acts, and a plot rooted in American melodrama. The show explodes with high-energy comedic acts like *The Human Cannon*, *The Ladder of Love*, and *Chainsaw Juggling*, and has all the elements of classic Vaudeville comedy routines--hilarious romantic antics, juggling, high-wire walking, fast paced one-liners, and even swing dancing--all with a plot you won't believe; bad puns included!

Family Entertainment

Moscow Circus

Saturday, February 27

The Moscow Circus is filled with musicians, clowns, dancers, performers, gymnasts, and trained animals. Watch while they perform high-flying acrobatic feats, laugh at the zany antics of hilarious clowns, be amazed by the puppets, and be entertained by the singers, dancers, and musicians. Along with ornate costumes and backdrops, this show combines drama, cultural history, excitement, and entertainment—it's a circus combined with a Russian folk festival. Bring the kids!



Chico Performances

presents

PEKING ACROBATS

Jan. 20, 2010

Laxson Auditorium, CSU, Chico

Performance List

- OPENING CEREMONY/DOUBLE POLE POSITION
- MAGIC CARPET RIDE
- WATER METEORS
- DIVING DARING DO
- JAR JUGGLING
- LAUGHTER IN THE AIR
- JUST SKATIN' BY
- AMAZING ADAGIO
- THE NOSE KNOWS IT
- FIVE-GIRL CONTORTION
- KUNG-FU SURPRISE
- LION DANCE
- LET THE SPINNING PLATES SPIN
- GET STRAPPED IN
- COLORFUL CONTORTIONISTS
- KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT
- IT'S A TIGHT SQUEEZE
- IN THE HIGH CHAIR
- HUMAN PYRAMID/BICYCLE PAGODA
- FINALE



There will be one intermission.

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 parents advise their children that what they see on stage takes years of practice and should not be tried at home!

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 live musicians skillfully playing traditional Chinese instruments and high-tech special effects that coalesce with the music featuring 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 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 2,000 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 and balancing ordinary household objects. 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 was also revered for dispelling bad luck.

Eventually, however, the excitement of the acrobat's amazing feats caught 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 BC-207 BC) 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 tradition begun so many ages ago, and is still going strong, even in the 21st century!

Tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add its own improvements and embellishments. 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 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; in China, 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 television shows, including *The Wayne Brady Show*, *That's Incredible*, ABC's *Wide World of Sports*, and 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 where they astounded audiences with their bravery and dexterity as they balanced six people precariously atop six chairs 21 feet 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. 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, 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 glamorous Hollywood Premiere Party of *Ocean's 13*, and they really impressed the star-studded audience with their incredible acrobatic feats! The Peking Acrobats are also pleased to announce the tremendous success of their first consumer DVD, initially released on their 2006 North American Tour and filmed on their 2005 North American Tour as a television special for HDNet. This crystal-clear, thrilling DVD is available for sale to the public at their performances and on the internet at www.iaipresentations.com. The show, shot 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, 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 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

U.S. 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 have returned to the Hollywood Bowl in three separate outings, most recently performing with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra in September of 2008 with Maestro Tom Wilkins conducting. They were thrilled at the opportunity to play this prestigious venue once again. The Hollywood Bowl audiences warmly received them; it was like a homecoming celebration for the performers. Clearly, The Peking Acrobats are now bringing their unique artistry to a completely new audience with the symphony concerts and will continue to do so in the future.

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 Haag in the Netherlands.

Their affinity for and popularity with European audiences does not end there, however. In December of 2009, The Peking Acrobats once again returned to Europe, this time for their fifth 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!

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 21st Century. Therefore, it is with much pride and pleasure that we embark on the twenty-second 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!

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!"

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