

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 2pm & 8pm
Sunday, January 18, 2009, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

National Acrobats of China



Cal Performances' 2008–2009 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

National Acrobats of China

PROGRAM

Spinning Plates

Performers: Zhang Jianan, Xiao Jingwen, Guo Cui, Guo Yuze, Meng Yan, Meng Na, Yang Fuli, Xue Muyuan, Fan Xiaoli, Ju Wenwen, Li Xiaoli, Chen Ke, Zhu Lin

Description: Thirteen female acrobats use their skills to spin plates on two iron sticks, one in each hand, performing different tricks with accompanying dance. This piece won the golden Award at the National Acrobatic Competition of China.

Hoop Diving

Acrobats: Dong Jie, Wang Senlin, Xue Jun, Gao Zhonglong, Gao Zhongxin, Zhao Jinlong, Li Tao, Yin Xiaolong, Yin Yupeng, Xia Bin, Zhao Xin, Zhang Wei, Zhang Lei

Description: Twelve male acrobats jump, dive and tumble through hoops on a table with dynamic speed and rhythm. The highest jump is four hoops stacked on top of a table, over seven feet in the air.

Diablo

Performers: Zhang Jianan, Guo Cui, Guo Yuze, Meng Yan, Yang Fuli, Xue Muyuan, Fan Xiaoli, Ju Wenwen, Meng Na, Zhi Yanan

Description: Ten female acrobats in colorful costumes perform with diablos on cords tied with two sticks, juggling in their hands.

Russian Bar

Performers: Dong Jie, Xue Jun, Li Tao, Zhang Delong

Description: Two male acrobats balance the Russian bar on their shoulders while two acrobats do somersaults and tricks jumping on the bar.

Single Hand Balancing

Performer: Ye Mingzhu

Description: A female performer balances her entire body on the strength of one arm while positioned atop a perch. Ye Mingzhu performed a similar act in *Dralion*, a Cirque du Soleil production, during the year long tour of Europe and Japan.

Grand Acrobatics & Martial Arts

Acrobats: The Company

Description: The company shares with the audience all kinds of acrobatic balancing, tumbling movements and pyramids. One special martial arts performer shows off skills of many disciplines of martial arts.

INTERMISSION

Straw-Hat Juggling

Performers: Dong Jie, Xue Jun, Gao Zhongxin, Zhao Jinlong, Li Tao, Yin Yupeng, Xia Bin, Zhao Xin, Zhang DeLong

Description: Ten male acrobats give the audience a breathtaking performance with tens straw hats in their hands, juggling, throwing and catching hats individually and in groups. This act won the Golden Lion Award at the National Acrobatic Competition of China.

Contortion

Contortionist: Xue Muyuan

Dancers: Zhang Jianan, Xiao Jingwen, Guo Cui, Guo Yuze, Meng Yan, Meng Na, Fan Xiaoli, Ju Wenwen, Li Xiaoli, Yang Fuli

Description: A young woman shows off her body's flexibility while surrounded by dancers in traditional Chinese costumes.

Icarian Acrobatics

Performers: Wang Senlin, Gao Zhonglong, Yin Xiaolong, Zhang Wei, Zhang Lei, Zhu Yonggei, Hu Jiaqi, Chen Gang, Dong Jie

Description: Male acrobats tumble and do somersaults on each other's feet. This act was the Gold winner at 2007's Cirque de Demain festival in France.

Acrobatics of Five

Performers: Li Xiaoli, Zhi Yanan, Xue Muyuan, Ye Mingzhu, Zhang Di

Description: Five female performers present varying beautiful images as a group in this piece that shows their contorting and balancing abilities.

Lasso

Performers: Dong Jie, Xue Jun, Gao Zhonglong, Gao Zhongxin, Zhao Jinlong, Li Tao, Yin Yupeng, Xia Bin, Zhao Xin, Wang Senlin, Yin Xiaolong

Description: Male performers show off their mastery of ropes in this piece showcasing tricks and feats.

Bicycle

Performers: Zhang Jianan, Xiao Jingwen, Guo Cui, Guo Yuze, Meng Yan, Meng Na, Fan Xiaoli, Ju Wenwen, Yang Fuli, Li Xiaoli, Chen Ke, Zhu Lin, Ye Mingzhu, Zhi Yanan, Zhang Di, Xue Muyuan

Description: Sixteen female acrobats perform acrobatic tricks and balances on moving bicycles. This act was the Golden Clown winner at the Monte Carlo International circus Festival.

Finale

Performers: The Company

Program subject to change.

National Acrobats of China

Yao Jianguo and Zichun Tian, *Directors*
Ning Han, *Company Manager/CPAA Representative*

Acrobats

Dong Jie
Yang Haibo
Xue Jun
Zhang Delong
Wang Senlin
Zhang Lei
Zhang Wei
Gao Zhonglong
Zhu Yonggui
Chen Gang
Hu Jiaqi
Yin Xiaolong
Zhao Yang
Xia Bin
Gao Zhongxin
Yin Yupeng
Zhao Xin
Zhao Jinlong
Li Tao
Wang Yang
Luo Yangli
Chen Ke
Li Xiaoli
Xiao Jingwen
Zhu Lin
Meng Na
Zhang Di
Sun Wenyan
Zhang Jianan
Meng Yan
Guo Cui
Guo Yuze
Yang Fuli
Xue Muyuan
Ye Mingzhu
Fan Xiaoli
Ju Wenwen
Zhi Yanan



The **National Acrobats of China** was founded in June 1956 and has been one of the most influential acrobatic troupes in the world.

The National Acrobats of China have taken part in national and international acrobatic competitions and festivals since the 1980s and achieved outstanding results. Their act “Bench Juggling with Feet” won the Golden Clown Award at the Tenth International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo in Monaco in December 1984 and the Silver Award in the second China National Acrobatic Competition in September 1993. “Clownish Straw Hats” won the Copper Lion Prize at the fourth Wuqiao International Acrobatics Art Festival in November 1993. “Cycling Stunts (Girl’s Bicycle Stunts)” won the Gold Clown Award at the second Wuhan International Acrobatics Art Festival in September 1994. “Bench Juggling with Feet” won the Copper Award at the Italy International Acrobatics Art Festival in May 1995. The Gold Lion Prize went to “Cycling Stunts (Girl’s Bicycle Stunts),” “Bench Juggling with Feet” and “Handstand on Chairs Placed on Turntables” at the Fourth China National Acrobatics Competition in September 1995, where the Silver Lion Prize went to “Clownish Straw Hats.” At the Moscow International Circus Festival, the special award went to the troupe’s “Hand-standing Acrobatics,” and “Kick Bowls on Running Circle” won the Copper Bear award. In January 1997, “Cycling Stunts (Girl’s Bicycle Stunts)” won first prize—the Golden Clown Award—at the 21st International Circus Festival in Monte Carlo. “Straw-Hat Juggling” and “Plates Spinning” won the Golden Awards at the Fifth China National

Acrobatics Competition in October 2000. “Dream Step Dance—Plate Spinning” was awarded the Golden Prize at the Fourth China National Youth Acrobatics Competition in August 2002.

In February 2007, the troupe’s “Icarian Boys,” featuring 12 performers, won the Golden (President’s) Award at the Cirque de Demain in Paris. In August 2007, “Drum Girls,” featuring nine performers, won the Silver Award at the Moscow International Circus Festival.

The National Acrobats of China’s contribution to the international performing market for the Chinese acrobats has been great. The troupe has performed in more than 30 countries, including Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Romania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Italy, Austria, India, Laos, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Puerto Rico, England, France, the United States, Singapore, Korea, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal. From 1997 until early 2007, the troupe toured to Europe for seven months on average each year, and performed in more than 100 cities there during the period. In summer 2007, the troupe brought 40 acrobats and staff for a three-month tour of countries in the Caribbean. From November 2007 to January 2008, the troupe’s “Icarian” group of 25 members performed the act separately at Circus Conelli in Zurich and the Carre Theatre in Amsterdam. In February 2008, the troupe toured Indonesia and gave 36 performances.

The National Acrobats of China’s acts are often picked up by different international circuses and cruises, such as Swiss Circus Knie and Princess Cruises. Stuttgart Winter Circus chose the troupe’s “Cycling Stunts (Girl’s Bicycle Stunts)” and “Plates Spinning” in 2000 and 2001, “Aerial Silk” in 2005 and “Icarian Boys” in 2006.

Management:

Columbia Artists Management LLC

1790 Broadway, New York, New York 10019

Andrew S. Grossman, *Producer*

W. Seton Ijams, *Associate*

Brandon Conley and Jane Dechongkit, *Assistants*

Diane Burrell, *Company Manager*

Chris Burrell, *Production Manager*