

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2004

CONTACT:
Kimberly Burns/510-643-6714
kburns@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Christina Kellogg/510-642-9121
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE PEKING ACROBATS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 & SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 IN ZELLERBACH HALL

SCHOOLTIME: SPECIAL 1-HOUR SHOW FOR STUDENTS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 11:00 A.M.

“The Peking Acrobats regularly pass from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable.” --*Los Angeles Times*

BERKELEY, December 7, 2004 — Daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs, treacherous wire-walking, amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control – **The Peking Acrobats** return to Cal Performances on **Friday, January 21 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Since 1952, this elite group of acrobats, gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists and tumblers from the People’s Republic of China has left audiences around the world spellbound by the graceful athleticism of their ancient folk art. *Dance Insider* writes that watching them perform is like “watching *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* LIVE, without camera tricks creating special effects. All 26 members of this troupe are amazing athletes with grace and charisma in addition to their razor-sharp precision...everything entertainment should be!” The Peking Acrobats musicians provide live musical accompaniment on traditional string, wind, and percussion instruments.

The Peking Acrobats will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students, **Friday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. *The Saturday, January 22 performance at 2 p.m. is a Family Fare show. Children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.*

The Peking Acrobats

The Peking Acrobats have been diplomats of their spirited culture for decades, leaving audiences around the world awestruck. From as early an age as five the hand-selected performers begin training to master acrobatic disciplines that arose during the Ch’in Dynasty more than 2,200 years ago, a period when the movements developed to reflect everyday life. In modern times, the

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troupe is the largest of its kind and performs under the direction of **Hai Ken Tsai**, whose family is steeped in three generations of Chinese acrobatics. Together with live accompaniment from an exotic Chinese orchestra, the Acrobats transform 2,000-year-old traditions of agility and grace into a modern-day kaleidoscope of entertainment and wonder. Acrobats spin plates atop sticks while performing all manner of mind-boggling contortions. Unicyclists balance atop umbrellas. Jugglers use eggs, cannon and soccer balls.

The troupe is accompanied by a live orchestra performing on traditional Chinese instruments such as the *erhu*, *pipa*, and the *yangqin*, a dulcimer played with bamboo mallets. The music along with dramatic lighting design and bright costumes create a lively, circus-like atmosphere that the *New York Times* declared, "Amazing!"

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Peking Acrobats** on **Friday, January 21 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 22 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00, and \$42.00**. The Saturday, January 22 performance at 2 p.m. is a *Family Fare* show: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded).

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San Francisco Chronicle, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, January 21 at 8 pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Saturday, Jan. 22 at 2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Peking Acrobats

Program:

The world-famous Peking Acrobats from the People's Republic of China perform acrobatic feats which have been dazzling audiences since 1952.

Tickets: \$22.00, \$30.00, \$42.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. The Saturday, January 22 performance at 2:00 p.m. is a *Family Fare* show: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.

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Friday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

The Peking Acrobats

Program: Members of the Peking Acrobats will perform selections from their evening program.

Tickets: \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu, or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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