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## **THE AMAZING! THE ASTOUNDING! THE PEKING ACROBATS RETURN TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 AND 21**

**SCHOOLTIME: SPECIAL 1-HOUR PERFORMANCE FOR STUDENTS, MONDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 11:00 A.M.**

**BERKELEY, December 11, 2006**—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 **Saturday, January 20 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall after their sold-out engagement in 2005. Since 1952, this elite group of 27 acrobats, gymnasts, jugglers, cyclists, tumblers and musicians from the People’s Republic of China has left audiences around the world spellbound by the graceful athleticism of their ancient folk art. “The Peking Acrobats regularly passed from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable” said the *Los Angeles Times*. A feast for both the eye and ear, musicians of the Peking Acrobats complement the performance by playing traditional Chinese string, wind and percussion instruments from China such as the *erhu* (a small bowed instrument with two strings), *pipa* (a string instrument similar to lute), *dizi* (a flute made of bamboo) and the *yangquin* (a dulcimer played with bamboo mallets). The music, along with dramatic lighting design and bright costumes, creates a lively, circus-like atmosphere that the *New York Post* declared “Pure artistry!” The Peking Acrobats troupe is the largest of its kind in modern times and performs under the direction of **Hai Ken Tsai**, whose family is rooted in three generations of Chinese acrobatics.

The Saturday, January 20 performance at 2 p.m. is a **Family Fare** event. Children 16 and under receive a 50% discount. The Peking Acrobats will give a **SchoolTime** performance for Bay Area students, Monday, January 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall, tickets available in advance only.

The Peking Acrobats have been diplomats of their spirited culture for decades. At age five, the hand-selected performers begin training in master acrobatic disciplines that began more than 2,200 years ago during the Ch’in Dynasty (221 B.C.E. - 207 B.C.E.). In this period,

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acrobatics were only practiced among the peasants and on the streets. It was not until the Han Dynasty (207 B.C.E. - 220 C.E.) that acrobatics flourished and a wide variety of juggling, tumbling and magic acts came to be known as the “Hundred Entertainments.” Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty presented the first grand acrobatic performance at the Imperial Court, thus making it an important element in Chinese performing arts. As precursors to the Peking Opera, acrobatics were incorporated into operatic productions, a tradition that continues today.

The Peking Acrobats’ mastery has led to numerous television appearances including *The Wayne Brady Show*, *That’s Incredible*, *Wide World of Sports*, NBC’s *Ring in the New Year Holiday Special*, Nickelodeon’s *Unfabulous* and Fox’s *Guinness Book Primetime TV*; and company members were featured in Stephen Soderbergh’s hit films *Ocean’s 11* and *Ocean’s 12*.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Peking Acrobats** on **Saturday, January 20** at **2:00 p.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, January 21** at **3:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00**, **\$30.00**, and **\$42.00**. The Saturday, January 20 performance at 2 p.m. is a *Family Fare* event: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount; additionally, all other performances of Peking Acrobats are 25% off for children 16 and under. 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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty, staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu)

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Cal Performances 2006/07 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, Jan. 20 at 2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
**Sunday, Jan. 21 at 3:00 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 that 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](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. The Saturday, January 20 performance at 2:00 p.m. is a *Family Fare* event: children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.

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**Monday, January 22 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

**Peking Acrobats**

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

**Tickets:** \$4.00 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](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu), or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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