

GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

2011/2012 U.S. Tour

www.goldendragonacrobats.com

List of Acts (English)

ACT I	Thousand Hand Dance, Contortion
ACT II	Swaying Board Balancing, Swaying Tube, Kick Bowl, Table Hoop
ACT III	Ball Juggling, Hat Juggling
ACT IV	Power Act
Intermission	
ACT V	Spinning Wheel
ACT I	Foot Juggling
ACT II	Diablo Yo-Yo
ACT III	Tower of Chairs
ACT IV	Flags
ACT V	Finale

Program subject to change as necessary

Composers

MEDWYN GOODALL KITARO NARADA POWER OF MOVEMENT CIRCLES OF LIFE
HIMEKAMI

Program Notes

Acrobatic History

Body art was one of the first forms of human art recorded in history. Every culture has developed its own form of body art through out the records in which greatly affects the modern times of today.

Chinese acrobatic was, among the early art forms, favorite art of the people in China. Even though the discovery of acrobatic was recorded in historical record as far back as 4000 years ago (Xia Dynasty), it wasn't until 2500 years ago that it had gain popularity among the emperors. Records of the acrobatics can be found during the Warring States Period (475 – 221 BC) on the utensils, carvings on tombs, stones, bricks, and temples. Pressing towards the Han Dynasty (221 BC – 220 AD), acrobatics has developed more contents and varieties in which it was nicknamed as the "hundred tricks". During the long Chinese history development, acrobatic had directly affect and transformed into various forms of ancient performance art: dance, opera, talk show, wushu, and even sports, becoming the treasure of the traditional Chinese performing art.

Acrobat in the Modern Times

Today, acrobatics has served the important role of becoming part of the culture exchange between China and other western nations. Acrobatic art has clearly portrays the hard working, endurance, and courage emphasized among the Chinese culture.

About the Golden Dragon Acrobats

The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today.

The reputation of the company is solidly rooted in a commitment to the highest of production values and an attention to artistic details that is unparalleled in the art form. World renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

Acclaim and Dedication like No Others

In November 2005, the Golden Dragon Acrobats made their Broadway debut to a sold out audience at the New Victory Theater, New York's ultimate theater for kids and families. Their Broadway run over the next six weeks led to adoration and standing ovations from audiences of all ages and universal critical acclaim from the New York press. The run was highlighted by the Golden Dragons receiving **two** most prestigious **New York Drama Desk** nominations -- Danny Chang for Unique Theatrical Experience and Angela Chang for Best Choreography. The company returns to the New Victory this season as the only Chinese acrobatic troupe to ever make a return appearance on Broadway.

The 2007-08 tour will mark the 29th year of continuous touring in the United States for the Golden Dragon Acrobats. With the company's main office based in Dallas, TX, the Golden Dragons have traveled around the world to all 50 states and to over 65 countries on five continents. The members of the current touring company, hailing from Hebei, China, have performed in all 48 lower U.S. states within the last three years alone to sold out audiences in nearly *every* major market in the country. The Golden Dragons remain the only Chinese acrobatic company touring **year-round** in the United States.

An Art Form beyond Compare

The ancient art of Chinese Acrobatics is an old and long running tradition that began in China well over two thousand years ago. Over its long and rich history it has developed as one of the most popular art forms among the Chinese people. While many historical records provide evidence for the development of Chinese acrobatics as far back as the Xia Dynasty (4000 years ago), it is most commonly held that the art form did not become wildly popular until approximately 2,500 years ago when it began to capture the attention of the country's powerful emperors.

During the Warring States Period (475 BC - 221 BC) acrobatics in China began to evolve from the working lives of its people. Instruments of labor, such as tridents and wicker rings, and articles of daily use such as tables, chairs, jars, plates and bowls began to be used as performance props. This unorganized form of entertainment and leisure eventually evolved into a form of performance that became recognizable to the Chinese people.

During the Han Dynasty (221 BC - 220 AD) these rudimentary acts of acrobatics developed into the "Hundred Plays". More contents and varieties were quick to develop. Musical accompaniment was soon added to the performance as interest in the art form grew among the emperors. During the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 AD) the number of acrobats greatly increased as the skills of each individual performer slowly began to become much more precise and amazing.

Since these early times, acrobatics have evolved into many forms of performances including dance, opera, martial arts, and sports. However, the impact of Chinese acrobatics goes far beyond the boundaries of performance as it has served an important role in the cultural exchange between China and Western nations including the United States. The citizens of China continue to present their acrobatic art for the world today, as it portrays the hard working nature of their people and sets forth an example of the rich traditions of Chinese culture.

Be a Part of the Experience

The Golden Dragon Acrobats are proud to represent the very best of this time-honored tradition. 2008 will mark the highlight of the Golden Dragons' touring career with their 30th anniversary United States tour. The year will also see the company's home nation of China host the 2008 summer Olympics in Beijing with the theme slogan "One World One Dream." The reflection of that slogan epitomizes the essence and the universal values of what all of us who love the arts hope to foster -- Unity, Friendship, Progress, Harmony, Participation and Dream. The Golden Dragons remind us that we belong to the same world and we share the same aspirations and dreams. We most sincerely thank you for coming to this performance and for taking part in **the experience of something spectacularly beautiful.**

Presenter Comments

"In my twenty years of presenting, I have presented in my venues at least six different acrobatic troupes. The Golden Dragon Acrobats were by far the easiest to work with and highest quality I have seen so far."

-- Bill Fisher

Executive Director, Alberta Bair Theater
Billings, MT

"The Dragons were fantastic and the audience loved them and I want to have them back."

-- David Asbell

Executive Director, Lobero Theater
Santa Barbara, CA

"I couldn't have been happier with the quality of the show. Great performers. Great production values. Just spectacular."

-- Jeff Brown

La Mirada Theater

"Everything went great!! We had a great crowd of about 3,700. Randy and the rest of the crew were great to work with! Have had nothing but positive feedback after the show. Thanks for working with us!!"

-- Tim Danube

Student Union Director
University of Nebraska - Kearney

"The Golden Dragons were a tremendous success. They performed to the delight of all in attendance and brought to campus incite into the culture of China. In addition to the wonderful performance they were very gracious and a fine group to work with. Thanks for the heads up alerting me to bring them here."

-- Ed Arnold

Director of Music and Fine Arts
Grove City College, Grove City, PA

Critical Comments

The New York Times

The Golden Dragon Acrobats have arrived....watch out Nutcracker!

NEW YORK POST

The 21-member company from Xian, China, delivers beautifully choreographed routines showcasing their amazing skills and physicality, accompanied by a musical score of traditional Chinese music filtered through a New Age sensibility.

Juggling everything from umbrellas to soccer balls—and with props as varied as ladders and giant spinning wheels—the performers show just why they're world-famous.

Nytheatre.com

All of the performers is consummate. Present, masterful, joyous, they communicate these ancient tricks as something brand new. And the powerful music, simple themes, and explosive choreography are about something that transcends culture—absolute joy in exploring the full potential of the human body.



Chinese Acrobats Offer Timeless Thrills

The impossible can be achieved, and once achieved surpassed, then surpassed again.



The Cat in the Hat, with his cake on a rake, has nothing on the Golden Dragon Acrobats.

Kids have every reason to love the Golden Dragons.

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