Elite Circus Artists and Acrobats from the Hebei Province, China

OPENING:
Balancing Skills on Ladder and the Charming of Peking Opera

ACT I:
1. Solo Pole
2. Diabolo Girls
3. Hats Juggling in Rhythm
4. Umbrellas - Foot Juggling Girls
5. Hoop-diving

Intermission

ACT II:
1. Lion Dance
2. Plates Spinning and Ballet on Shoulders
3. Happy Chef
4. Foot Juggling with Jars and Tables
5. Flying Meteors
6. Adagio Duo
7. Bicycle Girls
8. Finale (all performers)

Program Subject to Change
From People’s Republic of China, Hebei Province, Cirque Mei features traditional and contemporary Chinese circus acts in a colorful and lively celebration of the internationally renowned Chinese circus arts.

The performance, featuring a company of 40 elite circus artists and acrobats, will include many of the most popular Chinese circus routines including Hoops Diving, Lion Dance, Collective Bicycle Skills, Flying Meteors, Foot Juggling with Umbrellas, Female Contortion, and Ladder Balancing Act.

The troupe was founded in 1976 and supports a community of over 130 circus performers who tour throughout China and the world.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Opening: Balancing Skills on Ladder and the Charming of Peking Opera

The Chinese acrobatic balancing act requires solid basic techniques. This program adopts the traditional Chinese Peking opera elements, which provide the reference of character roles, such as the strong and powerful image Wusheng (a man with martial skills, or a warrior), the slim and slender image of Qingyi (a woman with a strict moral code) and Huadan (a vivacious woman). Their footwork (theatrical stage walk) and sleeve dance will also impress the audience. The base artist balances the ladder, with two layers on his shoulder, and a vase on the head of the top artist. The three artists will jump stairs and do a series of difficult tricks together. The act won the Silver Lion Prize at the 4th Hungry Budapest International Circus Festival in 2001, the Gold Prize at the 4th Hungry Budapest International Circus Festival in 2008 and the Gold Prize at the 24th French Cirque de Demain Festival in 2003.

Solo Pole
With the rhythm of music, the artist does a series of difficult hand-balancing tricks on the pole. The act presents a combination of strength and beauty.

Diabolo Girls
This is a very Chinese performance, featuring girls who play diabolos with light and graceful gestures accompanied by the bright rhythm of background music.

Hats Juggling in Rhythm
With the jazz-melody music, the artists juggle with straw hats with kinds of throwing tricks, especially doing tricks on the human-pyramid-building.

Umbrellas—Foot Juggling Girls
Imagine this: It’s misting and the breeze animates the bamboo leaves; there is a bridge with flowing water and a house in the distance—a true painting of the Southern China landscape. With an umbrella in hand, a group of girls spin plates with light and graceful dance, and perform tricks, movements and poses. Ballet on Shoulders is a good combination of the Chinese acrobatic art and the Western art element of ballet.

Happy Chef
The comic and humorous chef and waiter have a tacit cooperation with each other. They do the juggling tricks with pans, ladles and plates, presenting their sensational and outstanding skills.

Foot Juggling with Jars and Tables
Each Chinese acrobatic artist has his/her own special skills. With their feet, two skillful girls doing the spinning, passing, tossing and catching tricks with tables and big jars smoothly and steadily.

Flying Meteors
Dancing and moving swiftly with enthusiasm and energy, each of the artists spins the meteors tied to both ends of a rope and throws them up in the air and catches. The act imitates seeing meteors in the night sky. It was an award-winning act at China Wuqiao International Circus Festival, Monte Carlo Young Acrobats’ Festival, and Hungry Budapest International Circus Festival.

Adagio Duo
A duet of two young boys performing acrobatic tricks.

Bicycle Girls
A group of girls in red costumes ride bicycles on the stage, as swift as swallows. They do tricks on two bicycles or on several bicycles. The climax will be the lotus-blooming pose and the peacock-flaunting-its-tail pose on one bicycle. It will bring good memories to all of the audience. In 2017, it won the Gold Chrysanthemum Prize at the 10th China National Acrobatic Festival and the Honorary Gold Lion Prize at the 16th China Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

ROSTER

Meizhuo Cao
Qing Chang
Chengshan Cui
Jingru Du
Yurong Gao
Xiangzhuo He
Lingyan Li
Ming Li
Jinsheing Liu
Liangliang Liu
Xinyi Liu
Xuanling Liu
Dan Liu
Leilei Liu
Deyu Miao
Yuanyuan Pan
Zihao Ren
Yahui Wang
Hao Wang
Hao Wang Sr.
Jiahao Wang
Xisen Wang
Zhiqiang Wang
Qingjun Xu
Meixu Yang
Xuan Yang
Jiawen Yao
Huasheng Yuan
Zihao Zhang
Mengdi Zhang
Yingchao Zhang
Nannan Zhao
Wenquan Zhao