



# THE PEKING ACROBATS

**COMPANY DIRECTOR/PRODUCER** Ken T. Hai  
**CREATIVE/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/PRODUCER** Steven Hai  
**STAGE MANAGER** Jiang F. Jun

Zellerbach Theatre  
Sunday, March 15 @ 3 PM

There will be an intermission.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Peking Acrobats began its 35th North American tour in 2025, the Chinese Year of the Snake, which is an ancient symbol of abundance, spirituality, good fortune and a strong life force, or in Chinese, a person's "Chi." Abundance and strength are indeed the watchwords for this incredible show, as the group continues to impress audiences with its unique brand of ancient artistry. A truly spectacular show for all ages, the grace and precision of the acrobats are the triumph of years of dedicated training and discipline. Chinese acrobatics are more than just a series of stunts; most acts clearly demonstrate the achievement of finding harmony between mind and body—an age-old concept in eastern cultures. The art form has transformed from its "folk-art" roots to the excellent entertainment we see today through centuries of tradition.

25/26 SEASON

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Because of the unusual and difficult nature of the feats involved, high honor is bestowed upon those skilled enough to become acrobats. An acrobat can be considered the Chinese equivalent of a Western opera star. In China, there are over 100,000 acrobats studying at schools dedicated to the art. After 10 or 11 years of extensive tutoring, often beginning as early as age five or six, the student will join a professional troupe, usually a citywide organization that draws its members regionally. Only the best acrobats find themselves members of an elite, world-touring troupe such as The Peking Acrobats. Their tradition has thrived through the centuries, dating back to the Ch'in Dynasty (221 B.C.-207 B.C.) and acrobats have continued to evolve this folk-art form. Each new movement or action takes many years to practice and perfect, and tradition demands that each generation of acrobats add their own improvements and embellishments to their acts.

Over the years, company members of The Peking Acrobats have toured throughout Europe, South and Central America, Southeast Asia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Monte Carlo, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Israel and, of course, extensively in the United States. They have performed many trail-blazing symphony concerts, combining their unique art form with traditional orchestras, such as the San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. The Peking Acrobats have built a tremendous reputation not only performing onstage, but also on many popular television shows, including Nickelodeon's *Unfabulous* and *Ellen's Really Big Show*, among others.

The group has performed for dozens of prestigious corporations around the world, including Unisys, Ferrari/Maserati of Beverly Hills, Walmart and the International Monetary Convention. It has performed seven consecutive European tours, visiting countries such as Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal. The Peking Acrobats have been featured in star-studded feature films, including Steven Soderbergh's *Ocean's Eleven*, *Ocean's Twelve* and *Ocean's Thirteen*.

As *The Seattle Times* reported, "nearly everything the Peking Acrobats did last night was amazing - and stunning and breathtaking!" *The Los Angeles Times* shared, "The Peking Acrobats regularly passed from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable!"