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**PEKING ACROBATS LEAP INTO ZELLERBACH HALL**  
**FRIDAY- SATURDAY, JANUARY 20-22**

**SchoolTime: One-hour Performances for Bay Area students will be given  
Monday & Tuesday, January 23 & 24 2012**

**BERKELEY, December 12, 2011**—International stars **Peking Acrobats** return to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Friday-Sunday, January 20-22** with three performances that “passed from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable” (*Los Angeles Times*). Led by director **Hai Ken Tsai**, the audience will witness an awe-inspiring array of treacherous wire-walking, trick-cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. Hailing from China, this elite group of gymnast, jugglers, cyclist, tumblers and musicians is consider one of the top practitioners of the ancient art of Chinese acrobatics and has been delighting audiences at home and abroad for decades with their thrilling performances. They will be accompanied by the **Women’s Peace Orchestra of China** who will play the traditional Chinese instruments such as the *erhu* (a small bowed instrument with two strings), *pipa* (a string instrument similar to a lute), *dizi* (a flute made of bamboo) and the *yangquin* (a dulcimer played with bamboo mallets). Vibrant customs and strong production values complete this family friendly event.

Three one-hour *SchoolTime* performances for Bay Area K–12 students will feature select acts from the Peking Acrobats on **Monday, January 23** at **11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.** and **Tuesday, January 24** at **11:00 a.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. Tickets are \$5.00 and must be arranged in advance; for further information, please call 510.642.9988.

The Peking Acrobats have been diplomats of their spirited culture since 1952. At age five, the hand-selected performers begin training in master acrobatic disciplines that were developed more than 2,200 years ago during the Ch’in Dynasty (221–207 BCE). Schools are often located far from home. Originally, acrobatics were only practiced among the peasants and on the streets. It was not until the Han Dynasty (207 BCE–220 CE) that acrobatics flourished and a wide variety of juggling, tumbling and magic acts came to be known as the “Hundred

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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. Chosen from a selective process, acrobats are given high status and honor in China.

The Peking Acrobats’ widespread international appeal has led to acclaimed performances in the United States, such as the 2003 Hollywood Bowl Fireworks Season Finale with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Since their orchestral debut, the Peking Acrobats have performed with some of the most prestigious symphony orchestras in North America, including the Atlanta Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, featuring members of the Chicago Symphony.

The troupe’s mastery has led to numerous television and film appearances, including *The Wayne Brady Show*, *That’s Incredible*, ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*, NBC’s *Ring in the New Year Holiday Special*, Nickelodeon’s *Unfabulous* and Fox’s *Guinness Book Primetime TV* (where they set the world record for on the height of the human chair stack where 6 members sat precariously on a stack of chairs 21 ft high in the air). Company member Shaobo Qin was featured in Stephen Soderbergh’s hit *Ocean’s 11* series. They have also released 2 recordings of their acts, the first in 2006.

The Peking Acrobats continuously tour and expanded international fame. In recent years they have made multiple trips in Europe including concerts in Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland. In 2011 the Peking Acrobats are collaborating with the Canadian Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, extending their North American Influence. The Peking Acrobats are currently on their 25th anniversary tour of the United State. For more information about the Peking acrobats visit their webcast at <http://www.chineseacrobats.com/pa.php>.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **Peking Acrobats** on **Friday-Sunday**, on **January 20-22** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$20.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, \$40.00, \$48.00, and \$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by

phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. The Family Fare series offers 50% off single ticket prices for children 16 and younger. The Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 p.m. performance is a Family Fare performance. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988; press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, January 20 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, January 21 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 p.m. [FF]**

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

*World Stage*  
**Peking Acrobats**  
**Hai Ken Tsai**, director

**Program:** The elite Peking Acrobats mesmerize audiences with their ancient Chinese folk acrobatics that blend gymnastics, juggling, cycling and tumbling.

**Tickets:** \$20.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, \$40.00, \$48.00 and \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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**Monday, January 23, at 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m.**

**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley**

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*SchoolTime*

**Peking Acrobats**

**Program:** The Peking Acrobats brings a special one-hour performance to school children.

**Tickets:** \$5.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 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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