

Asian Arts & Culture Program



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What: NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS

When: Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 PM

Where: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets

Press release text and press-quality images are also available on our website at www.fineartscenter.com/press

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Breathtaking and beautiful *New Shanghai Circus* comes to Fine Arts Center

“This acrobat-rich, animal-free is electrifying in its intricacy and invention.”
- *New Yorker*

Presenting spectacular aerial and acrobatic feats in a “Circus with a Difference” the performers from China’s Chengdu province will delight the audience with their unbelievable skills in performing age-old popular acts- spinning plates, hoop diving, bicycle tricks, balance ladders, tricks, stunts and much more in their performance on **Thursday March 16 at 7:30 PM** in the **Fine Arts Center Concert Hall at UMass.**

Attired in sumptuous costumes, with an elaborate set and music, these trained performers, with their amazing strength, dexterity and balance blend the Chinese acrobatic tradition in modern ways for an evening of breathtaking enjoyment for all.

The Chinese acrobat tradition is rooted in China's farming culture during the Han Dynasty more than two thousand years ago. It developed out of the annual village harvest celebrations. Chinese farmers and village craftsmen, with relatively little to do over the long winter decided to spend their time improving their social positions by becoming acrobats. They practiced the art form with just about anything they could find around the house and farm- cups, saucers, tables, chairs and plates. They even used their own bodies, with which they formed human walls and pyramids.

Building on the traditional performances today's artists have added new techniques and spectacular stunts thrilling audiences around the globe. Highly skilled, rigorously trained, and superbly talented, these performers follow an unbroken tradition since 700 B.C., in which children learned skills from their fathers and grandfathers before they were of school age. Like traveling European gypsies, the great acrobatic families of China would entertain the city rulers and the village people at ceremonial carnivals and public theaters. Today there remain only a few members of the famous old acrobatic families. They have now organized China's traditional entertainments into professional acrobatic troupes with formal academies for training young students.

NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS

March 16 at 7:30 PM in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

General Admission: \$25, \$15, \$10; Students: \$13, \$7, \$5

For tickets call FAC Box Office 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS

www.fineartscenter.com/asian

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