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Contact: Sue Talford
Boerne Performing Arts
830.238.4842
talford@omniglobal.net

LEGACY OF THE CHINESE CIRCUS

BOERNE, TX – January 29, 2015. The origin of the Chinese Circus is something of a debate. First records date back over 2,000 years to the Qin Dynasty (225-207 BC), but it is believed that the art actually started about 3,000 years ago. Similar to court jesters in Medieval Europe, the circus was in fact a folk art which was later adopted by the imperial houses. The ancient Chinese came to call the circus “the show of a hundred tricks.”



The New Shanghai Circus will introduce you to numerous “props” of the Chinese Circus...like the Diabolo. Known as the Chinese Yo-Yo, this prop will amaze you as it is tossed, orbited, and used in various types of interaction with stick, string and various parts of the users body. The Diabolo is from the 12th century and has an extensive history of its juggling abilities.

The art of Chinese acrobatics developed out of the Lunar New Year harvest celebrations, where the village’s peasants and craftsmen would hold a kind of Chinese Thanksgiving. Acrobats would use household tools and common items found around the farm and workshop as part of their exciting feats. Performers passed their skills down from generation to generation and great acrobatic families of China entertained everyone from city rulers to village people, performing at ceremonial carnivals and public theaters across the country.

In 1949, following many years of decline because of war, the art of the circus received a boost from the government of the People’s Republic of China as an art form to be preserved. Today, there are over 200 circus and acrobatic troupes within China and most of them have toured the world. Within China, acrobats in the circus troupes are regarded with respect and admiration. Training begins as early as four years old and includes balancing, tumbling, dancing, flexibility and strength.

The New York Times describes The New Shanghai Circus as, “Feats of circus art that reach literally breathtaking heights of skill...providing entertainment in abundance.” From the other coast, the Los Angeles Times simply states, “Show-stopping rarities of daunting difficulty!”

Boerne Performing Arts presents this cultural experience to the community on Thursday, February 26. The two-hour production will feature astonishing athletes that will defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats as they stretch the limits of human ability in this spellbinding show. The New Shanghai Circus acrobats, jugglers, and contortionists will mesmerize you with their spectacular flair!

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. Boerne Performing Arts concert on Thursday, February 26, 2015, are available online (www.BoernePerformingArts.com), by phone (830.331.9079) or in person (Greater Boerne Chamber of Commerce and/or Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau). Adult ticket prices range from \$30-\$60 and student tickets are priced at \$20.