



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESENTS

Golden Dragon Acrobats

Friday, January 18, 2019, 8:00 PM

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Phone: 405-682-7579

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ACROBATICS

The art of Chinese Acrobatics (from Greek *Akros*, high and *bat*, walking), is an ancient tradition that began in China more than 2,500 years ago and became popular when it captured the attention of the country's powerful emperors. Its success involved the creativity of the working people of Hebei Province. It was natural that acrobats, adept in feats of balance, agility and coordination, first used the things around them— instruments of labor such as wicker rings and articles of daily use, such as tables, chairs, jars, plates and bowls— as performance props, to experiment with balancing and performing other acrobatic tricks. Today's acrobats use apparatus such as tightropes, trapezes, unicycles, balls, barrels and poles. Acrobatic troupes were traditionally family-owned, and members made their living roaming the countryside as street performers for their livelihood.

Examples of acrobatics today include the popular Cirque du Soleil, which added a narrative or theme to the acrobatic routine. They dress in unusual costumes and make-up, and use symbolism and character study as part of their performance, which raises their presentation to an art form. Another example is sports acrobatics, or gymnastics. Its organization is now an associate member of USA Gymnastics, whose members participate in world competitions and the Olympics.

The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time-honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago. The Golden Dragons are recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today. They combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students will need access to the following:

- ARTICLE: *Cirque du Soleil: History*
<https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/about/history>
- The Oklahoman Archives – teachers, can gain free access to a classroom login by visiting, <https://nieonline.com/theoklahoman/order.cfm>

Ask students to create a timeline showing the birth of Cirque du Soleil. Timelines should be visual and include significant events and historical influences found in the articles listed above. Students can use magazine clippings, newspaper clippings and additional articles found in The Oklahoman Archives to create their timelines. Ask students to share their timeline with their classmates.



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