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**ARTIST BIO: GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS**

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**About the Golden Dragon Acrobats**

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.

The reputation of the company is solidly rooted in a commitment to the highest of production values and an attention to artistic details that is unparalleled in the art form. World renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang 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. □

**Founding History**

Lien Chi Chang officially established the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats in 1967 with his family whose member included Danny Chang, his sister and other students. From 1967 to 1984, Lien Chi led the company to numerous performances in different nations. The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats dazzled audiences range from 8 years old kids to 80 years old seniors all across the globe. Danny Chang, often traveled with his father's Golden Dragon Acrobats, was later chosen by the National Acrobats Troupe of Republic of China to lead the various world tour produced by the most prestige acrobat school in Taiwan.

After more than 17 years of apprenticeship under his dad and several years of world tour, Danny Chang was ready to step up as the President of the Golden Dragon Acrobats when Lien Chi Chang accepted the head coaching job at the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts.

As a young entrepreneur, Danny showed tremendous passion toward the acrobatic arts. His first goal was to reorganize the company from a small group to a world renowned production company. He chose the United States of America as his starting point. With Mr. Bill Fegan's assistances, the Golden Dragon Acrobats debuted in 1985.

Today, the Golden Dragon Acrobats have been recognized as the preeminent Chinese acrobatic company in the United States. As the director and the producer, Danny Chang has built a solid reputation based on his talents as both an acrobatic performer and artistic director. Every year, along with the choreographer, also his wife, Angela Chang, attend different acrobatic competitions to constantly select the most elite performers to join the Golden Dragon Acrobats.

**About Mr. Chang Lien Chi**

Mr. Chang Lien Chi, father of Danny Chin-Chang Chang was the founder of Golden Dragon Acrobats. In 1949, he and his family brought acrobatic performance from Wu Qiao China to the audiences in Taiwan. However, Mr. Chang was unable to return to China due to the Chinese civil war. Therefore, he decided to start an acrobatic business with his brother in Taiwan (the Chang's Acrobatic Troupe). In 1967, the name of the company officially changed to Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats.

**About Mr. Danny Chin-Chang Chang**

Danny started his acrobat career as young as 7 years old. He was trained personally by his father and join Chang's Acrobatic Troupe to perform through out Taiwan. As an outstanding performer, Danny was selected to the National Acrobats Troupe of Republic of China in 1967. Since that year, he had the privileges of performing in numerous countries every year.

In 1984, Lien Chi Chang accepted a prestige position as the Head Coach at National Taiwan College of Performing Arts. Danny Chang officially inherited the Golden Dragon Acrobats. Danny Chang decided to venture his business outside of the well established market in Asia. After a year of planning and preparation, Danny finally realized this dream by performing at the United States of America.

## **Touring History**

Since 1985, not only has the Golden Dragon Acrobats toured North America continuously it also had copious resident shows featured in theme parks across the United States for many years. Furthermore, in 1990s, the Golden Dragon Acrobats received exceptional reviews from their European Tour 3 years consecutively.

In 1998, due to the popular demand, the Golden Dragon Acrobats restructured itself and formed Asian Artists Production, Inc. or AAPI. In the next 10 years, AAPI continued to produce the Golden Dragon Acrobats and also created other shows for different markets. Some of these productions included the Amazing Chinese Acrobats, Circo Magnifico, Dream, Pagoda, Cirque D'or, and others.

The most popular of these theatrical productions, **Cirque Ziva**, was created in 2011 for a five-week run at Asbury Park Boardwalk's Paramount Theatre. Soon after, AAPI announced a touring partnership with SRO Artists, Inc., and delivered a four-month, premiere North American Tour of **Cirque Ziva** for Winter & Spring of 2013, and consecutive encore tours of North America in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Through out the history of the Golden Dragon Acrobats, the company has performed in all fifty states, including repeated performances in all 48 lower states. On average, the Golden Dragon Acrobats presents over 200 performances each year at 100 to 200 venues across the United States. The Golden Dragon Acrobats also has separated itself from the majority of Chinese acrobatic companies touring the United States by emphasizing their artistic merit, cultural exchange. Moreover, the company spends more than one third of its tour participating in community and youth outreach program.

## **Recent US Tour Highlights**

The company is most honored to have performed in the nation's capital, twice at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and for a six-week engagement at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. In addition to a six-week Broadway engagement at the New Victory Theater in New York City (2005), other major **Northeast** venues played in recent years include - Boston Symphony Hall (MA); Princeton University (NJ); New York City Parks Department (NY), Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT); and Palace Theater (Manchester, NH). Major recent engagements in the **Southeast** include - The Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center (Atlanta, GA); Koger Center for the Arts (Columbia, SC); Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center (Charlottesville, VA); Lexington Center for the Arts (KY); and the Broward Center for the Arts (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Major recent **Midwest** engagements include - repeat performances for the past six years at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts (Skokie, IL); Cincinnati Arts Association (OH); Music Hall Center for the Arts (Detroit, MI); Lied Center for Performing Arts (Lincoln, NE); and the Pike Performing Arts Center (Indianapolis, IN). Major recent **Southwest** engagements include - Paramount Theater (Austin, TX); Miller Theater (Houston, TX); Popejoy Hall (Albuquerque, NM); Pikes Peak Center (Colorado Springs, CO); and the Orpheum Theater (Phoenix, AZ). Major recent **West Coast** engagements include - repeated performances at Cal Performances, University of Berkeley (CA); Wells Fargo Center for the Arts (Santa Rosa, CA); Elsinore Theater (Salem, OR); Edmonds Center for the Performing Arts (WA); and the Velma Morrison Center for the Performing Arts (Boise, ID).

## **Awards and Recognition**

The Golden Dragon Acrobats count among their distinctions being a seven-time recipient of the National Association of Campus Activities Entertainer of the Year Award, the Campus Activities Today's Performer of the Year Award and, most recently, two most prestigious New York Drama Desk Award nominations for their Broadway performances. In recent years, individual members of the Golden Dragons have been recipients of awards at the Henan Regional Acrobatic Competition, the China National Acrobatic Competition, the National Teen Acrobatic Competition, the Italian National Acrobatic Competition, the International Young Adult Acrobatic Competition in Japan and the Presidents Award at the International Acrobatic Competition, and have performed for President Bill Clinton and other leaders at the APEC meeting in Shanghai, China.

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