



# THE UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCES

## The Splendid Puppet Shows

By the Elite Chinese Puppetry Troupes

-----The Cultural Exchange Program  
between China and USA

“..... A young professor from The University of Connecticut (UConn) who ventured to China in the mid 1990's to see their puppetry arts and to discuss student exchanges discovered this puppetry association while there. Bart Roccoberton, that UConn professor saw the possibilities that this group represented on the global scene.....”

--- Vincent Anthony, General Secretary of UNIMA-USA Center, “from the UNIMA-USA Center”, *The Puppetry Journal*, USA, The Puppeteers of America, Inc., 2001

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# **The Splendid Puppet Shows By The Elite Chinese Puppetry Troupes ----- Cultural Exchange Programme Between China and USA**

**(A) Proposed date:** The Fall of 2003 – The Fall of 2005

**(B) Introduction:** 6 of the best elite puppetry troupes in China will perform their wonderful and famous puppetry shows within 3 years in USA. There is more than 2000 years' puppetry history in China. Experiencing different dynasties and changing environment, some puppetry troupes still remain the traditional puppetry arts while some have changed to the modern one. Now, the mystery of Chinese puppetry arts will be uncovered. In this cultural exchange programme, audience can watch different kind of puppetry show such as rod puppet show, shadow puppet show, glove puppet show, modern puppet show, etc. performed by the best Chinese Puppetry Masters from different elite Chinese puppetry troupes. All of them have awarded many prizes within China and in the foreign countries. Owing to their brilliant performances, all the 6 Chinese Troupes enjoy great prestige both at home and abroad. People are fascinated by the exquisite workmanship of the puppetry, the marvelous performing arts and the amusing manipulation skill. This can be regarded as the cream of our national culture.

This is the first time that the best troupes in China can cooperate together to introduce their

unique puppetry arts to the foreign country. With the business operation way, we will carry out the overseas cultural exchange programme for the sake of promoting and developing the puppetry arts. UNIMA-CHINA has authorized International Puppetry Arts Exchange Centre to deal with this programme and arrange all the details.

**(C) How to perform:** There are totally 6 elite Chinese puppetry troupes. Two troupes will perform in a year. Each year, the two troupes will perform about 1 month and at least 20 performances will be expected.

**(D) Introduction of the Chinese Troupes:**

**The first year:**

- i) China Guangdong Puppet Troupe (traditional rod puppetry)
- ii) Shanghai Puppet Theatre (modern puppetry)

**The second year:**

- iii) Quanzhou Marionette Troupe China (marionette)
- iv) Hunan Puppet and Shadow Art Troupe of China Shadow Troupe (shadow puppet)

**The third year:**

- v) The Puppet Art Troupe of China (traditional puppet show)
- vi) Zhangzhou Puppet Troupe (glove puppet)



## THE FIRST YEAR

i) Express the traditional and exquisite arts with excellent performances and consummate skill

----- China Guangdong Puppet Troupe (traditional rod puppet)



China Guangdong Puppet Troupe has been famous of its traditional rod puppet shows. The manipulating skill of the puppets are so wonderful and marvelous that different puppets seem to have their own style and characteristics. Audiences can feel the emotions of the puppets and share the passion of the puppetry shows. The Troupe has built up a repertory of over 300 original productions since its establishment in 1956. The puppetry shows performed by the Troupe are full of Chinese traditional style and feelings.

They can be regarded as the pick of the Chinese tradition arts.



ii) Specialize in humorous and funny shows well received by the mass

----- Shanghai Puppet Theatre (modern puppetry)



Shanghai Puppet Theatre is a modern puppetry troupe. It is good at modern puppet shows. From the production of the puppetry to the performance of the puppetry, the Theatre always constantly brings forth in the puppetry arts. Audiences are always surprised and attracted by its special performance format and the fantastic modern puppets. No



wonder why its puppetry shows are greatly welcomed by people with all ages, especially the children.



## THE SECOND YEAR

iii) **Combining the entertainment into puppetry arts as the superb manipulation skill and the delight in puppetry shows can be found**

----- **Quanzhou Marionette Troupe China (marionette)**

Quanzhou Marionette Troupe China has tried its very best to carry forward and develop the traditional string puppetry art since its set up in 1952. Based on the foundation of the traditional string puppetry, it has renovated and created marionette in a comprehensive way, for instances, the production of marionette, the appearance of the puppetry, the installation inside the puppets, the manipulation skill, the stage design for marionette and the content of the performance, etc. This is significant in the improvement of the puppetry art expression and the performing standard.



The shows the Troupe performed are brilliant. Audiences are deeply attracted by not only the excellent manipulation skill that makes the puppetry alive, but also the sense of humor and joy of the shows.



iv) **The intriguing and graceful shadow puppetry which fully manifests the Chinese feelings and tradition**

----- **Hunan Puppet and Shadow Art Troupe of China  
Shadow Troupe (shadow puppet)**



Hunan Puppet and Shadow Art Troupe of China Shadow Troupe is well-known of its intriguing and graceful shadow puppetry in both appearance and performance. Its shadow puppetry shows are full of Chinese national tradition. The audiences are always astonished by its amusing manipulation skill, the vivid performances, the beautiful appearance of the lifelike shadow puppetry. Watching the shadow puppetry shows, you are also admiring the famous Chinese traditional paintings.





## THE THIRD YEAR

v) Express the national characteristic through the scenes of bustle and excitement

----- The Puppet Art Troupe of China  
(traditional puppet show)

The Puppet Art Troupe of China is the only one Troupe in China, which has its own professional theatre where mainly focus on puppetry performances. Its performances can not only reflect the culture of traditional puppetry, but also express the national characteristics. For examples, the scenes of bustle and excitement, the expression of unity, the sense of concern and care..... all these are the reflection of Chinese national characteristics. It seems that watching the Troupe's performances, you will understand more deeply about the nationality of China!



vi) The shows of infinite interest as combining the tradition and innovation, performing in lively style and controlling the puppets dexterously

----- Zhangzhou Puppet Troupe (glove puppet)



Zhangzhou Puppet Troupe is famous of its wonderful glove puppet. It is the key troupe of the province and municipality, which perform mainly the glove puppet shows. Its glove puppet shows have been very popular to the Chinese and foreigners since the masters of glove puppet Yang Sheng and Chen Nan Tian produced the performances in fifties. People are fascinated by the delicate design and production of the glove puppets as well as the vivid and lifelike performances. Besides, the exquisite and deft movement of the puppetry, the lively rhythm and the sense of humor give a deep impression to the audiences.

