



JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA®

GENERAL PRESS RELEASE – NORTH AMERICAN TOUR 2009

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA® has been electrifying audiences for nearly two decades in many countries throughout the world. Now, the thunder is rolling into _____ (city) - prepare to experience the vibrant and colorful roar of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!**

*Jigu...*In Chinese means to 'beat or touch the drum' and audiences will clamor for more as they thrill to the awesome power of this all-new attraction, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!** Hailing from the Shanxi Province in China, this world-renown company of drummers, percussionists, and musicians will astound audiences in an ultra-sensory entertainment experience. Their third North American Theatre Tour will begin in October 2009. **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** will appear at _____ (venue) on _____ (day and date) at _____ (time).

The fine art of drumming and percussive performance is indicative of the rich and historic culture of China and, more specifically, the Shanxi Province. The drummers, percussionists, and musicians of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA**, come from villages within the Shanxi Province, and range in age mainly from 16 to 30 years old. Their skills have been passed down from generation to generation by their families. Their drumming tradition can be traced back centuries in the city of Jiangzhou, in Xinjiang County. Jiangzhou was the home of Emperor Li Shimin of the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907), and his celebrated drum and percussion orchestra. Some of the earliest archaeological evidence of Chinese drum and percussion music has been unearthed in the Shanxi region, and the tradition of excellence in musical and percussive arts continues there to this day.

Performances by **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** are deeply rooted in this rich heritage. An exciting and intricate blending of traditional and modern musical and visual elements, this fascinating and innovative show, conceived by the producers of THE PEKING ACROBATS®, offers intense, high-tech lighting and superlative special effects adding to the drama of this spectacular and awe-inspiring cultural event that patrons won't want to miss. Not only are audiences immersed in a wonderland of sight and sound, they are swept away by the incredible power found in the intense drumming, percussive styling and astounding musicianship displayed by these talented performers!



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The Shanxi Jiangzhou Drum Art Ensemble performs as **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** in the West and was founded in 1988. They have performed in many countries in addition to the United States and Canada including Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Their performances at the Hong Kong Arts Festival were lauded “varied as the beats and drums themselves” and featured “dramatic, heart-stopping pieces” while also displaying a playful attitude with passages that are “entirely humorous!”

In 2007, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** embarked on their very first North American Tour to great success and acclaim. Their sold-out shows were joyous celebrations of Chinese music, culture, drumming, percussive arts, and fun! On this tour, they visited over 25 North American cities including Seattle, WA, San Francisco, CA, Detroit, MI, and Philadelphia, PA among others. **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** amazed the crowds with their unique talents and powerful musical skills. While on this tour, the Group also visited Canada for the first time ever, where they played to enthusiastic audiences in Vancouver, British Columbia. On their second North American Tour, American audiences clamored to their shows in such cities as Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Dallas, TX; Houston, TX, and several cities in Florida. They anticipate that their third North American Tour will be equally successful, beginning in October and continuing through November of 2009.

The reviews say it all, with virtually every word of these glowing articles quotable, here are a few highlights that describe this spectacular, new show:

“Jigu’s! virtuosic command of style and technique tells wordless tales of man and nature, war and peace, love and delight ~ all through an imaginative fusion of music, movement, color, and costume!”

~ Rochester City News (New York, USA)

“A troupe of highly professional caliber that, with talent and charm, takes the audience by storm!”

~ Mitjutland Paper (Arhus Festival, Denmark)

“The thunder dragon roared in the Cultural Grand Theatre on Monday night...it roared, then, it began tapping its toes to the insistent rhythms of Jigu! Thunder Drums of China!”

~ South China Morning Post (Hong Kong, China)

“Jigu! told stories that interwove legends and fairy tales with everyday life expressed eloquently by this fantastic, very skillful drumming group before a huge and appreciative audience!”

~ Jutlands Morning Post (Arhus Festival, Denmark)

“Jigu! offers a new way of presenting music to an audience by combining it with a unique visual element...demonstrating just how diverse the concept of family entertainment & world music can be!”

~ The Montgomery County Sentinel



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Since their American debut in 2007, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** has released their very first DVD and CD as part of an exciting entertainment package. These digitally produced media products feature their thrilling performance live and were recorded on their Premiere US Tour. Vibrant costumes and stunning visual effects heighten the experience as viewers and listeners are transported to another realm by these amazing musicians, experiencing the awesome power of this incredible show. The DVD and CD capture all the joyful excitement of a performance by **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** and are available at all of their performances and on-line at www.jaipresentations.com.

When not on tour, **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA** continues to participate in many National and International Festivals and Arts Events. These appearances are many and varied and include CCTV's (Chinese Central Television's) Spring Festival; the Macao International Music Festival, the Shanghai International Arts Festival; the Chinese Folk Art Festival the Summer of Ha'ErBin Arts Festival; the Hong Kong Drum Festival and Competition; the internationally renowned Arhus Cultural Festival in Denmark, and the 2004 NBA's International Games, where they were the featured performers. Company members also participated in the Cultural Entertainment programming at various venues throughout Beijing, as part of the Beijing Olympic Games celebrations in 2008. The performers were very honored to be selected to participate in all of these very prestigious events!

JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA has also won numerous awards including the 1992 Chinese Folk Competitions for Percussion and Drums Performers, and they were the Gold Medalists at the 2004 National Star Awards in China, given for excellence in their fields of drumming and percussive performance. They also won Gold Medals at the National Star Awards competition in 1992, 2000 and 2001.

Bringing something special from the People's Republic of China, this exuberant ensemble has thrilled and astounded audiences around the world and is now sharing their ebullient talents with an ever-widening Western audience...experience the vibrant and colorful roar of **JIGU! THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA!**

Revised April 2009.