

Brief Introduction of some of the key performances at 2008 Chinese Festival:

Beijing Opera Performance :

Friday (6/20/08) and Sunday (6/22/08):

Journey to the West: The Monkey King havocking Heaven

The story: After receiving complaints about the Monkey King from several sources, the Emperor of Heaven contacted the Monkey King. Rather than punishing him, the Emperor offered him to work in heaven to guard the Garden of Immortal Peaches. These magic peaches take 9,000 years to ripen. Anyone who eats them lives forever.

The Monkey King is supposed to protect the peaches for a special banquet of the Queen, but found out he wasn't invited to the banquet. Feeling insulted, he ate all the delicious peaches, food and messed up the banquet table before the guests arrived. The Emperor called upon his army to catch him, but he was too powerful and got away.

Cast: Mr. Xinlai Zhou from Pennsylvania – Mr. Zhou grew up in a Beijing opera aristocratic family in Beijing and started to performance at different places since he was very young. His recent performance at Columbia University and in New Jersey was absolutely phenomenal. Come to enjoy Beijing Opera: the story of the Monkey King.

Saturday (6/21/08):

The Crossroads: Fighting in the Dark

The story: In Song dynasty (over 1000 years ago) in China, a very famous general Jiao Zan, was unjustly convicted and sentenced to exile. A young officer named Ren Tanghui was secretly ordered to follow and protected him. They arrived at an inn at the junction of three roads. The innkeeper mistakenly thought that Mr. Ren is involved in the plot to harm General Jiao. After Mr. Ren fell asleep, the innkeeper stealthily entered the room in the dark. His growing noise awakened Mr. Ren and a fierce struggle ensued until the innkeeper realized Mr. Ren was a protector. The whole misunderstanding was cleared up. This is a rollicking, joyous piece of drama, based on an ancient Chinese folktale and features scintillating martial arts and acrobatics.

Cast: Mr. Xinlai Zhou from Pennsylvania and his colleague.

Traditional Chinese Music Instrument Ensemble at 2008 Delaware Chinese Festival

Saturday (6/21/08):

In the past our Chinese Festival introduced quite a few individual traditional Chinese instrumental music performances to the Delaware community. This year for the first time, we are able to invite a Chinese Traditional Instrument Ensemble from New Jersey. This group will demonstrate a variety of combinations of different traditional Chinese music instruments including the Chinese violin (two-stringed fiddle, ErHu), Chinese flute (DiZi), Chinese mallet dulcimer (Yangqin), and Chinese harp (Gu Zheng), etc. Performing with these exquisite Chinese instruments, this ensemble can bring the audience into the sounds of Nature with beautiful music. It is a torrid performance of considerable virtuosity.

The Chinese Festival will be filled with music and traditional Chinese Dances

Friday (6/20/08) to Sunday (6/22/08):

This year, for the first time, five different traditional Chinese dance groups will be performing at this year's Chinese Festival. CACC little fairies group, CACC Dance Troupe, College student group, West Chester Mother dance group and CACC adult dance exercise group will bring us beautiful music and dance from different Chinese ethnic groups.

