



Branson Missouri's New Shanghai Circus Performers Will Amaze you

Branson, MO, often called the Entertainment Capital of America, is literally covered with theatres providing live entertainment. One of the more notable of these is The New Shanghai Circus, beginning November 27th at the New Shanghai Theatre. Typical performers are children, who have learned ancient gymnastic and theatric moves, created by their ancestors as they plied their trade or craft many years ago.

For instance there is "Hoop Diving" which has its origins during harvest time, when the field workers used a tambourine-shaped tool that were used to shake and divide grain from leaves and stems. It became a traditional contest to challenge each other to see who could dive through these hoops and to see how many or how tall a stack they could dive through. In this way they made fun out of work, and the tradition is carried on now as an entertaining spectacle to watch.

The performers also imitate the ancient pottery maker, who would learn to juggle and spin his wares to make it uniformly round and smooth. Adding a few tricks of juggling and tossing them in the air entertained people watching him at his trade and he was able to sell more pottery through the entertainment.

Qi Gong, a 2000 year old tradition of breathing and movement, the Dragon Dance from Chinese Mythology and the Lion Dance are great crowd pleasers. Many other acrobatic moves and stylized dances enhance the show, which has become one of the more popular venues in Branson.

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