



# Young Audiences of Massachusetts

## *Educational Materials*

Please forward to teachers

5/15/13

### **ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE**

#### **Li Liu - Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics**

**Grade levels: K-8**

Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics includes demonstrations of hand balancing, plate spinning, artistic cycling, foot juggling, ribbon dancing, and the manipulation of Chinese water bowls and Chinese yo-yos. Students will get a glimpse of Chinese culture and learn a few basic phrases in Li Liu's native Mandarin. This assembly is interactive, with several volunteers being selected to attempt a few of the easier (and safer!) acrobatic skills. Students will learn the historical significance of traditional lion and dragon dances, as Li encourages them to think about what it might have been like to grow up in a different time and place.

### **LEARNING GOALS:**

1. To familiarize students with the vibrant and inspiring Chinese acrobatic tradition.
2. To develop an appreciation for the importance of hard work and focused practice.
3. To instill the importance of developing a strong foundation in whatever endeavors students wish to pursue

### **PRE-ACTIVITY SUMMARY:** *Identifying Asian Geography*

Follow the geographical trail of Li's early childhood, training, and her first international performing experiences.

### **POST-ACTIVITY SUMMARY:** *Discuss the process of mastering a specialized skill.*

Identify the elements of "Jiben gong" (foundation) to use as a jumping off point for discussing practice regimens and work ethic.