

Cirque Dreams dazzles audience

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Most days and nights audiences at the Camp Foster Theater quietly watch movies or learn from lectures, but on Jan. 21 the crowded theater roared with applause and laughter from involved spectators.

Marine Corps Community Services and the Armed Forces Entertainment collaborated in hosting the Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy World Tour performance here on Okinawa.

The show included intense jump-roping, a violinist, a performer using multiple hula-hoops, a contortionist, theatrical gymnastics, high-elevation balancing and extreme feats of flexibility.

"The event was funded by Armed Forces Entertainment, which worked with MCCS to schedule the Okinawa performances at the Camp Foster Theater," said Dureil Farnell, the MCCS Entertainment program manager and AFE area coordinator.

The fact that the show was offered free-of-charge was nice and it brings to light that we're appreciated for what we do, said Maurice I. Nwagbara, an audience member.

"What we have to offer the troops is our art," said Heather Hoffman, the tour manager with Cirque Dreams. "It's an honor and a privilege to perform for them."

Cirque Dreams tour will continue with a total of 34 performances at 17 U.S. military installations in 10 countries.

"A lot of families



A performer balances on the feet of a fellow performer at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 21. The balancing performer continued the performance with flipping in the air and landing back on his partner's feet.

have deployed family members, this is a great opportunity for them to get out of the house and have fun," said Nwagbara. "The show was fantastic and impressive."

Thousands of people eagerly waited in line for hours to attend the free performances.

"For the approximately 3,000 individuals who were able to attend the four Camp Foster Theater performances, we've heard almost unanimous feedback that it was a spectacular show," said Farnell.

The performances featured incredible color, music and movement, amazing the audience members.

"I can not chose a favorite act," said Nwagbara. "They were all equally impressive."

Cirque Dreams members entertain a crowded audience at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 21.



Cirque Dreams performers conduct a balancing act at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 21. Cirque Dreams performed four shows on Okinawa and will continue on to 17 military installations around the world in seven weeks.



A performer allows an audience member to take part in the act during the Jungle Fantasy show at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 21. The performer randomly chose members of the audience to balance the spinning ball on their hands.

A member from the Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy World Tour performs a balancing act at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 21. Marine Corps Community Services collaborated with Cirque Dreams and Armed Forces Entertainment to host free shows on Okinawa.

