




ENTERTAINMENT

# Jump for joy, JUMP is back in Singapore

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Korean non-verbal comedy JUMP is back in Singapore for their 10th anniversary with an explosive martial arts show and a near-new cast of fun performers.



SINGAPORE: They are funny, good-looking and graceful, yet muscle-packed enough to provide personal protection — they also offer you a good time and are part of the show JUMP.

The non-verbal, martial arts comedy performance makes a return to Singapore, flashing combat skills at the Festive Grand Theatre in Resorts World Sentosa.

This is the fourth time JUMP will be kicking up a storm in Singapore in a show that marks its 10th anniversary.

Although director of JUMP since 2004, Lee Jun-sang, tells channelnewsasia.com that the show won't be different in any way, there is a change in the Korean cast, most of whom have never performed in Singapore before.

Playing "Mother" in JUMP is So Jeong-yeon, who is surprisingly, the youngest in the troupe.

Admitting that she has a tough act to follow since her predecessors were all older, the spirited 'matriarch' decided to portray her character in a new light.

"I observed my own mother, such as the way she talks, and added my own spin on the performance."

JUMP, which has delighted audiences all around the world, revolves around an unorthodox Korean family of martial arts experts and the chaos their household gets thrown into when two burglars break in.

Described as an 80-minute hyperactive sitcom where "Jackie Chan meets Charlie Chaplin", the show offers live-action, gravity-defying stunts without wires and has won fans from Broadway to London.

In fact, for Kim Se-mi who plays the Daughter, the pivot point in her life came when she watched JUMP for the first time.

She decided that she wanted to become a JUMP performer and it didn't matter to Kim that she would be the only one in the cast without a background in martial arts, acrobatics, or any combat skill, for that matter.

"I dreamed of becoming a musical actor when I was young, so I chose to major in ballet at university," says Kim.

Jumping into JUMP was, however, not an easy move.

"I trained for about a year, and I cried every single day during practice," recalls Kim, who adds that the upside to the martial arts training, was the wonders it did to her figure.

"When I was learning ballet, the inner muscles of my thighs became well-developed. But martial arts require the use of the outer muscles, so I think my legs look more balanced now, and I am very pleased with my figure!"

The warm and friendly cast include Jo Hun-young (Son-in-law) and Lee Won-young (Father), the only two who have previously performed in Singapore.

"Singaporean audiences make small gestures and are very happy," says Jo, adding that some fans take the effort to find out which actors are coming and write letters to them.

Lee recalls that the last time he was before a Singapore audience, it was his first overseas performance.

"I was very, very nervous!" says Lee. "But once the show started, I didn't feel nervous anymore because we received good response from the audience, and I felt happy to perform."

But there is good reason for the actors to feel on edge, as the show does not offer second-takes or special effects.

To quell their anxieties, the cast who get together for their warm-up exercises about an hour before the performance, will also gather to pray that nothing goes wrong.

Still, that is not enough for some of the performers.

"I have to take vitamins, or health products before the show," says Jo.

Even more unconventional is Kim.

"I need to get a massage," reveals Kim while Yun Hyo-Sang, who plays "Grandfather", chimes in saying "I do the massage for her!"

"Yes, 'Grandfather' gives me a massage before the show," laughs Kim.

While the cast will give their all, they also hope to gain something from their performances in Singapore.

"I hope that (the show) will make audiences love Korea even more, and I hope to bring feelings of happiness to them," says You Su-hou, the "Uncle" in the show.

JUMP will run at the Festive Grand Theatre from August 30 to September 1.

- CNA/sf