

# Amazing pot-pourri

**BILLED** variously as the Chinese Magic Circus, Chinese Magic Acrobats and Chinese Magic Review, this Taiwanese show delighted the audience at St David's Hall on Friday evening.

Such a show can be judged from a number of aspects: as entertainment, as skill and as art.

From the point of view of entertainment there was plenty of movement, colour, music and variety to hold the attention.

The humour which accompanied most of the acts added to that entertainment, as when members of the audience bombarded the monocylist with apples to spike in his mouth.

By IFAN PAYNE

From the point of view of skill the head-balancing, plate-spinning, black-clad young ladies were not only clever but looked beautiful.

And how about the man who jumped through his own hoops? Well, you had to have been there.

A number of more traditional dances represented art, as did the mixture of mostly pre-recorded music which varied from the more traditional to renditions on contemporary instruments of the type now to be heard on the widely-distributed HK Records.

Judged by the standards of some of the

more spectacular international touring shows, such as the magnificent Pirin Group from Bulgaria, this production was fairly basic.

But the simple humour was spread on thick to cover the simple yet timeless pleasures.

Even if you never cared to balance a bottle at the end of your nose or to swallow a two-foot red neon tube, there was always the grace and rhythm of the Chinese equivalent of the Cockney spoons: the chopstick dance to catch your eye.

Chinese magic pot-pourri might have been a better title, but as my young companion said while the tower of chairs climbed ever higher and more precariously towards the St David's Hall ceiling, "Aw, c'mon Dad, it's amazing!"