Despite the dreary weather on Friday night, the Kenya Safari Acrobats show could not have been livelier. Originating directly from Africa, the seven acrobats aim to evoke awe and wonder in the minds of their audiences.

“I saw a video of one of their performances on YouTube and they intrigued me,” said student activities coordinator Marcus Crook.

The doors to the NPA Auditorium opened at 7 p.m. and by 7:10 the middle section of seats was nearly full. The crowd was eager to see what the acrobats had in store, but wasn’t exactly sure what to expect.

“I think there will be a lot of gymnast moves, like back flips,” said Ludi Mendez.

The show began with a skit involving a woman traveling to Kenya and meeting the indigenous people. She taught them how to jump rope and by the end of the scene the five men were not only jumping but doing flips and even walking through the ropes as well.

Something that was apparent right away was that the acrobats truly enjoyed what they were doing.

“It takes a lot of hard work and dedication but it’s fun and our audiences always make the performance so worthwhile,” said manager Karen Kalama.

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This point it had become clear that the acrobats were not afraid to take risks in order to give the crowd a great experience. What really stood out though was a precarious balancing act that took the audience on the edge of their seats. Toward the end of the show a small square table was brought out and four Coca-Cola bottles were set on each corner. A chair was placed with one leg on a bottle and once it was stable, one of the men did a handstand on it. By itself, that handstand alone did not seem like much of a feat. However, three more chairs were stacked on top of that original chair, so that when the acrobat did his handstand again, his feet were inches away from touching the ceiling.

“He’s fallen a few times while doing that particular stunt, but acrobatics is his life – it’s what we all love to do,” Kalama said.

Depending on whether they come from Tanzania or Kenya, the acrobats start training when they are as young as 6 years old. Their hard work pays off, as they made it to the top 10 in NBC’s popular show America’s Got Talent.

“A season last saw America’s Got Talent,” said Page Harman and I turn to any advertising that they were being considered and found it to make sure we’re the best, took a chance off a tiny show and found the tour. I had been looking forward to this all week!”

The group has also performed at Disneyland, the Super Bowl, Six Flags, the White House and for the Atlanta Hawks, Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers.

“It worked out great and we were happy to have them,” Crook said.

A plume of fire is expelled in the direction of the audience by one of the many acrobats.

Years of training have given this acrobat the ability to swallow fire and regurgitate it back onto the unlit baton.

A precarious balancing act on four stacked chairs was the highlight of the evening.