



ceremony talk



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

Performers dazzle the crowd with their high-flying act at Friday night's opening ceremony.

"It was a beautiful ceremony and I was really impressed, especially by the violin solo by the girl in the white dress. It was like a dream, with the flashes and the beautiful music. I was quite surprised that President Hu Jintao had come. I feel very proud being a Shenzhener."

MA YUE, a 26-year-old civil servant

"The ceremony was full of vigor and vitality, things that university students should have. I hope Chinese athletes perform well at home this time, winning as many gold medals as possible."

LI LI, an office clerk

"The whole show was very impressive. I have been to two Universiades before and this was the best opening ceremony of them all."

MAXIM SKAKOZUBOV from Russia

"It was a nice show. I loved the cycling part. It illustrated physical beauty and love for sports. Very impressive."

YAUNZ TASKIRAN from Turkey

"The opening ceremony was really amazing. We had so many fans, such a big crowd cheering for the athletes, which was so great for the Universiade. This was my first time watching an opening ceremony and I enjoyed the atmosphere

in the stadium tonight. I was really impressed by the stunning technical show and the beautiful music. I loved the violin most. It was really incredible."

AGNIESZKA NIEDZIALEK from Poland

"The show was very beautiful. The idea of opening a door in the stadium was great. The way they lit the main torch was impressive. I liked the show."

GONG YONGDE from Guangzhou

"It was a great opening show with amazing performances. I watched the Beijing Olympic Games' opening ceremony. Tonight's was as good as that. I was

excited to be here enjoying the show."

ALEJANDRO BENDANA, reporter from Nicaragua

"It was really hot sitting in the stand. The fans were passionate. It was really amazing to watch it in the stadium."

ZHENG ZHICHAO, 16, Chinese student

"The whole night here was incredible. Although it was very hot, all the spectators were still so dedicated. I saw my favorite athlete, Liu Xiang, and the way they lit the main torch was impressive."

ZHANG YIYAO, volunteer from Guangzhou Foreign Studies University

NUMBERS

12,000
spectators

10,000
athletes and officials
from 152 countries and regions participated in the opening ceremony

2
million

used bottles were collected by Shenzhen residents. The bottles were used to build the opening ceremony's main stage

2,000
students

performed at the ceremony, after months of practice and rehearsal

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showbiz legends

appeared in the opening ceremony, as the organizing committee wanted the students to be the performance's leading actors

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fireworks

were used because of environmental concerns

DOOR OF THE WORLD

The automatic steel door to the ceremony venue is 22.5 meters tall and 4 meters thick. It has two 55-meter-wide parts and is mounted on a 110-meter-long track. The door sets world records for its 430-ton weight.

FLAME TOWER

The tower is said to resemble a "mountain of books". Viewed from the front, it looks like 11 huge books piled up. It is about 26 m high, 2.2 m wide at the bottom and 7.8 m wide across the top. It weighs 243 tons.

LIGHTING THAT SHINES

A total of 16,000 digital devices, including 800 searchlights, 6,000 LED lights, 10 full-color lasers and 10 monochromatic lasers, were used in the opening ceremony.