

THE ART OF ROPE PERFORMANCE

Rope walking is an art of performing on the rope that is pulled in a high altitude. Initially the rope was pulled in low altitude (in order to train soldiers to avoid different depths that may occur during the war), as the time passes the rope trainings took the form of performance, and the performances also became more and more complicated. The main condition of the rope performance is to keep the body balanced.

Nowadays Uzbek rope walkers perform in two types of ropes:

1. Cable rope (constructed on the altitude of 3–3.5 meters from earth level)
2. High rope (constructed on the altitude of 12–14 meters from earth level)

In a high rope the ropewalkers perform stunts holding langar (a balancer or long balancing pole) or without it on the rope, pulled between two pillars, 12–14 meters of height. Such stunts include jogging (forward, backwards), jumping, walking binding tray or knife to their legs, likewise walking with closed eyes or by putting a pot or a bag on their heads, sliding through the rope, walking boarding one of the rope walkers on their shoulders, playing in single or double wheels. Under the rope games are lead along with the rope performances. Under rope performances include athletic games, humorist games, wooden legs, juggler games, bonelessness, tamed bears, snakes, monkeys, horses and goats.





In order to develop and promote the art of rope walking, rope walking teams are set free from taxes and rope walking contests have been conducted. Coming to our time, in Uzbekistan more than 40 families of rope walkers are functioning. Mainly, the rope walkers are family members and they perform in Uzbekistan and in neighboring countries in the warm months of the year (March-November). As the performances are held in open air, it is impossible to sell tickets or to control the spectators' entrance and exit. Therefore, after each performance the audience is addressed

to help financially and spectators do it willingly as they can afford.

"Association of Uzbekistan's rope walkers" was established in 2011 in order to plan rope walkers' operations, organizing their performances in a place where they do not cause hindrance to each other, as well as to preserve national traditions of rope games. The association is currently lead by Tursunali polvon Mamajonov from Fergana.

