

= The Passing Zone =

The Passing Zone is an American comedy @-@ juggling duo comprising Jon Wee and Owen Morse . Wee , originally from Minnesota , and Morse , a California native , met at a juggling convention in northern California in 1986 and decided two years later to team up . Since then , the Passing Zone has won 18 gold medals from the International Jugglers ' Association (IJA) and holds five Guinness World Records .

The Passing Zone was one of ten finalists out of hundreds of acts to perform during the debut season of NBC 's America 's Got Talent where , despite finishing as " the highest rated comedy act , " Wee and Morse " lost one million dollars to an 11 @-@ year @-@ old . " They have entertained as part of the Royal Variety Performance for England 's Prince Charles ? sharing the bill with Tony Bennett and the cast of Riverdance , among others ? and also have been " guest performers " at the White House . The Passing Zone performs regularly for some of the top corporations in the United States while " inspiring groups to be better teams . "

= = Biography = =

Jonathan Wee is one of three children of David and Karen Wee and was raised in Northfield , Minnesota . A performer since age 14 , Wee preferred to juggle with partners . He performed with two childhood friends , calling themselves Three of Clubs , and worked the Minnesota Renaissance Fair . Wee admits that they " were really pretty bad , " although in the end he figures that fair officials " thought , ' we 'll let them in . ' " Owen Morse , of Tustin , California , began performing in high school , crafted a 15 @-@ minute @-@ long , sports @-@ themed routine set to music , and eventually earned work through an agency in Hollywood , playing the Sawdust Festival in Laguna Beach while in high school and working at Disneyland while in college .

A mutual friend introduced Wee and Morse at a jugglers ' convention in San Jose , California , and they spent the next year corresponding regularly . The two met again at the IJA convention in Akron , Ohio , and decided to pair up in 1988 for the Teams Championships in Denver , Colorado , where they took the silver medal only " two weeks after their first performance together . " The following year , they took the gold .

Wee elected to move to southern California after he graduated from Luther College that spring . Morse graduated one year later from University of California , Irvine . By the end of 2006 , Morse was living in Tustin with his wife and their two daughters while Wee lived in Hermosa Beach with his wife and their son and daughter .

= = Career = =

Wee and Morse spent several years honing their act at comedy clubs , trade shows and colleges . They were the first jugglers documented to pass eleven clubs between them . In addition , their performances have been seen as innovative , having created such routines as " The Chainsaw Ballet " (performed to The Blue Danube) and " people juggling " (featuring three audience members hanging from special rigging) . All in all the pair owns five Guinness World Records and has collected 18 gold medals from the IJA .

The Passing Zone was among the varied acts taking part in the Royal Variety Performance at Dominion Theatre in 1994 for England 's Prince Charles , who called their act " very clever , although I 'm glad I wasn 't sitting in the front row ! " Wee and Morse have performed during half @-@ time shows at NBA , CBA and NCAA sporting events . They have been featured on such television programs as Comic Strip Live , The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson (in 1990 and 1991) , Donny & Marie and Live with Regis and Kathie Lee . They were hired as juggling stand @-@ ins for Raúl Juliá and Christopher Lloyd in The Addams Family (1991) , performing " in the climactic Mamushka dagger @-@ passing scene . " In 2005 , the pair took part in Penn Jillette 's comedy documentary The Aristocrats , and appeared as juggling chefs in an episode of Hell 's Kitchen .

Wee and Morse have been " guest performers " at the White House . They also were hired to provide guest commentary for ESPN 's coverage of the World Juggling Federation competitions .

The men actively market their act to corporate events , where they demonstrate the concept of teamwork by bringing executives and employees to the stage and by using the company 's products and logos as part of their act . They have performed to stress the value of teamwork for such diverse organizations as Boeing , Deloitte and Touche , Hewlett @-@ Packard , Mattel and the United States Army .

= = = America 's Got Talent , 2006 = = =

The Passing Zone made its first appearance during the third week of America 's Got Talent , as part of the Chicago auditions aired on July 5 , 2006 . Wee bounced a rubber (prop) bowling ball off of Morse 's face (" to make sure you 're paying attention ") , then climbed onto Morse 's shoulders while Morse balanced on a Rola Bola long enough for the duo to juggle a total of six flaming torches in unison . The judges ' assessments were not unanimous ; David Hasselhoff rejected them (" That 's the act ? ! ") while Brandy and Piers Morgan wanted to see more .

Wee and Morse replicated " people juggling " for the semi @-@ finals on August 2 , 2006 , winning over the audience and Hasselhoff (" I think I have just gotten out of ' I Hate Jugglers Anonymous ' . I thought that was fantastic ! ") . One of ten acts to return for the finals two weeks later , The Passing Zone brought Hasselhoff to the stage and , as all three men wore torches atop construction helmets (and with Hasselhoff holding four spinning plates) , Wee and Morse passed sickles back and forth around him . Though Morgan thought they had done exceptionally well , the act finished in the bottom five when the results of the viewers ' vote were announced on August 17 , 2006 .

= = = " Gravity Attacks ! " = = =

Wee and Morse debuted their act " Gravity Attacks ! " in 2012 . The performance incorporates such elements as " chainsaws , torches and knives " flying through the air , along with audience members seemingly floating in space , " orbiting planets [and] narrowly escaping dangerous collisions . "

= = = America 's Got Talent , 2016 = = =

The Passing Zone auditioned for season 11 of America 's Got Talent in an episode broadcast on July 5 , 2016 . Wee and Morse asked judge Howie Mandel to lie on the stage ; Morse straddled him while juggling a mouse trap , a flaming plunger and a taser . Wee then jumped over Morse while keeping the items in the air . The act was put through to the next round .

= = Filmography = =