



The Magic & Illusion Show Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 7

July 2014

Special points of interest:

- A magic show review
- Magic news
- Trick of the month
- Entertainment news
- Party Magic news



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NON STOP GIGS!

This month we are performing at company picnics, school shows, church shows, resorts, magic classes, libraries, county fairs, and more.

As I am writing this I, just today, finished a school show and a gig at the Madison county fair. I looked at our wall calendar last night and counted up the shows we have on the books for July; it's 55! Wow, no wonder I'm tired.

Natalie, Lana, and myself have our morning routine down pat, we even have our breakfast and lunch already packed for the ride the night before.

We have been working lots of 12-16 hour days lately, but most of that time is on the road. I have said it many times before; the show is the easy part, the customer really pays for the driving to and from, loading, unloading, & the setting up and taking down. Not to mention the countless hours of practice and office work required to book the show.

To find out if we are going to be in your area check us out on facebook, Twitter & Google+

Quote of the month: "Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." ~ Sam Ewing



Here I am in front of the State Theatre in Culpeper last month

Check out our weekly blog & youtube channel now with links on the homepage of wesiseli.com

Who is this Guy? Dennis Phillips

Dennis' magic interest was sparked by the magicians he would see doing Gospel Magic in church. In the mid 1950s he discovered Earl Edwards Norfolk Virginia magic shop. At a young age the amazing Duke Stern turned Dennis on to the Abbott's family and the Mecca of Colon, Michigan and its yearly pilgrimage. All through college, Dennis worked in radio and television broadcasting. In D.C. he was friends with Willard Scott of NBC and spent a lot of time around Al Cohen's magic shop. Dennis was a local TV children's show host on an award winning show that he produced in the mid - 1970s for Jefferson-Pilot Broadcasting. Besides radio and TV appearances Dennis also had a full evening illusion show

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Who is this Guy? (Cont)

he was also touring with. Dennis holds the "Lee Noble Award", from The Bev Bergeron Ring for professionalism. He is a cover story writer for Magic Magazine. He also co-authored the biggest selling book on making a Haunted House attraction which has been in print for 35 years. ("How to Make a Financially Successful Haunted House") His illusion creations have been seen in Las Vegas illusion shows and on "America's Got Talent" (by Drew Thomas) but his personal performing style is comedy family magic with lots of audience interaction.

Last month he moved back to Florida and he currently works part time in Broadcasting and as a substitute teacher in public school. He also continues to perform magic, do ventriloquism, write and entertain.

I first met Dennis in 2009 when he joined my local International Brotherhood of Magicians club. He had just moved up from Florida and he told me about all the illusions he made and owned, I was amazed. He was not kidding, when I visited his home I was overwhelmed with all the magic and Illusions he had and the fact that so many of them he had made himself. He would hang out with me weekly at one of my restaurant gigs and we would talk magic and illusions. He also taught me how to build illusions and has been a mentor to me in my illusion show work. Dennis helped me build backdrops and my newest illusion "My production opener" and consulted me on my floating box illusion and more. Dennis not only helped me build illusions by telling me what to do, but he also put blood, sweat, and tears in the them himself. Every time I pick up a power tool I think of him!

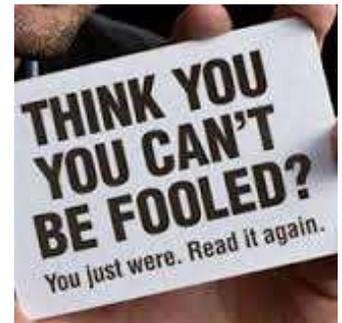
Thanks for everything Dennis!



Here I am last month with Dennis before he moved back to Florida

Entertainment News / Brain Games

Brain Games is a reality TV series that discusses and explores the components of the human brain. Hosted by Jason Silva, the show uses experts in cognitive science, neuroscience and psychology. The show is interactive, encouraging viewers to participate in experiments, or "brain games", they emphasize the main points presented in each episode. The series has been on for 4 seasons now and from what I am told has a lot of magic in it. As much as I love magic I have not had a chance to check this out yet, but after our busy season I plan to. The first season was hosted by Neil Patrick Harris who is also a magician. According to their IMDB page they have also had appearances by magicians such as David Copperfield, Apollo Robbins, Max Darwin, & more.



Video of the month/ Natalie's Drink in a Shoe Trick

Natalie is always wanting to help out in the show, so I had my voice over guy cut a track and all she has to do is follow along. Voice over provided by Dennis Phillips.



I give Natalie a shoe and props



She pours a drink in the shoe



Then magically makes the liquid jump into a glass and shows the shoe dry

To see this video search on Youtube: Natalie's Drink in a Shoe Trick

Our Illusion show at State Theatre Recap



Natalie, Lana & I in front of Theatre

A few years ago we did a small TV interview show called Virginia Living TV in Culpeper, Va. One of the interviewers was Tammy Barboza who now is on the board for the State Theatre of Culpeper. She said she never forgot us and that our magic really blew her away. They have had all kinds of acts at the State Theatre, but they had never had a magician since the renovation. They contacted us to see if we were interested, but one person on the board was hesitant because they had only seen our small show and they thought that's what they were buying. I assured them that our big show was not like my small show and that it would play large on stage. Well, needless to say, we were hired and the show was a huge success; **IT SOLD OUT!**

They treated us great; providing us with diner, a backstage crew, a light guy, a sound guy, ushers, and even security to watch over our merchandise that we sold during intermission and after the show. When we got to the show there were three guys ready to help us load in the show and we loaded into the theatre in only 20 minutes, which blew us away! We have never done it that fast before. We were completely set up in two hours when it usually takes us four, and with all our extra time we just hung out in the green room, had dinner, and invited friends and family to hang out with us prior to the show.

The show went great and the house manager was asking Natalie about having us back again next year. We will post the date of that show on Facebook, Twitter and Google+ when it is finalized.



Friends and family visiting us backstage in the greenroom pre-show



Here is the show all set up prior to the doors opening



Here we are after the show autographing our window card for the theatre

Party Magic News / Another Satisfied Customer

Your shows at Bryce Resort during its Brycefest 15th anniversary were awesome. You and Natalie had everyone mesmerized. I was standing to the side of the stage and still couldn't figure out any of your illusions - - oh wait, it's MAGIC and it really was!!

Thanks for making Brycefest a success!

Nan Ducklouw

Director of member services

Bryce Resort

Everyone Loves Party Magic!



Last month's shows recapped in photos



Hocus came to visit us at Bryce Resort



Performing at a retirement community in Richmond, Va



Performing at Colonial Heights public library



Performing at the Shenandoah County Public Library



Performing at the Madison County Fair



Teaching Magic classes at Massanutten Resort

To see even more photos from our travels and shows follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Google+

Magic News / Is Magic an Art Form?

The Society of American Magicians President just recently was able to get Congressional recognition for magic as an art. Since the Society's founding in 1902, one goal of the S.A.M. has been to advance and elevate magic as an art. Since the 1960's, the society has been trying to get Congressional recognition for the "Art of Magic." While many states and localities have issued Magic Week proclamations recognizing magic as an art, the federal government has not.

With the help of Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue (also a S.A.M. member), Dallas Congressman Pete Sessions put into the Congressional Record a Recognition of the Art of Magic. This recognition is very important to magicians. "When considered for grants, magic in the U.S. has been seen as a hobby or at best, a craft. This is not the case in other countries. For example, in the late 60's Doug Henning won a grant from the Canadian Council for the Arts to study magic. In Canada, as in many other countries, they recognized magic as an art form. Henning's grant led to the show that would eventually become the Broadway Hit THE MAGIC SHOW."



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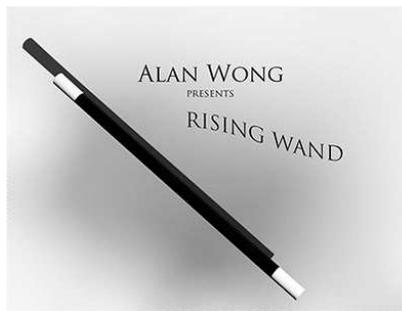
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This is a great magic wand!

You can use this wand as your regular wand in your act, and have it perform a few magical antics of its own.

The wand can be made to jump out of your hand. It can be made to rise in your hand, or glide horizontally on your hand from end to end in an eerie fashion. Wave the wand like a regular wand, and suddenly it takes on a life of it's own, whirling like a fan. We supply the special wand, ready to use with instructions.

Easy to do and perfect for beginners

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Teach a Trick / Self cutting cards

Effect: A borrowed deck is shuffled by a spectator and the magician tells him to make four piles on the table, face down. The spectator then is told to look at the top card of any pile and replace the card. The magician now makes one pile of the cards and places it on the upturned palm of the spectator. He taps under the spectator's palm and the deck divides right at the chosen card.

Secret: It's all done with a few grains of salt, which are hidden between the magician's fingers. After the spectator looks at his card, magician points to it and asks him if he will remember it. At that moment, he drops the salt on the card. Salt can't be seen if the cards have an overall design. As the magician taps under the palm, the cards will cut or break at the selected card.

Tip: It does not take much salt at all, practice this alone to determine how much you really need.

