

The Renaissance

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The Spencers Theatre of Illusion October 24, 2009 7:00 PM



The Spencers Theatre of Illusion

For more than a decade, **Kevin and Cindy Spencer** have dazzled the world with their entertaining stage magic and breathtaking illusions. Audiences cross over a threshold of disbelief and are captivated within moments of Kevin and Cindy taking the stage. The audience gets to share an intimate space with these performers while discovering the wonders of the impossible. The media has described this team as "Modern Day Houdinis." They present theatre in its truest form, utilizing a big, high-tech stage show that combines drama, comedy, romance and suspense with elaborate stage illusions, dazzling special effects and magnificent set design.



Make Your Own Magicians Tool Box

Here are a few items that any budding magician should use to build their first magic kit.

1. A Tackle Box: a perfect container for all of your tools of the trade
2. Coin Magic:
 - a. 5 John F. Kennedy half dollar coins
 - b. A small translucent glass with a recessed bottom
 - c. A coin purse (optional)
3. Card Magic:
 - a. 4 identical decks of cards - two red and two blue
4. Rope Magic:
 - a. Cotton clothes line from a hardware store
 - b. A pair of scissors
5. Handkerchief Magic:
 - a. Obviously enough, a handkerchief
 - b. False thumb-tip
6. Extraneous:
 - a. Black thread
 - b. Magician's wax
 - c. Black thread

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Richland Bank Family Series



Kevin was intrigued by magic at a very young age. After spending hours in front of the television watching magicians, his parents bought him a magic kit. By 7th grade, Kevin's focus grew into music – he started playing the piano. And even though Kevin went to school in Chattanooga to study Psychology and Greek, but unconsciously knew he wanted to be a magician – maybe that's why he worked part-time in a local magic shop. While on a visit to his parents during break, Kevin had the opportunity to catch Doug Henning live. In excitement, Kevin wrote a note to Henning asking for just a moment of his time; an usher gave assurance that the note would make its destination. When Kevin arrived at the backstage door, he was surprised to find hundreds of people waiting around hoping for a chance to see Henning. Even more to Kevin's surprise is when the road manager asked for him by name. Kevin talked with Henning for over an hour about touring and life on the road. When Kevin returned to college, he was more passionate than ever, taking every possible opportunity to perform.

Magician Tips

1. Pick up a book on dedicated magic, read articles, surf the web.
2. Practice, practice, practice
3. Perform your tricks in front of the mirror, friends, and family.
4. Try to come up with something new. Adapt old tricks to give them a fresh feeling.
5. Develop a stage presence and delivery. No one wants to see you act like another magician.
6. Never, and I mean NEVER reveal the secrets behind your trick.

Magician's Resources

1. YouTube – you can find tons of magic tricks with video demonstrations. It's a great way to see how the trick is performed.
2. Your local library. There are books covering every aspect of performing tricks, stage presence, costumes, and everything else you need to become the next great magician – best part, it's free.
3. The local Magic Shop. If you can't find an official magic shop, check department stores, gag stores, and even the web to find magic kits, book, and supplies. You might even try Ebay for great deals.
4. Other Magicians. Don't be afraid to go see other magicians perform their work. This may give you ideas on how to improve your own show, and who knows, maybe you'll even get a chance to meet your idol.

Magic Magazine

<http://www.magicmagazine.com>

Magic Tricks Online

<http://www.magictricks.com/>

Mallusionist Online

<http://www.mallusionist.com/index.shtml>



Cindy described herself as a naturally quiet and shy person, but believed her desired to perform outweighed her fears. It's a good thing because Cindy was awarded a vocal scholarship in college and joined a performance group. After college, she moved to Dallas, Texas where she met Kevin: they "became great friends" and then married in 1983. Cindy joined "The Magic of Kevin Spencer" with a secondary role. However, after a tragic automobile accident involving Kevin and a Semi, Cindy stepped up to become a key player in the show: "Forged into a team, we worked on routines that balanced us equally...illusions that showcased us both. We changed our presentations to accommodate limitations. We started to form ideas on philosophy and presentation. We studied stagecraft and sought guidance from theater professionals. And, we began to be a team." Cindy is the first woman recognized by the International Brotherhood of Magicians and to receive her own feature and cover on the oldest magic magazine in the world.