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What You Need To Know To Become A Magician

By David Fishman

Elaborate stunts and illusions. Beautiful assistants. A crew of well trained exotic animals. You are intrigued by the magician's life and have decided to give it a shot. Well, don't be fooled by the magicians you see on T.V. There is more to the profession than that, and you need to learn it from all different perspectives in order to be a true success.

In addition to stunts and illusions, you need to understand the basics. Palming techniques. Small tricks. Not all of your shows will require you to use your big tricks. A true magician knows a combination of both, and knows them all well.

Here is what you need to know to become a magician.

Learn the Basics. Learning the basic techniques is very important. Simple card tricks, coin tricks, and small tricks with props like ropes and hats are good to learn. You can learn from a book, take a class, or learn from a DVD or instruction online. The methods you choose will depend largely on your learning style. Keep in mind that it can be very helpful to have an expert show you how to do it and critique your technique.

Get a Mentor. In your road to becoming a magician, getting a mentor can be a tremendous help. A mentor will not only teach you how to perform tricks and illusions, but will also assist you on the business side of being a magician. Most are self employed and are responsible for booking their own engagements. It can be a big help to also learn things such as marketing, etc from your mentor.

Go to School. Yes, there are magic schools. Some are part of clown school. Others are designed as enrichment programs in middle school and high schools. Attending a school that focuses completely on magic can help you learn quickly and put you on a schedule for success.

What Kind of Magician? What kind of magician do you want to be? Each successful magician out there has some kind of niche. Do you want to be a clown/magician? Would you like to do elaborate stunts? Or maybe you want to focus entirely on card tricks. It's up to you. Once you define exactly how you envision your future career, you can take the steps necessary to achieve it.

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Your Tricks. Each performing magician has not only a broad knowledge of their field, they also have a select amount of tricks that they master. Granted, depending on the performance, you will want to vary your lineup. However, if you have a few tricks you can depend on, it will make your job a lot easier.

Stage presence. Being a technical magician won't get you far. You need to develop a stage presence. Each trick and illusion you learn needs to have a routine attached to it that will captivate the audience. You can be a mediocre magician and still entertain the crowd with your jokes and anecdotes. What truly matters is that your audience has a good time.

David Marc Fishman has started

<http://bornasuperstar.com>

. Talented performers who fall into one of

these categories, singers, musicians, bands, magicians, comedians and unique performers will submit a video, and the public will vote to determine the winner.

A To Z Of Well-Known Magicians

By Jim Kapowski

There are many well-known, skilled magicians that you might not know about because even though they're well known, they haven't reached magician cult status. Most people know about the magician David Copperfield, but there are many more magicians equally skilled. So, take a moment to learn about other wizards of magic and expand your knowledge about magicians.

Curtis Adams: A magician who appeared at the age of 16 in the Young Magicians Showcase featured on Fox Television. He was born on October 12, 1984 and was one of the youngest magicians to perform in Reno, Nevada casinos.

Criss Angel: The only three-time magician winner of the Merlin Award from the International Society of Magicians. Angel is a skilled magician who did stunts like lying on a bed of nails while a Hummer drove over him.

Ed Balducci: A street magician who died in 1988 at the age of 82. He is a magician known for his gimmick-free trick of visibly rising several inches from the ground with his back turned to his audience.

Derren Brown: A British magician who practiced traditional close-up magic in the 1990s. Brown's claim as a magician is his "mind-reading" act. Brown claims aliens abducted him.

Cardini: Richard "Cardini" Pitchford was a magician with almost 50 years of performing tricks and illusions. He's one of the world's most imitated magicians, but no one to date has ever been able to completely duplicate his tricks. He was a magician known for his sleight of hand. Items were forever appearing and disappearing from his hands. He died in 1973.

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Tommy Cooper: A magician and comedian known who was a member of the Magic Circle until his death in 1984. He collapsed while doing a live magician act that became his last.

Paul Daniels: A currently retired British magician who in 1983 became the first magician to ever receive the prestigious Magician of the Year Award by the Hollywood Academy of Magical Arts.

S.W. Erndase: A magician and author whose real identity has never been figured out. Erndase is a magician who wrote a book in 1902 about card playing tricks.

Ching Ling Foo: The first Asian magician to achieve fame. He was a magician who did tricks like breathing fire and pulling a fifteen-foot pole from his mouth. He died in 1922.

Lennart Green: A magician known for his close-up card tricks. In 1991 this magician became the world champion of in close-up card magic.

Paul Harris: A magician known for pulling coins from mirrors. Many claim he is a magician with skills like a combination of Copperfield and Henning.

Scott Interrante: An American magician specializing in escape-artist tricks. He won awards from the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Ricky Jay: A magician listed in the Guinness Book of Records as throwing a playing card 190 feet at 90 miles per hour.

Fred Kaps: A Dutch magician who died in 1980. He is a magician known for making a saltshaker create an endless supply of salt.

Juan Tamariz: A Spanish magician who in 1971 founded a school that has trained generations of Spanish magicians.

Dia Vernon: This Canadian magician was born in 1894 as David Frederick Wingfield Verner. This magician, who died in 1992, is known for fooling Houdini with one of his card tricks.

Paul Zenon: A British street magician who also performed in the bars and pubs in the U.K. This magician has written three books about magic, the most recent published in 2005.

Magic Magicians is an information site that contains articles, a directory and other Magician Resources. It can be found at:

<http://www.magicmagicians.com>



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