

Magic Returns to Manitowoc

Seebach's "Wonders of Magic" to appear at Capitol Civic Centre on May 19th

The hooded magician, in a dramatic pose, from the *Mysteries From the Devil's Chamber* sequence, the most dramatic and popular act in Seebach's theatrical stage shows.

Photo by Dale Gulden



Christine is "all twisted up" during the dance contest that's a fun part of Seebach's *Twister* illusion. Photo by Patty Reed



After a successful appearance in 1995, Manitowoc's (Wisconsin) Capitol Civic Centre has invited David Seebach and his "Wonders of Magic" to reappear on May 19th for one performance only at 7:30pm. The magician promises to present a show that will include several of his signature acts that he is famous for and some new twists and surprises for an expected capacity family audience.

And, what could be more "twisted" than the illusionist's *Twister* act that is presented as a dance contest between one of the magician's assistants and a willing audience volunteer? Demonstrating Seebach's flair for theatricality, this clever sequence includes some very familiar musical selections that have specific dances associated with them. The audience gets to judge the contestants, but watch out when Chubby Checker's hit comes up!

Contrasting the light, humorous approach of *Twister* is David's most famous creation, an act he calls *Mysteries From the Devil's Chamber*. It is a remarkable feat full of spectacular music and an absolutely jaw-dropping surprise finish. Seebach created the presentation thirty years ago, when he was a Fine Arts major in the Theatre Department at the University of Wisconsin.

"Performing artists are constantly refining and adapting their work. I'm no exception," Seebach explained, "but this act is exactly the same as when I premiered it in January,

1972." The magician had studied the programs, repertoires and illusionary props of famous magicians and was impressed by an act called "*The Three Graces*" that was the brainchild of Belgian magician Servais Leroy (1865-1953). Seebach envisioned a more dramatic and fiery presentation with evocative music by Camille Saint-Saens and a faint wisp of occult mystery. The act now includes an impressive scenic backdrop, complete with an ominous demon, and some costuming more daring than in 1972, but the timing, music and patter are unchanged. It's always an audience favorite.

The program will include ample opportunity for lots of audience participation. Young spectators, and adults, will have the opportunity to join David onstage and become an important part of this interactive show.

Back in 1995 one thing the magician failed to do was saw a woman in halves. He promises to correct that oversight on May 19th.

Who will accompany the conjuror to Manitowoc on Lake Michigan's western shore? He will bring with him a full crew and several young lady assistants who enjoy participating in the performer's clever diversions. He will also bring Tara, the beautiful Siberian tiger that often goes "on the road" and is one of the more loveable members of the cast.

David Seebach's "Wonders of Magic" is a family friendly event suitable for all ages and will be presented for one show only. Reserved seat tickets can be obtained from the Capitol Civic Centre box office at 920/683-2184. The Centre is located at 913 South 8th Street.

David Seebach's

Back Stage

Making Mr Big Appear

Here's How to Affect a Memorable Entrance

It's a familiar quest that has become a familiar request to David Seebach. How can the corporate president, CEO, sales manager, special guest or keynote speaker make a splashy effective entrance? Can he magically appear onstage?

"I can't even remember the first time a client asked me to make their boss appear," the magician admitted. "I've had plenty ask about making the boss disappear, too, but that's another story. I know that years ago we attempted to fit male executives, in three piece suits, into the props designed and built for slender, scantily-clad showgirls. It just didn't work."

To make matters worse, some of these acts require extensive rehearsal and timing for the assistant. That's additional effort that corporate executives don't have time for.



Jane urges the audience to keep her a secret as the illusionist stages his Backstage With A Magician act. Poised, and ready to assist, is Maureen.

Photo by Mark Avery

"About fifteen years ago one of Milwaukee's largest shopping malls invited me to perform and make Santa Claus appear. I said sure and had them send their Santa over. This fellow could squeeze into the prop, but that was before he put on the traditional costume and padding. We literally had to tie him inside the prop, sans additional girth, and hope he could get himself out. He did, but was a very emaciated Santa when he appeared. He immediately stepped aside, 'for some hot cocoa,' and was replaced by a more robust Santa for lap sitting and picture taking. He did, however, enjoy performing with us and he became one of our regular cast members for years, traveling with us to Hawaii and New York and California."

Seebach didn't solve this problem until obtaining an elaborate illusion called **Backstage With A Magician**. He commissioned Michigan's Abbott Magic Manufacturing Company to fabricate the apparatus. It was the first one they had

ever built and, consequently, Seebach visited the shop during construction to consult with Abbott's craftspeople. This illusion was the invention of Danish magician Harry Jansen (1883-1955) who gained fame with his stage name Dante. He toured the world, but achieved his greatest success on Broadway with a show that garnered rave reviews. He also appeared on TV's "You Asked For It" and in films "Bunco Squad," "Racket Busters" and Laurel and Hardy's "A Haunting We Will Go."

He used his illusion onstage with his own assistants. In Seebach's hands, it's always one of the magicians own female assistants, but the male is someone recognized by the crowd.

The clever illusion begins as an exposé with the performers facing away from the audience and, thus, inviting the spectators to watch from 'back-stage.' They see how a beautiful woman is concealed by two boxes that are alternately opened to show them empty. They're nested, with the woman now secretly inside, but it is not she who makes an appearance at the act's conclusion. Instead, it's Ronald McDonald, Santa Claus, a popular DJ, or a familiar executive to the crowd. In fact, all of the afore mentioned have popped up under Seebach's command.

Milwaukee radio star Bob Reitman appeared onstage at the Modjeska Theatre in 1991 and corporate officials from Walgreen's, IBM, John Deere, First Bank, Bell & Howell, American Family Insurance, and many other firms have materialized onstage courtesy of Seebach's clever staging of this effect.

The act is designed to be forgiving to human proportions. "My favorite 'surprise' guest for this act was Atlanta's Abb Dickson," Seebach remembered. "He's a beloved, jolly magician, known around the world, and of generous dimensions. He volunteered to participate at a magician's convention where I was appearing and brought down the house."

So, whether your president, CEO, or sales director looks more like Mickey Rooney or John Goodman, he'll fit. But, how long will it take him to learn the routine?

About ten minutes, according to Seebach. Everything is designed so that the magician and his staff do just about everything. Your Mr Big only needs to respond to his cue and burst out to the delighted shrieks and laughter of a very surprised crowd. The response to this act for Seebach's corporate clients is amazing. The guests truly enjoy their magical moment and the reaction from their associates who are taken aback and are dumbfounded by the mystery.

Backstage With A Magician is included in David Seebach's **EXECUTIVE "Wonders of Magic"** show, an elaborate stage presentation with multiple assistants and seven major stage illusions. For theatrical presentations a full stage backdrop of an audience is utilized to wonderful comedic effect. If you are planning an awards function, annual meeting, product rollout, or sales presentation, there can be no better way to introduce your key guest. Please contact David Seebach for additional information.



Famous actor and Milwaukee native Willem Dafoe helps Seebach out on stage at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 1974.

The Eyes in Your Fingers

Ss-sh, it's a secret. You can convince your friends you can "see" with your fingertips if you're willing to invest a little time in preparation and rehearsal. You'll need four relatively large, identical safety pins and twelve small colored cards, about 1" x 2" each. These cards are two sets of six cards each. They are six different colors. You can make them front different colored cards, or construction paper, or paint or crayon the color onto white card stock. Make sure they are all exactly the same size and that the color is uniform (both red cards, for instance, must be indistinguishable from each other). Each card must have a tiny hole so they can be threaded onto the safety pin. Make the holes exactly the same on every card.

Let's assume your colors are blue, green, orange, purple, red and yellow. Put one set of six cards onto one of the pins and clasp it shut. Put the blue, green and orange cards remaining onto one of the leftover pins in exactly that order. Put the

purple, red and yellow cards on one of the other two pins. The final pin gets no cards at all.

Now you must attach the pins with three cards each to your back. Pin them to your jacket so they're just out of view. Remember their orientation and note that the color order on the pins is alphabetical for easy memory. Tuck the remaining pin under your belt or waistband.

The audience is only aware of one pin and six cards during this magic act.

Let them examine the pin and its six cards. Explain that after a recent accident where your head got bumped and your fingers were scratched that you've developed the ability to "see" with your fingers and offer to demonstrate. The cards should be removed from the pin and then rethreaded in any order the audience desires while your back is turned. Have them put the pin and cards into your hands, then turn and face them. Have someone call out one of the six colors.

When a color is announced you obtain that card from one of the two pins attached to your jacket. You know their alphabetical order so it's an easy matter to pull that slip from its pin. Do not open the pin, just tear the card off. Each time they call out a color you bring that one from behind your back.

When they get to the final color you must do three things: 1) bring that color forward (easy, it's the only one left pinned to your jacket); 2) bring the empty pin forward that was hidden under your belt or waistband, and; 3) dispose of the original pin and six cards. Do this early on in the presentation by putting it into a hip pocket, under your belt, or somewhere else under your clothing.

Making sure all the papers are absolutely identical in size, feel and shape, and practicing the moves are the important parts of this effect, but it'll be worth it when your friends think you can See With Your Fingers! Remember, it's a secret.

WONDERS OF MAGIC

up to date news

Our Magical Past

An Academy Award Assistant

It was January 1974, and David Seebach had just graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin's School of Fine Arts' Theatre Department in Milwaukee. He returned to the campus annually, however, for his "Great International Magic Show." David asked one of his college friends, Monica Hayes, to attend the dress rehearsal of that year's show and take some photos. For a clever magical rope routine (that the magician still performs in 2001), he needed a volunteer from the audience. But, this was a rehearsal; there was no audience. David spied another college pal, who had dropped in to watch the final run-through, and coaxed him up to help.

Do you recognize Academy Award nominee Willem Dafoe? He was Bill back then and a frequent comrade to Seebach. His nomination for "Shadow of a Vampire" this year is his second Oscar nomination. He was also nominated for his role in "Platoon" several years ago.

The young lady flanking the magician is Judy Conte, a wonderfully talented dancer and actress.



David Seebach's WONDERS OF MAGIC is a member of the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau

- CBS TV 58 invited David Seebach to their Corporate Party at Klemmer's Williamsburg Inn on January 27th. The magician 'customized' the presentation for them with special props, routines, and patter.
- Twin Lakes Transit featured the magician at their post-Christmas Holiday Party in Eden (Wisconsin) at the Northwinds Supper Club on January 20th. Another January party engagement was a return appearance for Verlo Mattress on January 13th at Milwaukee's Clarion Hotel.
- Janesville's (Wisconsin) Mercy Health Care staged an elaborate casino night event at the Bull Valley Country Club in Woodstock, Illinois, and had the Class Act agency arrange for David Seebach to present three hours of intimate close-up magic for their guests on February 6th.
- ACA Music & Entertainment submitted the "Wonders of Magic" as a motivational magic act for AAA's insurance agents. The magician, again, adjusted his standard presentation for this client to fit into their mid-day meeting at Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel on February 7th.
- The public is invited to Waukesha (Wisconsin) County's Project Head Start annual Family Fest on April 1st at the county's Expo Center. The event runs from 11:30am to 5:30pm and features a Western Theme this year. You can enjoy two presentations by David Seebach. His show has become a regular, annual feature at this event.
- On Sunday, April 8th, the show travels to Madison's (Wisconsin) Alliant Energy Center for their 6th annual Kids Day. The magician will perform at 12:30 and 2:30pm.
- Two shows will be presented at the Wisconsin Rapids Library on Tuesday, May 1st, at 6:00 and 7:15pm. This is the second time the magician has appeared at this library.
- Wisconsin's Tanners will feature the "Wonders of Magic" as after dinner entertainment at their May 11th banquet at Brookfield's Embassy Suites Hotel.
- 2001 will mark the 22nd consecutive year that David Seebach has performed at Milwaukee's Summerfest. Check schedules for the exact show times.
- It's not too early to plan magical entertainment for your company picnic. Avoid 'date' disappointment by calling and reserving your show now.

FEATURING...
MAGIC
you•can•do
THE EYES IN
YOUR FINGERS



Back stage

2001 SPRING EDITION



BEWARE THE MYSTERIES OF THE DEVIL'S CHAMBER!

Experience it all in
MANITOWOC
May 19th

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PICK 'N SIP



Photo by Jane Zalewski

David Seebach offers a lovely spectator
a beverage before coaching her to
perform some magic for

**PICK 'N SAVE STORES'
AWARDS NIGHT**

at Davian's Banquet Center