

# Back stage

2003 WINTER EDITION



happy  
holidays!



David Seebach creates some magical Christmas memories for a young lady attending his performance at RACINE'S REGENCY MALL for their *Night of Giving* promotion.

FEATURING...  
**MAGIC**  
you • can • do  
**THE**  
**WIZARD'S**  
**DICE**



## MAGIC "ON THE AIR"

The magician is interviewed moments before going onstage recently by **EZ 92 WEZY's** Program Director, Don Rosen. The DJ was broadcasting live from Racine's Regency Mall and invited Seebach for an on air chat.

Photo by Erin Brown.

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David Seebach's  
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# Happy Chinese New Year

Mysteries From the Far East to be Featured in 2003

From the beginning of his performing career, David Seebach has striven to make his presentations real shows and not just demonstrations of magic tricks. One of his early ideas was to select several different conjuring effects and link them together with a cohesive routine.

This was the format of his "The Great International Magic Show" back in the 1970s at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. One scene, for instance, combined four major stage illusions together into a sequence he called his "Egyptian Fantasy."

The magician will offer his clients in 2003 an expandable menu of mysteries of an Oriental nature. Where appropriate, this approach to performing can be included in both small, intimate shows and in elaborate stage productions.

"So often when I see other magicians perform," Seebach explained, "it's just one magic trick after another, apparently without thought to sequence or dramatic progression. I intend to offer my audiences something special where the impact won't be just the magic that happens, but the entire theatrical experience. Depending on the performing situation, we can add music, costuming, additional assistants and present a style of magic that most Americans never get a chance to enjoy."

So, adult groups will see magic without decks of cards or other trappings of the modern, Western hemisphere performer and younger spectators will witness — perhaps for the first time — exotic mysteries as they were performed by great magicians of the past like Blackstone, Thurston, Chung Ling Soo, Carter and others.

## The Eternal RINGS

Long a part of every well-known magician's program, the fabled **Chinese Linking Rings** may be one of the oldest magical effects in the world. They have delighted audiences for centuries because the magical concept is so elegant and simple: solid steel rings that pass through each other to link and unlink in an inexplicable manner.

Although generally performed with eight rings, some magicians use as many as fifteen and some as few as three. The rings can be as small as 5" in diameter or as large as 15". Some performers present a loud, comical version and others work

This is possible because Seebach's "Wonders of Magic" show has a big repertoire and already includes some of the acts most reminiscent of the exotic Pacific Rim.



Tina emerges from the intricate **Origami illusion**, one of the world's most baffling magic acts. Photo by Erin Brown.

without speaking to music in a classical presentation. The rings, too, can be loud as they jangle and crash through each other or silent, as they seem to melt, solid-through-solid. Seebach works with six 12" rings (15" for big stage shows) and always invites a spectator to participate as he injects some light and mild humor.

## A Mysterious PHANTOM

At the other end of the spectrum is The **Blue Phantom**, a rarely seen antique magic act. Every serious magical collector has one, but few people ever see it performed. It requires just the right presentation for a contemporary audience. In Seebach's hands, with some appropriate music, it becomes a demonstration of the mystical properties of an antique Chinese seven-day calendar.

## The Mandarin Transformation

At the heart of any Oriental presentation is this classic mystery that is a particular favorite of Seebach's. He likes it because it is a unique effect, unlike the more commonplace appearing or disappearing acts. Like the Chinese culture, it is a simple and elegant routine. Known for years as the **Rice, Orange & Checkers** trick, the "Wonders of Magic" features three different

David Seebach performs the classic **Chinese Linking Rings** for the Wisconsin Chiropractic Associations' fall convention at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Photo by Lisa Seebach.



versions of the routine. The classic one was first presented by Seebach in 1977, but was rarely performed due to the small size of the apparatus. A slightly larger version, one of only twenty-five ever produced, was added to the show in 1999. For years the magician campaigned for an even larger version for his stage shows and California's Owen Magic Supreme responded with the exquisite **Rice, Grapefruit & Checkers** for almost \$5,000. Fewer than five exist, coveted by collectors, and Seebach's is probably the only one that actually is performed for the public. Now this wonderful mystery can be included in shows of any size and stature.

### ORIGAMI

As wonderful as all these acts are, they do not have the spectacle of the major stage illusions for which David Seebach is so well known. **Origami**, the creation of prolific magic inventor Jim Steinmeyer, does and is a world-class illusion that was originally created for the late Doug Henning. David Copperfield and Siegfried & Roy have also featured it. An intricate Chinese puzzle box is folded up around a beautiful woman until it measures only about one foot cubed! Gleaming scimitars then puncture this cube, but the woman always survives unharmed. However, in Seebach's

unique version, the biggest mystery comes when she re-appears and we won't spoil that surprise here!

### But Wait, There's More!

These exotic magical effects, all presented in David Seebach's smooth style, with distinctive costuming and evocative music, form the core of the Chinese sequence, but additional acts can be included to tailor the presentation for an audience of mostly children, or to include a production of brilliant Oriental silk scarves, create a very humorous interlude, thrill older audiences with a recreated execution, or achieve other desired effects. Scaled up, or scaled down, the Chinese magic will be offered to all the "Wonders of Magic" clients in 2003.

### The Big Mystery Surprise—?

David Seebach is the first to admit that he's done all of these acts for years, but there is something new and very exciting coming in 2003 to round out this Chinese vision. It's a major stage illusion of rare beauty that should become a most talked about sensation. You'll read more about it right here in the pages of **BACKSTAGE** in the spring edition.

## Texas Trickery

The cast poses in Fort Worth when David Seebach's "Wonders of Magic" closed the gala Saturday night show for the Texas Association of Magicians Annual Convention. Pictured, left to right, are Christine, David, Tracy and Peggy. Stage Manager Brian LeBoeuf took the photo.



## Kalmbach Publishing

Besides featuring David Seebach's elaborate O-gauge train layout in the March issue of their **Classic Toy Trains** magazine, Kalmbach invited the magician to perform in November for a corporate function. The magician is pictured with company president Gerald "Butch" Boettcher (left) and **Classic Toy Trains** editor Neil Besougloff. David's assistant, Tina, took the photo.



Sarah assists the magician with one of his favorite mysteries, the **Rice, Orange & Checkers** effect. This is the "mid-sized" version. Photo by Erin Brown.



# The Wizard's Dice



**Ss-sh,** it's a secret. This clever magical effect is based on the little-known principle that the numbers on opposite faces of a die always total seven when added (1+6, 2+5 & 3+4). If you keep this fact a secret, you can perform a miracle. You'll need a pair of dice, a cup to toss them, a couple slips of paper, and a pencil.

Begin by handing the spectator a piece of paper and the pencil and ask him to write down any single digit number. Do this very casually. Immediately bring out the dice and cup and make sure you see the number he writes down. By starting casually, the spectator is less likely to try and hide his number.

Take the pencil and add fourteen to his number in your head and write down the total, but keep this out of the spectator's sight. You may fold it up and set it aside where no one can touch it.

Have the spectator roll the dice several times to prove there's nothing unusual about them. After all, you wouldn't want to be accused of trickery!

After a few practice rolls, tell him to leave the next roll on the table as they fall. Turn away so you can't see what numbers come up.

Tell the spectator to add the two numbers showing on the top of the dice together and write the result down on his paper below the single digit he

already has written there. Then, tell him to turn both dice over and add the numbers on the bottom of the dice together and write this total down on the paper, too.

Tell him to add the numbers up. Then, ask him to open the paper you folded up before he rolled the dice. His total will match your prediction!

You could make this more complex by using three dice and adding twenty-one to whatever his first random number was.

If it seems confusing, just get a pair of dice and try it. You might fool yourself, but remember, it's a secret!



## Windy City Magic

The Illinois Association of Counties turned to Prism Entertainment's Mary Kay Weber to provide an after-dinner show for their banquet held at Chicago's Marriott Hotel on Michigan Ave. Mary Kay has promoted the "Wonders of Magic" to her clients for years. Pictured here next to David are assistant Tina, the Association's Terry Desmond, Mary Kay, and assistant Christine after the well-received show.

Photo by Erin Brown.

## WONDERS OF MAGIC

up to date news



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

- Brookfield's (Wisconsin) **Westmoor Country Club** hosted an annual members' family Halloween party on Saturday October 26th, and invited David Seebach to entertain the children and adults before their luncheon.
- **GE Medical** once again utilized Seebach's talents for a corporate function on November 20th at the new **Milwaukee Art Museum** for a service meeting hosted by their vice-president. Comedy magic, mind reading, and even a humorous near-decapitation were all part of the show.
- **Employee Benefit Claims** held their Holiday Party on December 6th at the **Bavarian Inn** in Milwaukee. **Joan McPike** arranged for David Seebach to perform at the luncheon.
- **J&L Fiber Services** turned to **ACA Music & Entertainment** to provide a show for their family Christmas Party on December 7th at Brookfield's (Wisconsin) **Embassy Suites**. **ACA's Nancy Rothe** once again turned to David Seebach to do the show.
- **M&I Bank** of West Bend (Wisconsin) selected the "Wonders of Magic" as their entertainment for their party on the evening of December 7th at the **West Bend Country Club**. **Rose Petite** secured the magician's services for the affair.
- **Eye Physician Associates** held their party at **Bartollata's Ristorante** in Wauwatosa (Wisconsin) on December 11th. David Seebach was "on stage" after dinner at this trendy and popular eatery. **Chris Siegel** contacted Seebach and booked the event.
- Beloit's (Wisconsin) **First National Bank & Trust** was another **ACA Music & Entertainment** client to choose David Seebach for their December 14th celebration. **ACA's Nancy Rothe** contracted the show, held at the **Beloit Country Club**.
- **Kathy Dehne**, of **Holton Brothers**, invited David Seebach to their holiday get-together on December 15th at the **Radisson Hotel** in Wauwatosa.
- Students at Wauwatosa's **Whitman School** were treated to magic, comedy and illusion on the last day of classes before the Christmas break on December 20th. **Madelene Breske** made sure David was able to return to this school for another assembly program.
- Post Christmas Holiday Parties continue in 2003: On January 4th, "Wonders of Magic" will appear at the **Country Inn** in Pewaukee (Wisconsin) for the **Wisconsin Credit Union League**. **Jennifer Esser** arranged the appearance.
- David Seebach returns to Milwaukee's **Lincoln Center for the Arts School** on January 22nd. It may be some sort of a record: one or more assembly programs every year for at least five years! **Cathy Sansone** coordinated this year's event.
- David Seebach will be off to **Oregon State University** in February for an appearance at the **LaSells Stewart Center** on the 22nd. This West Coast booking was arranged by **Rosemary Hable** of Lake Geneva's (Wisconsin) **Class Act Agency**.
- Mark your calendars for the every-other-year fundraiser at Elm Grove's (Wisconsin) **Sunset Playhouse** on May 16th, 17th & 18th. All seats are reserved in this intimate theater and David creates a special repertoire for this worthy cause. Call 262/782-4430 for tickets. Only four performances are scheduled.

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