

Back stage

2004 SPRING EDITION

FEATURING...
MAGIC
you • can • do

A
NUTTY
TRICK



Mile High Magic



*Was it Colonel Mustard
in the Drawing Room
with the Wrench? —
or Professor Plum with the
Candlestick in the Library?*

Peer inside to find out the
'CLUE' to this puzzling mystery!

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WONDERS
OF MAGIC
up • to • date news

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*Wisconsin Illusionist Speaks
to Colorado Magicians*

Magic in the Rockies

It's Not a Show, but an Informative Lecture

Perhaps the second-most asked question of David Seebach after "How did you do that?" is "If magicians never tell, how do magicians learn?"

The truth is that magicians, by long-time custom and oath, never reveal their secrets to the public. But, there's a long tradition of magicians helping each other with books, manuscripts and—now—videos that explain and teach magic acts from beginner level basics to complex sleight-of-hand routines. At almost any time of the year there are magicians touring the USA performing and lecturing exclusively to other magicians at meetings of the various magical societies.

However, one area of magic is sorely lacking in available instructional material and has—up to now—no one to devote a lecture to it. That area is the subject of stage illusions, the big, spectacular acts like *Sawing A Woman in Halves* and the *Levitation*.

Seebach has been interested in and performing these acts since he was a teenager and now presents a lecture for other magicians entitled "So You Want To Be An Illusionist." Most magicians spend their entire career never performing these illusions because they are expensive to obtain, heavy to transport, large to store, and time-consuming to set up. They also require larger venues and, sometimes, special lighting, custom backdrops and other staging necessities.

Of course they are the flashy acts with beautiful assistants, costuming, music and—often—lots of drama, danger and suspense.

Seebach's lecture, with a 'hands-on' emphasis answers the questions and concerns of would-be illusionists. It has been presented in Milwaukee, Chicago, the Twin Cities, Fort Worth, and, in February 2004, Denver.

When the Denver chapter of the Society of American Magicians learned that Seebach was appearing in Casper, Wyoming, they adjusted their meeting schedule and arranged for him to speak to their members during his trip.

The lecture begins with an overview of obtaining the illusions that easily cost \$4,000 to \$10,000 each or more. Some performers attempt to build them on their own from blueprints and this is discussed, too.

Shipping the completed apparatus is explained since UPS and the post office are not options for such heavy and large items. A proper case for protection must be custom-made. This is all part of the discussion.

An area of emphasis for Seebach is counseling the beginning illusionist to make reasonable, practical choices in selecting an illusion. He's seen many get discouraged when they spend lots of money on a prop they like, but turns out to be impractical for the shows they do.

The additional help required onstage and offstage is another topic in the lecture. Who makes the best assistant (or 'box jumper' as the ladies are often referred to)? A dancer? A model? An actress? These talented and hard-working women contribute a lot to any illusion's impact and success.

After time for questions, the budding illusionists are led to Seebach's van where they unload the theatrical road trunks and they carry and roll them indoors and, at Seebach's direction, they assemble and set them up.

Seebach selects a variety of major stage illusions from his large repertoire. He tries to make sure there's something for everyone: a small Guillotine suitable for a one-man show, a classic like the Hindu Basket Mystery, and something big, complex and elaborate like the Baffling Bulbs where two dozen 75 watt showcase bulbs visibly pass through a beautiful assistant.

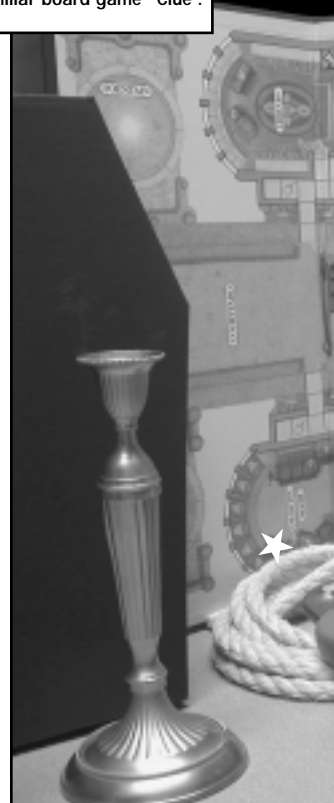
Most magicians only see these effects the way audiences do: on TV or from the audience in a theater. For many, it's their first up-close examination of equipment that is always hand-made with very few ever built.

Magicians who have their own assistants are invited to bring them along for a 'test drive' during the lecture.

At the presentation's conclusion, the students must do all the packing and loading, thus insuring they realize the work involved to receive the onstage accolades.

"Most of the fellows who come to the lecture probably will never own an illusion, but they're interested in learning about an aspect of magic that has never had this kind of information available before," Seebach said. "And, for those who are seriously interested, this presentation is of significant importance. I only wish someone was doing it years ago when I was just starting out."

Pictured here are some of the unusual oversize props for the new mystery and magic routine based on the familiar board game "Clue".



David and Christine and their tiger, Tara, in Morristown (New Jersey) at The Community Theatre on Friday, January 23, 2004, after a very well received performance to an almost sellout crowd.





Seebach Creates Brand-New Mystery! Audience Won't Have A 'Clue'!

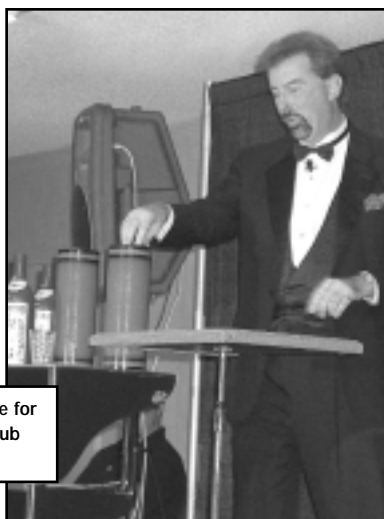


David Seebach presents his popular *Multiplying Bottles* routine for the members and guests at the Casper (Wyoming) Country Club on February 27, 2004.

Magician David Seebach has never claimed to be a prolific magic creator, but he is proud of the original and unique routines he has produced for his performances. During spring of 2004 Seebach will premiere a totally new audience-participation act based on the long-popular board game 'Clue'.

"Twenty years ago when I was the resident magician at Milwaukee's posh Pfister Hotel, I presented a little routine using the elements of the well-known game. I had always enjoyed playing it as a youngster. My routine, however, was not a great success. It was missing something," the performer explained. "Fellow magician Glen Gerard also had thought 'Clue' was a great basis for a routine and he had some original ideas. His ideas made me look at the effect from a different perspective and, voila, the idea was formed."

Seebach wrote out some of the routine while flying to New York in January for an East Coast appearance. His idea, now, was for an elaborate, life-size version of the game with spectators becoming the familiar suspects. All the weapons will be utilized, with each introduced in its own black coffin for impact.



This is definitely David Seebach's long suit: taking a simple magical concept and creating a fun, entertaining, elaborate routine around it. He carefully scripts the act like a playwright and auditions musical selections for the all-important mood they help create. For his 'Clue' mystery, he also had to find some unusual over-size props to bring the board game to life and up to stage size.

The magic requires customized artwork for the game's mansion's rooms. Catherine Starr has produced

many graphic items for Seebach's shows and she was called on to participate.

This routine will have a brief, spoken narration so Seebach's friend Steve Lutomski, a Milwaukee announcer and voice-over artist, was asked to record the light introduction that sets the stage for the mystery to unfold.

Prof Plum in the Library with the Candlestick

Seebach hopes the audience will thoroughly enjoy their participation: six spectators becoming the suspects and another spectator to pick the guilty party. Of course, like the game on which it's based, a weapon and a room have to be selected, too.

Can David Seebach correctly predict all these choices before they're made? The odds will be against him, but that's what makes it magic.

No premiere date has been set, but Seebach anticipates this will become a regular feature of his NIGHTCLUB show as described at the Wonders of Magic website, www.davidseebach.com.

Seebach wants to acknowledge lots of people who offered suggestions during the creative process: Julie Sobanski, Glen Gerard, Mark Nilsen, Georgia's Abb Dickson, Christine Klingbiel, Hal Erickson, Brett Daniels, and Peggy Peterson-Ryan.

Coast to *Almost* Coast Magician Puts on the Miles

On January 23rd, in Morristown, New Jersey, David Seebach stepped out onto the stage of The Community Theatre and almost 1,000 people greeted him and enjoyed his two-hour performance of spectacular stage magic, humor, drama and audience participation. It was an audience of all ages with many youngsters present, but no shortage of adults unaccompanied by children.

Afterwards the cast and crew agreed everything had gone well from the fast-paced opening routine Seebach presented with lots of beautiful silk scarves, beautiful Christine's magical materialization in the *Crystal Casket* illusion and Becky's comical dismemberment in the *Mis-Made Girl* effect to the finale when Seebach's tiger, Tara, appeared onstage.

Just one month later Seebach traveled west for an appearance in Casper, Wyoming. This was his second appearance in less than a year at their country club for its regular comedy night for its members. He appeared there in early spring 2003 and made such a positive impression that an immediate re-booking occurred. For his 2004 appearance he shared the stage with comedienne Edith Weiss.



A NUTTY Trick

Ss-sh, it's a secret. For this demonstration of the impossible you'll require a plain handkerchief or a bandanna, a piece of string or long shoelace (40-50") and two identical nuts (the kind from the hardware store, not the kind you eat).

Both nuts and the hankie should be in your pocket as you give the string to the spectator for examination. Next, give him one of the nuts to look over. Thread the nut on the cord and give both ends to the spectator to hold.

"Now, we have to blindfold the nut," you might say as you reach for the handkerchief and secretly bring the second nut out of your pocket, too. Cover the threaded nut with the hankie and reach underneath with both hands.

Ask for a little slack and push an inch or two of the string through the second nut. Make sure this loop is long enough to hold the nut on for a moment.

Cover the other nut with your hand and begin to slide both hands away from the now-threaded duplicate.

"I'll hold the ends," you say, "as you slowly remove the cloth."

The spectator will remove the handkerchief and see the nut is now curiously threaded on the string.

Ask for the return of the hankie so they can re-grab the string's ends.

Reach for it with the hand that secretly has the original nut and just slide it off the string's end as you give the cord back to the onlooker.

Put the hankie and second nut in your pocket.

Tell the spectator to tighten the string slowly. Put your hands underneath the nut and, when the cord becomes taut, it will fall into them.

Practice this several times to get the sequence of moves smooth. Don't repeat it no matter how much you're asked to. And, remember, it's a secret.

WONDERS OF MAGIC

up to date news



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

- The **Greater Milwaukee Dental Association** invited David Seebach to return to their "Smile Day" at the Discovery World Museum. Once again **Nancy Dabareiner** arranged for two performances during the day-long event.

- Wisconsin auto dealer **Russ Darrow** threw an elaborate appreciation party for his staff members at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee and had the **Class Act** agency bring David Seebach in for intimate close-up magic throughout the evening, from cocktails through after-dinner dancing.

- The **Provena St Joseph Hospital** near Joliet (Illinois) had their awards and appreciation night at the Bollingbrook Golf Club and spiced up the evening with a surprise appearance by David Seebach. He 'decapitated' their honored pediatrician with a hilarious routine incorporating a guillotine. **American Music**

Contractors was the booking agency.

- **Specialized Marketing** held their company's directional meeting at the Osthoff Resort in Wisconsin's Elkhart Lake and **Cathy Schaefer** invited David to provide after-dinner entertainment for all their guests.

- In 2003 Seebach performed for the senior residents at Milwaukee's **Clement Manor** and so impressed their **Lori Mielke** that she invited him to return for their Awards Night in March at Brookfield's Embassy Suites with a much larger show of magic and comedy.

- Milwaukee's **metroPARENT** publication is sponsoring its first KIDSfest on Saturday, April 3rd, at the Expo Center of Wisconsin's State Fair Park. The "Wonders of Magic" will appear onstage as a free attraction at 1:30 pm. Editor **Rebecca Steimle** secured Seebach's services for this important family event.

- Fifteen hundred middle school students will attend the **J.A.M. Conference** at Green Bays KI Convention Center on April 18th and see David Seebach perform for them at 7:00 pm. This is for student council pupils and is overseen by **Roger Chambers**.

- David Seebach returns to Racine's Roma Lodge on April 21st for the **I.A.A.P. Executive Night**. The show was booked by **Janice Martin**.

- The Wisconsin South Central Division of the **National Model Railroad Association** has a banquet in Madison at the Quality Inn on April 24th and their **Robert Wundrock** thought David Seebach, a train buff himself, would be the perfect entertainment choice.

- The **Milwaukee Children's Tour Club** will sponsor the "Wonders of Magic" on Saturday, April 25th at 1:00 pm at Brookfield's Civic Building on Calhoun Rd.

Jacqueline Schram made the arrangements for this 'outing'.

- Middle school students who are 'locked in' on April 30th at Franklin's **Forest Park School** will be treated to David Seebach's show at 9:30 pm when they're all still wide awake. This is David's second appearance for this event. He was asked to return by **Mary Ellen Bong**

Why is DAVID SEEBACH so busy?

His popular, professional shows are always in demand and there's a repertoire for every budget.

Check out his website at www.davidseebach.com for more information or call us at **262/252-3333** with any questions you may have.

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