

Back stage

2002 FALL EDITION

A Seasonal Arrival

FEATURING...
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TEACUP
TELEPATHY



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David Seebach and the
Modjeska Theatre
have joined forces
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one-stop Halloween source
for entertainment, makeup, masks,
and decorating supplies.

**Bring in this copy of BackStage
into any store for a 10% discount
off any purchase!**

You can also reserve your seats and buy your
tickets for the 2002 edition of "Illusions in
the Night" at any Halloween Express location.
Call 414/297-9899 for the store nearest you.

David Seebach suggests you pick out an appro-
priate costume at Halloween Express and then
wear it to the show!

Keep Current With:

**WONDERS
OF MAGIC**
up•to•date news

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David Seebach steps forth from a crypt during last year's
"Illusions In The Night"

at Milwaukee's historic --- and haunted Modjeska Theatre

Details for 2002's 12th annual edition are inside Join us this fall--- If You Dare!

A Dozen Years of Halloween Thrills

Eight Performances Scheduled Over Two Weekends

David Seebach's cast and crew will once again mount and stage their annual Halloween magic thrill fest on Milwaukee's south side for eager, brave theater-goers this Fall. Eight performances, both matinees and evenings, are scheduled at the almost-eighty-year-old Modjeska Theatre on the corner of South 12th and West Mitchell Streets.

It's an appropriate location since the venerable Modjeska has been rumored to be chock-full of ghosts and spirits for decades. The magician capitalizes on its checkered history by creating a different repertoire each year designed to elicit gooseflesh and chills.

It's all staged for fun, however, and the magician admits that much of the show is steeped in comedy and humor, but some of that, he cautions, may be like "whistling in the dark" as the show nears its famous fiery finale.

stage and aimed at an empty drum hung high overhead on the other side of the stage. Pulses will quicken when Seebach lights the fuse that sets the whole sequence in motion.

Ideally, the woman will vanish from the cannon and appear safely within the sealed drum. However, as Seebach admits, "This is a live show. Anything can happen!"

Tell *that* to the lucky (?) volunteer winding up with his neck secured in the stocks of a massive guillotine, with a blade poised to come crashing down on him.

Or, to David's long-time assistant Christine who trusts him to slide her into a coffin onstage and then toss a flaming torch inside to set off a spectacular cremation.

Young spectators will have an opportunity to meet 'Sneaky,' the magician's snake who will try to identify an alphabet card chosen by one of them. This routine, long a part of the magician's repertoire, has not been seen for years, but will be brought back with a very unexpected twist!

For the first time at Halloween a live rabbit will be part of the show. Not content to merely pull him from a hat, Seebach promises an entire musical interlude with the baffling bunny participating in a trio of novel magical tricks to open act two of the show.



David and Peggy appear worried as Prince Radini (Hal Erickson) threatens some mischief at 2001's "Illusions in the Night."
Photo by Terry Nickasch.

Sharing the stage with Seebach will be long-time partner and foil Peggy Peterson-Ryan who delights in needling the conjuror and entertaining with her own antics and beautiful singing voice. She promises another new song, a slightly skewed favorite, "adjusted" to the Halloween season and her clever tastes.

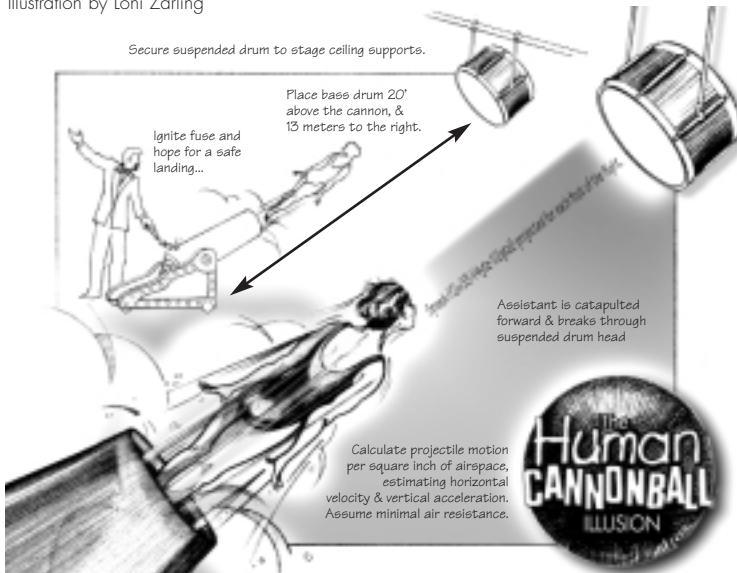
Veteran character actor Hal Erickson will return, too, in a totally new role that helps make this production so much more than just a magic show.

"The show is, of course, primarily mystery and illusion," Seebach explained, "but I always strive for more. Peggy's singing, Hal's participation and all the other elements of stagecraft — music, lighting, sets, costumes and special visual effects — elevate this elaborate production."

That will be most apparent when the spooky old theater is plunged into darkness during the show's famous climax and all the specters and phantoms of the showhouse make a frightening — and explosive — appearance.

The Human Cannonball

Illustration by Loni Zarling



New for 2002 is the spectacular **Human Cannonball Illusion** where a beautiful young woman, along with a copious amount of explosive black powder, will be loaded into a cannon on one side of the

Back Stage

REGURGITATING HORRORS

Volunteers will be thrown off stage... ONE PIECE AT A TIME!

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14

Above is an example of an advertising promotion produced in 1956 for magician Kara-Kum's stage show as reproduced in **Mark Walker's** book entitled **Ghostmasters**.

The magician is shown here with a collection of curios that have been featured in his annual Halloween ghost story. This year he'll tell about a man who feared being buried alive and his fear's unexpected results. Photo by Sandy Sager

favorite beverages (soda, beer, wine and mixed drinks). Performances begin at 7:30pm.

Special matinees at 2:00pm will be staged on Saturday, October 26th, Sunday, October 27th and Saturday,

November 2nd. Tickets for young people (16 and under) and seniors (60 and over) are half price at the matinees only.

The Modjeska's information number is 414/299-0021. Reservations can be made at 414/645-0700 using your VISA or MasterCard.

Tickets are also available at all area Halloween Express locations.

Make 2002 a Halloween you'll never forget by attending the 12th annual David Seebach's "Illusions in the Night."



People who attend regularly wait for this one-of-a-kind shock sequence; first-time guests are astounded at the elaborate nature of this finale.

Seebach, who accompanies his magic with a remarkable story telling ability, will share an all-new macabre tale about a fellow who was afraid of being buried alive.

Acclaimed scenic designer Stewart Johnson who owns the old building has created many of the show's spectacular settings. These include the cemetery set that fills the stage and welcomes the audience and the huge prop he built for Seebach's "Cheating the Hangman" routine.

You can enjoy it all, including the terrifying **Buzz Saw Illusion** (with trained Bell Ambulance paramedics standing by), an eerie **Levitation**, the elaborate **Executioner's Dream** where the stage is

transformed into Elizabethan England complete with a massive gallows, and Seebach's signature illusion, **Mysteries From The Devil's Chamber**.

The show will run over two weekends beginning on Friday, October 25th, with additional evening performances on Saturday, October 26th, and Thursday, October 31st, Friday, November 1st and Saturday November 2nd. All seats are reserved and are \$20 for traditional theater seating and \$24 for down-in-front cabaret tables with complimentary welcoming trick-or-treat snacks and table service of

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN CONTEST!



An advertising promotion for magician Philip Morris' stage show as reproduced in the **Ghostmasters** book by **Mark Walker**.

No passes or free tickets will be available for the Halloween performance on Thursday, October 31st, at 7:30pm. However, everyone in attendance will be given a free coupon for a drawing to be held that night. The lucky winner will be given a

Free Dead Body!

We only have one to award.

It is absolutely free; It is 100% real. It will be completely dead! Everyone is invited to come in costume to any of the performances.

Those in costume have the greatest chance of being selected from the audience for onstage participation with David Seebach!



Lovely Sharon poses before the massive circular saw Seebach uses to divide a woman in halves at the Modjeska. Assistant Rachel will bravely face the saw in October 2002. Standing by will be two trained EMTs, professional paramedics from Milwaukee's Bell Ambulance. Remember, if it doesn't say Bell on the side, you've just been taken for a ride. 414/264-BELL (2355).

Photo by Mark Avery

Teacup Telepathy

Ss-sh, it's a secret. This is a very easy mystery for even the youngest magician to try. In front of a group of people you claim that you'll be able to determine which one of several coins they will secretly place under an ordinary teacup. You offer a penny, nickel, dime and quarter so they can put you to the test.

The performer leaves the room as the audience decides which coin to conceal. The others, of course, are placed in somebody's pocket and the mentalist is asked to return after the teacup has covered the coin.

Unerringly, the performer knows which coin was placed under the cup even though nobody says a word.

For this mystery the magician requires a secret confederate, an audience member who assists the performer in a simple, clever manner.

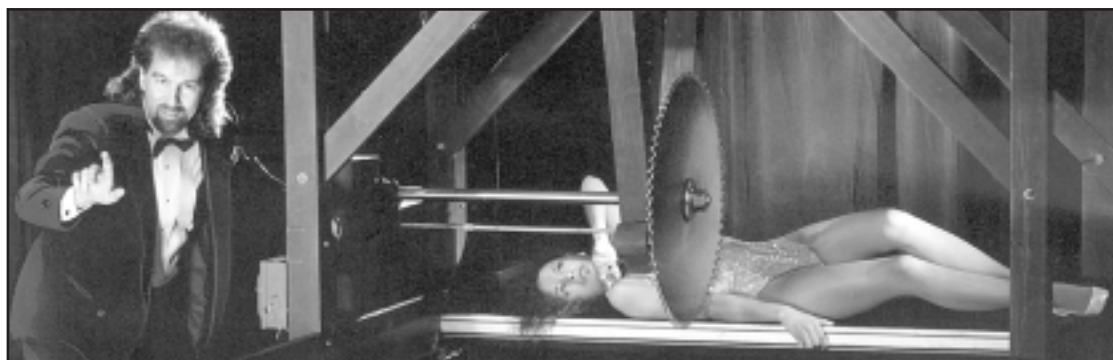
Looking down on the inverted teacup from above, think of the handle as the hour hand of a clock. Placing the handle pointing straight up (12 o'clock position) indicates the penny. The nickel is indicated by placing the handle to the right (3 o'clock). A straight down position (6 o'clock) indicates

the dime and a quarter, of course, requires the handle to point to the left (9 o'clock).

So after everyone agrees on which coin to hide the confederate must be the one who places the cup over the coin.

The magician should never look at the helper and the helper may need to stifle his (or her) laughter when no one can figure out how the performer is always correct.

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 "Wonders of Magic" show returns to Lafayette, Indiana, and their beautifully restored **Long Center for the Performing Arts** on Saturday, October 5th, for one performance only at 8:00pm. Indiana magician Marc Lehmann will present his act as an opening event for the evening. This is a return engagement for David Seebach. Assistant Becky, who journeyed with him to Indiana last year, will accompany him along with another lovely lady aide.
- Webcrafters** will hold a business function on Wednesday, October 9th, at Madison's (Wisconsin) **Monona Terrace** and has invited David Seebach to perform for their guests. Arrangements for this appearance were made by Madison's Open Booking Agency.
- The magician will return to Wisconsin Rapid's **McMillan Memorial Library** on Saturday, November 16th, for a 1:15pm show. This will be at least his third appearance there for a mostly family audience. The performance was arranged through Lake Geneva's (Wisconsin) Class Act Agency.
- Holiday parties officially begin with two on Friday, December 6th. First, close-up magic will be presented at Milwaukee's **Stout Bros Restaurant** for the city's training specialists (arrangements made by Marti Cargile) in the early evening. By 8:30pm the magician will be 46 miles west at the **Watertown Country Club** for a corporate event arranged by ACA Music & Entertainment of Milwaukee.
- Four shows are scheduled on Saturday, December 14th, in Kohler (Wisconsin) for employees and their families of the **Kohler Corporation**. Mel Hummitch has produced this annual event for years.
- The "Wonders of Magic" will be the after dinner entertainment for **Waukesha Bearings Corporation's** holiday party on Friday, December 20th at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Class Act booked this date over one year ago to insure the magician's availability.
- Pennant Management** invited David Seebach to their party on Saturday, December 21st, at Milwaukee's **Bluemound Country Club**. Pennant's Connie Mullins contacted the magician and made all the arrangements.
- Even more Holiday Parties are scheduled for January 2003.
 - Saturday, January 11th, at Sussex's (Wisconsin) **Silver Spring Country Club** for **Schneider Excavating**, as arranged by Carol Koeppel.
 - Saturday, January 18th, at Racine's (Wisconsin) **Marriot Hotel** for **Runzheimer International** as arranged by Jackie Strelow.
 - Saturday, January 25th, at the **Milwaukee Yacht Club** for **Earth Tech** as arranged by Reva Stolpe.
- What are your Holiday plans for the end of 2002 and early 2003? Don't wait and be disappointed. Call our office now at: 262/252-3333 and arrange for a customized presentation of magic, comedy and lots of audience participation for your special event.

David Seebach's **Wonders of Magic** is a member of the Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau.