

Sens de Vie

Artist Bios

Harris, III *** Master Illusionist & Unforgettable Communicator

You see the card in the illusionist's hand, but seconds later you open your own hand to find that you're holding...that same card. How in the world?

You watch as the illusionist cuffs and padlocks his assistant into an impenetrable wooden box, but moments later she appears from behind a curtain and unlocks the box to reveal...the illusionist. Unbelievable!

You respond to the illusionist's request for any number between 10 and 100 by saying "54." Without writing—or blinking, for that matter—he flips a notepad around to reveal the number...54. You shake your head. It just doesn't make sense.

Or does it?

"What if everything you've based your life on to this point has been a clever illusion?" the illusionist asks. "How deep is the deception all around us, and how much of it do we accept without even questioning?"

His name is Harris, III (Harris the Third), and since receiving a magic set from his grandmother at the age of 9, he has been fascinated with magic, illusion and how easily the senses are deceived. At age 11 he gave his first public performances. Today, at the age of 26, he is a classically trained, award-winning, master illusionist, and an expert in the art of deception. He has performed before 1 million people in more than twelve nations on five continents. Harris' performances not only amaze his audiences, but also awaken them to the lure of deception, the power of the senses, and the secret of living life based on deeper realities.

More than an entertainer, more than a speaker, Harris is an artist. But what is an artist? When we hear that word, most people usually think of someone along the lines of a painter, sculptor, musician, etc. "Illusionist is far from the first thing on your mind, if you were to include it at all.

In the 1920's, magic was truly considered an art form. Harry Blackstone, Harry Houdini, Howard Thurston, and others graced the stages of theatres around the world. People everywhere fell in love with the art of magic, and illusionists were admired for their skill and artistic abilities.

In the decades that followed, magic was reduced over time to nothing more than simple "tricks." Few performers were considered artists, and the majority were simply "tricksters." Anyone could go to any magic shop, spend a few bucks on a cheap "trick," and be fooling their friends the next day.

For Harris, magic consists of so much more than simple tricks. To him, it's about creating works of aesthetic value that create a sense of wonder. "It's not about fooling the audience and making them feel stupid," says Harris. "Yet magicians across America have taken on the attitude of "look what I can do that you can't." Harris goes on to quote Teller -- (of the famous duo Penn & Teller) -- "Magic: The theatrical linking of a cause with an effect that has no basis in physical reality, but that -- in our hearts -- ought to."

Put simply, Harris is elevating the art of illusion to its original place in the performing arts. You can forget what you know about typical illusionists—no cheesy tuxedos or cheap, colorful tubes and boxes. It is not just about what audiences see, but about what they experience. And better yet, what they feel. This is magic at its best, and truly, a creative work of art.

In fact, it is so much so that Harris is continually recognized by his peers on an international level. He has won numerous awards from the International Brotherhood of Magicians for his stage performance and skills in the art of magic, and is consistently recognized by The Fellowship of Christian Magicians for his outstanding example of excellence and professionalism. In an unprecedented show of respect for such a young performer, Harris is one of the few performers to ever be featured on the cover of the FCM's international trade magazine twice within the same decade, and is regularly asked to both perform and lecture at their regional, national, and international conventions.

While Harris has earned respect as an artist to many, ultimately, he's an equally a communicator. Whether telling a story, speaking from his heart, or performing magic, his ultimate goal is to inspire and challenge people, initiating change and transformation. How does he do it?

Harris says, "It's not always about revealing truth, but helping people challenge their assumptions, and ask deep questions about what life is really all about. The journey is as important as the discovery. I love when people discover truth that radically changes their lives, but as long as people leave our shows talking about not just what they saw, but what they heard and feel challenged to process, I am perfectly fulfilled."

So according to Harris, it is the asking of right questions that lead to the discovery of truth. But as passionate as he is about truth, there are some questions he just won't answer. How does he accomplish his unbelievable feats of legerdemain? I guess some illusions will always remain a mystery.

But if you see Harris' assistant magically appear out of a padlocked box, or if you're holding a different card than the one he handed you, or if he guesses the number in your head without a moment's hesitation...rest assured: It's all just clever illusion.

Or is it?

For more information about Harris, visit www.HarrisIII.com.

DonB! *** World Champion Circus Performer

Don Bursell grew up in North Minneapolis, presenting his first show at 12 years old. For the next five years he performed around Minnesota with The Variety II Review. Don attended one year of college, but because of his endless energy he opted to chase his dream of circus life by working with Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus. Sadly, after only 6 months on the road he was forced to leave because of severe allergies and life threatening asthma complications. Soon afterward he moved to California to work as an entertainer for the Disney Corporation.

In 1988 he married his beautiful wife, Debbie, and began ministry work as Circus Unique. After 17 years, he now presents family entertainment and evangelism programs as DonB! Ministries, coordinating over 250 events annually around the United States and Canada.

Don is also a 2-time National Unicycle Champion, is regularly brought in as a Convention Entertainer, and because of the quality and uniqueness of his one-man shows, he regularly receives standing ovations and high acclaim for his work.

It all started on a winter morning in late 1997, just outside the small town of Indiana, Pennsylvania. Three young sisters made a pact that would determine the outcome of the rest of their lives. That pact has been ever-reaching, ever-evolving, and those three sisters are now known as EVERLIFE.

These self-taught musicians and songwriters were originally inspired by the honest rock guitars blasting from the FM radio of their Dad's Suburban. "I remember looking forward to driving around with Dad, because we'd immediately crank up songs like "Pinball Wizard" by the Who, or sit silently in the back seat appreciating Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" or trying to wrap our minds around the entirety of Skynyrd's "Free Bird," Amber recalls. "Our Mom was crazy about 50's and 60s rock'n'roll," Sarah adds. "We would all be dancing around the kitchen belting out Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" and "Bye Bye Love" by the Everly Brothers." It was those tunes that introduced the girls to the impact of sweet vocal harmonies that they are now so well known for.

Since then, Everlife has played in 200 seat auditoriums and 20,000 seat arenas. And if it's in the Ford Econoline (affectionately called Evan, short for Ever-Van) pulling a U-Haul trailer or a Prevost tour bus, they are just determined to get down the road to do it all over again.

It's their passion for music and their love for people that has kept them coming your way night after night – through small town stop signs and big city lights. "Finding a swift hook in a song or writing a catchy tune is an amazing feeling, but impacting someone's life forever through that one song that grips them and makes sense with their life is priceless to us. That's the kind of music we want to create!"

In the eleven years since their pact was made, Everlife has traveled countless highways, both literally and figuratively in this crazy world called the music industry. Fortunately, music is a reflection of journeys taken – journeys of discovery and change. "We always look forward to what's next in our career – we love that anticipation," Julia says. "The pact we made as little girls was to stir up the lives of our generation, make them ask important questions and hopefully give them some important answers through the most powerful influence in our culture – music."

In the world of Everlife, it is clear that music is their language, the road is their world, and the stage is their home...and they're inviting you in.