



## Upward Presentation Contract Rider

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**Please direct all questions and correspondence to:**

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# A Personal Letter from Harris...

Hi,

Can I just go ahead and confess something? **I hate contract riders**, and I know...you probably aren't a huge fan of them yourself.

**I wish we didn't need this.** I mean, do we really have to tell people, "Hey, we'd like some food"? Or, "We'd love it if you hooked us up with a decent place to stay while we're away from our homes those 9 months out of the year"? But unfortunately, we do. I have countless stories of people letting us know that "the doors are locked," and to just "turn off the lights and close the doors behind us when we leave."

Years ago, I refused to even have a rider. Instead, I just sent out a list of basic items that would help us do our job well. I didn't ask for food, or even a bottle of water. I thought that'd be an obvious help on the part of the host. But then we started showing up at venues early in the afternoon to set up for the show. We'd work right up until show time, and we didn't have the time required to leave the venue and go to a restaurant. Then once the event was completed, we'd pack up, loud out, and be back in our vehicle late that night, starving, to find out that our only option was Waffle House at 1:00 am. Don't get me wrong, we can put away some serious food at that place, (and the service is awesome), but eating at 1:00 am six nights a week....that's *not* a good idea.

So, now we have this. *A rider*. And I still hate it. Because a lot of people who do what I do, (performing artists), have created a stereotype of what a rider is. However, I've finally accepted the fact that I have to have this.

So here's what this is: ***A tool that helps us serve you better.*** That's it! (And it does a pretty good job of answering a lot of people's questions in advance, too, so that you aren't left with tons and tons of questions.)

**Here's how I see it:** It's pretty likely that we aren't paying you to let us come to your city and do our thing. You're somehow paying us, and that means we *are not showing up to be served, but to serve you with the best of our abilities, using the talents that God created us to use.*

Everything in this rider has been filtered as much as possible to ensure that we aren't asking you to provide anything unnecessary. If it's here, it just means it'd help us a lot if you provided it, because it will help us do a better job at serving you, and contribute to making your event as huge of a success as possible.

Now, if you want to bring me my favorite smoothie, or get my wife her favorite coffee, I won't complain. That'd be a cool blessing. **But who am I to ask you to give me something I want, when you're hiring me to come serve you?** Yeah...I don't get it either.

So thanks. Thanks in advance for giving us the opportunity to partner with you. That's something I don't take for granted, and I am genuinely grateful and honored. If there is anything here that you have questions about, please don't hesitate to give us a call. I don't have any managers or "handlers", and I'm only a phone call away.

My team can handle most of your requests and questions, which frees me up to focus on making sure I prepare to do a great job when I come to visit. However, if you'd still like to chat, just let someone know, and I'll be in touch!

In the meantime, thanks for your willingness to even look through all this stuff. I really, really look forward to serving you...

**Harris, III**

Master Illusionist

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The following Rider is part of the attached contract. This Rider is not meant to burden the HOST or put undue strain on resources, but rather to help both the HOST and the PERFORMER to provide the best possible experience for all involved. Please read each page in its entirety. It is very important to clear any necessary deviations from this Rider as soon as possible. HOST agrees that any changes will be subject to approval in writing.

## II. VENUE & STAGING

- A. The ideal performance area is at least 24' wide by 12' deep, however, Harris' Upward Awards Night performance is **VERY** flexible. Therefore, a set stage-size is not required.
- B. Please ensure the stage area is completely cleared of everything before load-in, sound check and performance. All seating should be in the front of the stage. Seating may not extend more than eighty (80) degrees from centerline of stage. Audience must be seated in chairs or pews for the event, and may NOT be seated on the floor without approval from Harris or his team. Please call if clarification is needed.
- C. HOST will ensure that the venue is available at least five (5) hours prior to "doors open" for load-in. Due to size of this Harris' gear, HOST will provide parking at the closest exterior entrance to stage for a 42' bus. Preferably, bus should not move during event.
- D. Harris tours with his own backdrop/curtains. This is typically used in most church buildings/venues to create a more theatrical atmosphere, and required "backstage" space. Please be aware of this as video projection is planned. Our curtain gets set up in the center of the stage, behind of the performance space, and is approximately 10' tall. It can be lowered if absolutely necessary to approximately 6 ft., during times Harris is not performing. Again, this is to help keep from blocking with any video projection. (We are happy to work with you...we just don't want to be surprised 10 minutes before show time that what we've set up is in your way because it's blocking your video screen.)

## III. SOUND AND LIGHTING PRODUCTION

- A. HOST is responsible for providing suitable sound equipment and an experienced sound engineer to operate it. This engineer must be available 1 hour before "doors open" for sound check. HOST will ensure that the hall is cleared of all people (other than staff and needed volunteers) and that all doors are closed during sound check. **HOST will also be sure sound equipment is setup prior to the arrival of performer.** If there are questions as to what constitutes "suitable", please contact us.
- B. Harris tours with his own headset mic, if you do not have one available. An XLR input backstage (or stage right if backstage is not possible) is required for Harris to patch in his own audio gear so that music and sound cues can be controlled from backstage.
- C. HOST will provide adequate stage lighting for the duration of the event. If lighting gels are used, please only use gels in the color range of blue, red and amber colors only. We prefer that no yellow or green gels be used. Complex lighting is not required for Harris' Upward presentation.

#### IV. MERCHANDISE SALES

- A. HOST will provide two (2) eight-foot tables for merchandise sales immediately adjacent to the performance venue.
- B. HOST agrees to notify our office at time of contract of any house percentages on merchandise sales. If no hall fee is indicated on the contract, no fee will be paid.

#### VI. BROADCAST OR RECORDING

- A. In accordance with Federal Copyright Law, Harris' portion of the event may NOT be taped, filmed, broadcast outside of venue or otherwise reproduced without prior written permission (which is often granted) of Harris' Office. A minimum of thirty (30) days is needed to provide ample time for securing of permission. Still Photography is permitted and encouraged for private, non-commercial use only.

#### VII. HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

- A. HOST will provide 1 meal for three (3) to four (4) people. Please contact us as you get closer to your event, to confirm the exact number of crew that will be on the road for the tour your event is a part of.

1. This meal should be served no later than 60 minutes prior to show time. This dinner should consist of anything HOST would like to provide with the exception of heavy foods like pizza and pasta, and fried foods. We are also happy with carry-out from a local restaurant. One (1) Vegetarian option is needed, preferably including something other than just a salad if possible. We try to eat very healthy, stay in good shape, and be good stewards of our bodies. (Note: We aren't trying to be high-maintenance—we're just surprised how many times we have to go without food if we don't arrange for it. We travel 9 months out of the year, and eating Waffle House at midnight every night can burn you out quickly.) As a reference, some examples of healthier food items would include the following:

- Grilled chicken with steamed broccoli and brown/wild rice
- Grilled fish with salad and baked potatoes
- Chicken noodle soup with salad
- Stir Fried veggies/chicken with rice
- Grilled chicken tacos with corn tortillas, salsa and chips
- Tuna salad sandwiches with fruit salad
- Peanut butter and honey sandwiches with fruit salad
- Rotisserie chicken with sweet potatoes and grilled veggies
- Hummus and veggies

2. Meal should be served in the green room (or a make-shift equivalent) of the venue, which should also be supplied with assorted beverages throughout the day. Requested beverages include things like chilled water and assorted fruit juices. Crew favorites include Water (Aquafina / Smartwater) Fuze, Propel, 100% Fruit Juices, and pre-made smoothie drinks like Odwalla, Bolthouse, & Naked.

- B. Unless noted differently in the attached agreement, SPONSOR is to provide lodging for Performance as required by the contract. Lodging will consist of non-smoking rooms consisting of **1 room with double beds, and 1 King Size room**. Rooms must have wireless Internet, and be at a Hampton Inn, Drury Inn, Hyatt Place, or the equivalent. (Nothing sketchy please, it's our home away from home 9 months out of the year.)

C. The rooms are to be held under the name of BJ Harris, and should be reserved for early check-in (approximately 11:00 a.m.) In the event that the tour does not need all of the rooms, or has to leave early for the next engagement, we will notify you well in advance to give you the ability to cancel any reservations without penalty. The tour will exchange the forgoing hotel rooms for the cash value if we do not use them in your city.

Our office will confirm PERFORMER check in time in advance. SPONSOR will be asked to furnish directions/physical address for the hotel, phone numbers, and reservation confirmation numbers at that time. **Hotel confirmations numbers will be asked to be ready no later than 30 Days before the performance.**

#### VIII. MISCELANEOUS INFO

- A. Harris and his team will arrive at your venue 4-5 hours prior to show time, depending on our travel schedule and distance between scheduled event locations. If this time changes due to travel constraints, you will be called and notified. We will call in advance to schedule time of arrival.
- B. For Upward programs, Harris usually speaks/performs for about 45 minutes, unless a different length is requested. Because preference varies among each church/organization, please make arrangements for Harris to speak with who will be following him the night of the program, regarding the collection of the comment/evaluation cards. Also, Harris many times returns towards the end of the program to perform a final illusion, which is included in the 40-45 minute presentation length mentioned above.

Thank you in advance for your help in making our Upward Presentation both memorable and life changing for your community. We are really excited and honored that you are allowing us to be a part of your Upward Awards Night Celebration! Your attention to these small details means more than you can imagine, and we sincerely appreciate all the time, work, and effort you put into making this a huge success for everyone involved!

Signed and Agreed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_