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American
Street

THE EVASONS

MARVELS

of the MIND



's Incredible Mentalism Team Strikes Gold On Campuses



ften performers are a one-man show. They usually do not involve the audience. More than likely they can not read your mind. The Evasons, however, are unlike most performers you have seen. Their incredible show and amazing abilities are able to captivate even the largest of audiences. All this is why their mentalism act has caused such a sensation across the globe.

Jeff Evason admits that often the audience is skeptical when he and his wife, Tessa, first begin to describe the feats of ESP and illusion which they will perform. By the time Tessa, who, by the way is blindfolded, has named the child in someone's photograph, however, the audience members are awed and engrossed. What will Tessa do next? Maybe she will name the serial number off a ten-dollar bill from the man in the next seat over. Maybe she will describe the symbol an audience member has just drawn. And this is just beginning of a typical show delivered by The Evansons.

There has to be a trick. They must use some sort of technology. Right? Well, the Evansons will give twenty five thousand dollars to anyone who can prove that they use electronic devices. Their confidence has never failed them yet.

The audience members must be pre-arranged. Right? Well, Jeff dispels that probability by having an audience member toss a koosh ball over his or her shoulder in order to choose the next audience participant. Another way in which the Evason's evaporate the idea of planted audience members is the sheer number of audience member with which they interact. Twenty-five is typically the smallest number of audience participants.

At some point, however, the entire audience is involved. The theatrical séance calls upon everyone's focus. After the séance, Jeff asks the audience how many people have chill bumps. At least half of the audience raises their hands. People have even jumped up

out of their chairs only to return a few minutes later chagrined and laughing.

Laughter is a big part of the show. The Evansons make sure to mention that "no one is ever embarrassed or offended." They are simply shocked, amazed, and awed. The Evansons also point out that they do not ask the audience to believe in the supernatural or the paranormal. They only hope that their audiences will leave open-minded, intrigued and entertained.

Entertainers are how the Evansons characterize themselves. Tessa does not call herself a psychic and does not profess to be a spiritual advisor. She has always wanted to be an entertainer and is happy to use her talent in a positive manner.

Tessa was born in London, but she grew up in the Caribbean. The fire-eaters and glass walkers of her native island always entranced her. She recalls the natives of St. Lucia calling her "the gifted child." Her family moved to Canada where she eventually used her natural stage presence as a fashion model.

Jeff and Tessa met through a mutual friend who was a fashion designer. Jeff's background is in entertainment, but he has always been fascinated by the unexplained. Jeff and Tessa made a perfect pair. They have been married thirteen years and feel that their connection as a loving couple enhances their performances. Their mantra before each show is "Love you. Love the audience." This joy for each other and their work has kept them performing since 1983. When asked what it was like to be married to a woman who can read your mind, Jeff only laughed and stated that "it only works when both people want it to."

The audience members they pick during their shows have to be willing participants. Jeff admits that the first person he picks is not going to be the man in the corner with his arms crossed over his chest. After the first few correct answers from Tessa, however, everyone seems to open up and





are potential participants.

The Evasons began performing at corporate events - one of their larger clients being Bell Canada. One corporate group, for which they performed, however, consisted of only fifteen audience members.

When working in conjunction with the United Nations, the Evasons performed to a group of five thousand soldiers. Even with the audience of five thousand, they kept the interaction at one hundred percent by using video screens.

Some of their performances such as those with the United Nations have taken them off this continent. They have performed in twenty-eight countries. The Evason's have so earned the respect of their peers world wide that the International Psychic Entertainers Association named them the Top Performers of the Year.

The Evasons say that their performance translates well to other cultures because their act has usually been well publicized in advance. They admit that some countries with a history of strong beliefs in superstitions sometimes do find the performance a little unnerving. Jeff told of a time in Jamaica when a custom officer asked for a demonstration of what they do. When Tessa told him that his name was Terrence, Terrence ran out of the airport. The other custom guard laughed and waved the Evasons through the custom's line.

The Evasons have just within the last two and a half years begun performing at colleges, but they are really enjoying the energy they receive from campus audiences. Jeff Evason commented, "Our show couldn't happen without the audience...and our college audiences have been some of the best."

Two of the Evasons' favorite audience members must be Zeigfried and Roy, the famous Las Vegas magicians. Recently at a World Magic Seminar, Zeigfried and Roy named the Evasons as their favorite act and bestowed upon

them the prestigious SARMOTI Award. The famous magicians have also been instrumental in promoting the Evasons interest in American citizenship. The Evasons have recently received their green cards and have moved to the United States.

The NBC special, "World's Greatest Magic," introduced the Evasons to America. Although the Evasons do not consider themselves magicians, they were excited to be a part of that special and honored to be introduced as "the finest act of its kind in the world."

Further accolades came from the Fox TV special, "Powers of the Paranormal," in which the Evasons were dubbed "the World's Greatest Mind Readers." The Discovery Channel program entitled "Grand Illusions" called the Evasons "a new generation of mentalist."

The Evasons may be the "new generation" but the idea of advanced mental abilities is centuries old. The Evason's web site mentions that the earliest known form of psychic ability comes in the form of dowsing for water. In 1949, archeologist found an eight thousand-year-old cave drawing in the Atlas Mountains of North Africa of people dowsing for water.

Psychic phenomenon are mentioned in *The Bible* and referenced often in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. ESP as a performance art really began, however, during the 1400's. The Evasons are fascinated with studying the history of psychic phenomenon and further perfecting their performance.

When asked what lies next for the Evasons, Jeff stated that they really enjoyed their TV work and are in discussion with networks to do more television. "We just love what we do and want to keep doing it," stated Jeff.

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