

The Evasons are one of the few two person mind-reading acts in the world. "We only know of three other acts in the world that do performances along the lines of what we do," says Jeff Evason, the male half of the duo.

Jeff and his wife Tessa moved to the United States from Canada in September of 2001. Talk about timing. "We do a lot of sailing on our boat here in the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, but at the time we were planning on moving to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We were living on the boat at the time and planned on moving in November 2001, when 9/11 happened. Of course, everyone's world was turned upside down and Florida just didn't seem to make sense anymore. We ended up choosing to stay where we currently live today in beautiful Annapolis, Maryland."

Jeff and Tessa originally became involved with mind reading and mentalism when they met a couple in Massachusetts called The Tuckers.

"It was about twelve years ago near Boston.

They had been performers of a show

similar to what we now do. We

had never heard or seen

anything like it until we were

introduced to them through

an audio cassette tape. We

listened to the tape and just could

not believe what we were hearing.

Eventually we were put in touch

with them through a mutual friend.

"It turned out that they were no

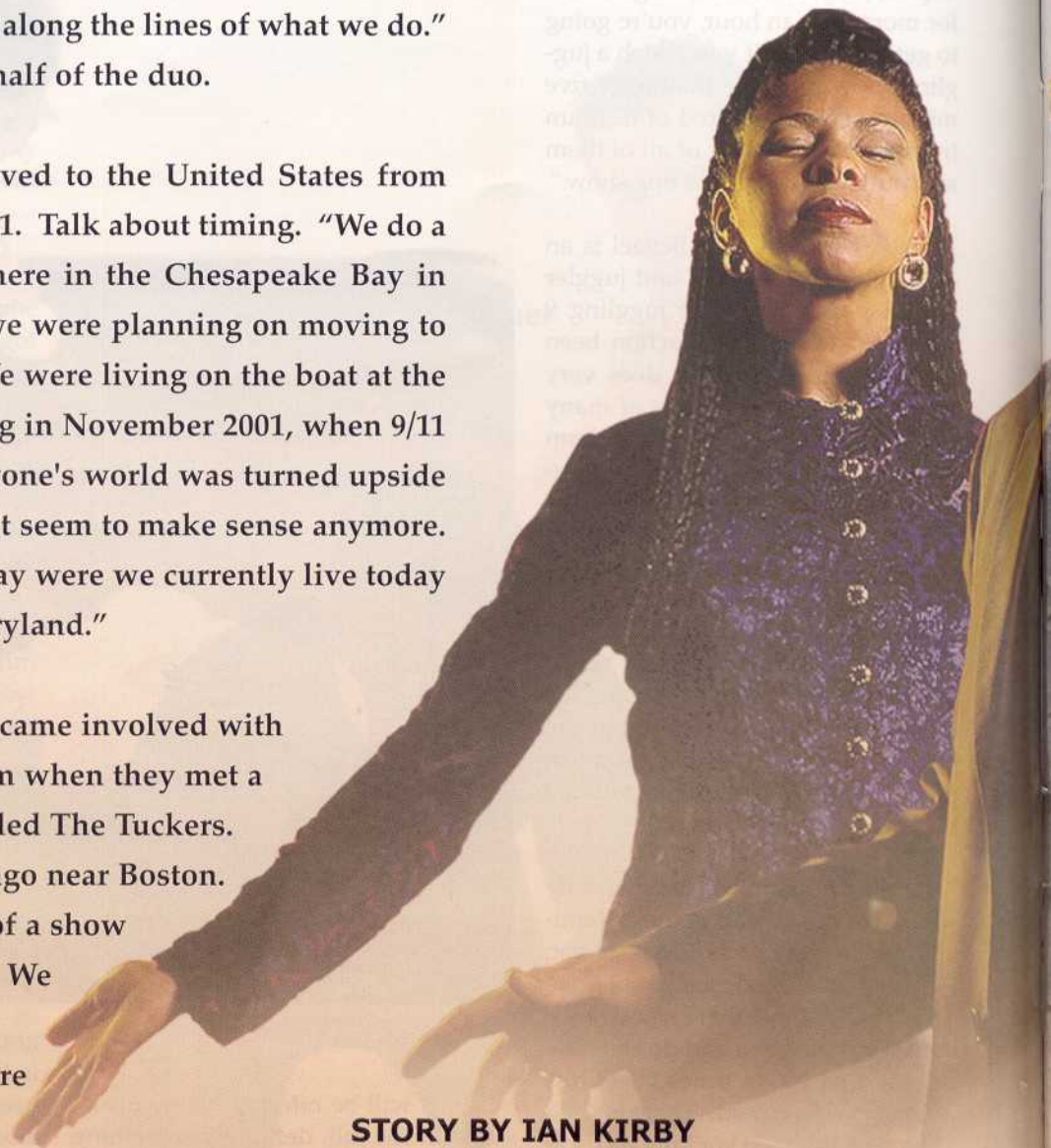
longer performing, in fact they

were an older couple, the

gentleman was even in a

wheelchair. After we got to

know them through



STORY BY IAN KIRBY

THE EVASONS MARVELS OF



correspondence and visitation, they decided to impart their knowledge and secrets to us. That is really the only way to come into some of these things. Without someone there helping to give you the methods and secrets behind what is going on, it could take a lifetime to achieve what we have."

After Jeff and Tessa met The Tuckers and underwent their training, it was between two and three years before they actually got to performing. "We never did a demonstration of our abilities on stage in front of people that whole time." says Tessa. "It took a long while to work through it and study it. Then we had to get completely comfortable with it and make it presentable for a live stage show. We could do one on one demos, but for a stage show it took at least two to three years of hard, hard work."

"What we are talking about here is a small part of our show." Jeff says. "Our entire show lasts about an hour and fifteen minutes. The unique part, which is the two person mind reading, is only about a twenty five minute segment. A lot of our show are things you would associate with mentalism, not mind reading. This one part of our show is Tessa's. She is the one that does most of the work, not me.

"So you have a woman doing the primary mind reading, which is fairly uncommon in and of itself. She is not reading minds in the conventional sense either. No one is writing anything down, she is not blindfolded and trying to pick up ideas or messages or words written on a piece of paper. She only works with thoughts

IE ONS THE MIND

and people's minds. Everything is in real time, no gimmicks, gags or tricks. People stand up without writing anything or doing any other form of communication and she tells them what they are thinking. That is what really blows people away, it is her and them, mind to mind and nothing else."

A typical performance from The Evasons (if you can call anything they do typical) starts out with a few exercises with Tessa to warm her up. "I will do demonstrations with numbers and manipulating them and a few other simple things. The first

two demonstrations we do in the show are things that I have been doing since I was a child, so I am completely comfortable with them. This also helps introduce our audiences to who I am and where I come from. From there we immediately launch into a demonstration with a cell phone. It is important to remember here that I am on stage almost the entire show and Jeff is off selecting volunteers. I am not close to them. If they are holding up anything that I am going to connect to their thoughts I am so far away I can't usually see it or anything."

Jeff picks up explaining from here, as he is in the "battlefield" at this point, so to speak. "I am out in the crowd aiding Tessa. We find someone with a cell phone, not too hard in a large audience these days. So we choose someone with a phone completely at random. We ask for someone that uses their cell phone regularly and talks to people close to them, like family or close friends. They then have their hands covering their cell phone as they think of a number they call a lot. At this point, Tessa, who is on stage thirty feet or so away tells them the phone number that they have in their head.



"Now there is no way that anyone could know the name of the person corresponding to that number and again, nothing is ever written down. She asks the person to imagine that they are calling that person. As the phone is ringing and the person 'picks up', Tessa will immediately give the name of the person they were intending to call. That is right off the top of the show. People don't know what to believe at this point, it sets them up for a really great show."

Once they finish this routine, Jeff says the gloves come off. "The audience gets a feel for who we are and how we perform by this point. They know we are not fakes, they know we are good at what we do and they have seen that we are not out to embarrass anyone. Once the audience gets that initial sense of security, everything really starts to move. All the inhibitions fly away and everyone wants to be a part of the act."

Tessa then starts to work with more of the audience members one on one. "There may be someone who has a photo in their wallet that they are thinking of." says Jeff. "Tessa

will describe the image in the photograph.

She can tell whether it is their dog or their grandmother and their corresponding names. She is able to give incredible detail. She will tell you the name of the person in the photo. She can give you amazing details. Say this grandmother passed down a family heirloom. Tessa will describe it, how you got it and many other circumstances and situations that may be revolving around it. Anyone that is holding something and thinking about something can be read."

One thing that The Evasons say that people walk away remembering and talking about in the future is their closing act. "No one else does this and we have never seen it before. It is similar to what is called spirit photography. You need to come to the show to fully understand, but the long and short of it is that someone comes up on stage and thinks of a person. The image of that person will develop behind them like a polaroid. We are not talking about a vague sloppy blob of an image, we mean a crisp clear def-

inition of that person."

"It has a huge impact," Tessa says. "It's one thing for me to be reading people's thoughts and having them agree with it, but now we are doing something the whole audience can see simultaneously. It creates a huge stir and is definitely the highlight of our performance."

The Evasons do booking in both the corporate and college markets and began doing so in an unusual manner. Typically, entertainers start out in the college market and work their way up to corporate venues, but The Evasons did just the opposite. "We actually started out in the corporate market and still do a lot of those shows. When we began our first performance together was a corporate date. We then moved on to cruise ships for a few years and now we are doing casino shows as well. We love the corporate gigs, but we have really found a home on America's college campuses as well."

The Evason's got into the college market through NACA and an agency closely associated with the organization, but Jeff explains as soon as Dale K. moved into the US markets, they knew what must be done. "We grew up in the same area of Canada as Dale and have been friends with him for a long time. This was about the time that Dale was leaving his then current agency, National Entertainment. We all sat down and brain stormed and Rubber

Photo Information:

Photos taken at a performance at Eastern Connecticut University.



Room Productions was born." That was the point when The Evasons really started to take off in the college market.

Since then, The Evasons are continuing to play shows in both the corporate and campus markets, but have shifted their main focus to the latter. "The corporate world became such a politically correct environment," says Tessa. "There were a lot of restrictions and we had to creatively double guess ourselves there. I am not saying that campus shows let you do anything you want, but we found that the energy and environment there are a lot more to our liking. We feel like we can let loose and have a lot more fun in the college market, so

that is where we are whenever we can be."

As many of you may know, there have been some logistical difficulties with Rubber Room Productions, so The Evasons needed other representation. "When we were out on the road doing shows, we always like to get a feel for what is going on in the minds of students and directors and what they think about the current state of the industry. Whenever we would ask students and staff about favorite agents and good people to work with, one name consistently came up just about everywhere we went: Josh Wainwright."

Basically, The Evasons have decided to go with Quantum Talent, not only





because of their stellar roster and great success rate, but because of the hard work, dedication and integrity of the man behind the whole operation, Josh (wipe that grin off your face JW).

The Evasons will continue to perform in both the corporate and college markets, with the hopes of wowing everyone they meet. With the abilities they have and the feats they perform, there is little doubt they will.

BOOK IT! For more information on the Evasons, contact Josh Wainwright at Quantum Talent (843) 839-1668. For a virtual link, go to our website at www.campusactivitiesmagazine.com



CAMPUS *activities*

THE WORLD'S #1 PUBLICATION
FOR CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT

#105

APRIL 2005

© 2005, Cameo Publishing Group
All Rights Reserved

Campus Activities Magazine is published Eight (8) times annually: August, September, October, November, January, February, March and April. The Annual Buyer's Guide is published each July. It is distributed to every campus in the US and many in Canada that are actively buying entertainment and related services.

SALES OFFICES:

15420 Newberry Rd.
Blair, South Carolina, 29015
(800) 728-2950

EDITORIAL & SUBSCRIPTIONS:

PO Box 509
Prosperity, South Carolina 29127
(803) 712-1429
Fax: (803) 712-6703

E-MAIL:

cameopublishing@mac.com

ON THE WEB:

www.cameopublishing.com
www.campusactivitiesmagazine.com

STAFF:

Publisher: W.C. Kirby, Jr.
Graphic Services: Bryan Waldrop
Dept. Editor: Ian Kirby

National Sales:

Plough Enterprises, LLC
Writers: Clare Adrian, Ian Kirby,
Laura Moore, Darcel Rockett,
Jennifer Lester Moore

For editorial consideration, directory forms, issue deadlines, artist's report cards, and customer service for any institution, please contact the editorial department at (803) 712-1429.

MEMBERS OF:

