

A Performance by the Evasons: no strings attached

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There's just something different about seeing the phenomena take place right before your eyes, no strings attached, as opposed to watching it on TV.

A half-hour before show time and the Decker Center Forum is almost filled to maximum capacity with a restless audience. Earlier in Engler Dining Hall Tessa and Jeff Evason, the dual team of mentalists, performed a few mind reading tasks for several students. With only a taste of their performance for later that night, they immediately drew a crowd.

"I saw the Evasons come in and I watched Tessa read serial numbers off of dollar bills without looking at them," said freshman Felicia Donelson.

Donelson was one of many who witnessed the phenomena and Jeff did get to use her as an assistant. "He touched my arm and then he asked me if I felt him touching me, and I said yes. He asked me to close my eyes. For a moment it felt like someone was blowing on my arm. Then it felt like someone was stroking my arm with a sheet of paper. When I opened my eyes I asked 'what was that?' and he said 'I did not touch you.'" As Donelson asked around, everyone declared that Jeff didn't touch her.

Overflowing with excitement, many students made it their mission to attend the show and to be there early for great seats.

"If they hadn't come into the cafeteria like that I would not have gone," Donelson says. "I was already planning to go ice skating with friends that night, but I'm glad I went. The show was off the hook."

NBC called them "the finest act of its kind in the world," on the show "The World's Greatest Magic 5." On Fox's "Powers of the Paranormal" they were introduced as "the most amazing mind reading act you've ever seen." The Discovery Channel called them "a new generation of mentalists." The couple has astounded audiences across the globe, performing at several colleges, corporate events, theatres, cruise ships, casino show rooms, and in over 28 countries.

On February 15, they brought their thought provoking interactive show to WMC.

"We really enjoy performing on a college campus," says Jeff. "We enjoy being around the age group. There's always a lot of excitement and people are really open to the kinds of things we do."

Tessa added, "we still feel a connection to college students. There is a lot of energy at WMC; it was very powerful and refreshing."

The program opens with Tessa standing on the stage blind folded, immediately grasping the audience's attention. Jeff mingles his way through the crowd wear-



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Jeff and Tessa Evason have been performing for twenty years

ing a wireless microphone. He picks random members of the audience, asking them to focus on a picture, an ID card in their wallet, or the serial number on a dollar bill. While concentrating, Tessa begins to repeat the eight-digit number on the bill or tell the name of the person in the photograph and their relation to the participant. This happens with the audience watching in awe and amazement. The Evasons remind them that the show has only just begun.

When you see acts of this nature on television, you usually are more skeptical, wondering what the camera isn't showing you. Here a student levitates six feet in the air, as light as a cloud, with no camera tricks in sight. In fact, the Evasons will give \$25,000 to anyone who can prove that they use electronic devices in their show. So far, their self-assurance has yet to fail.

Jeff collected four male volunteers to assist in the levitation act. These males were told to focus on their strength so that they could lift a student six feet in the air, each one only using two fingers. Erin Collins, senior, was that lucky student.

"I really don't remember feeling anything when they lifted me up. I don't even remember realizing that I was up in the air." Collins' eyes were closed during the whole event. "It was very strange; I didn't have any physical feeling." Overall Collins was very impressed with the entire show.

Collins added, "CAPBoard should definitely have more events like this one that get the students and the audience involved. The Evasons were wonderful."

One of the final acts of the

evening involved remembering a loved one who was recently deceased. Jeff asked for a volunteer from the audience who lost someone very close to them.

Meghann Butler was chosen for this part of the performance. She was very close to her grandfather, Richard Plant, who passed away about four years ago. She sat down on stage and tilted two small chalkboards that she held together back and forth. In between the boards rolled a fresh piece of chalk. Sitting off stage was one of her closest friends, right in front of a table.

All of a sudden, while Butler was focusing on her grandfather, the table started to move. The audience was silenced with astonishment. She was still rocking the chalkboards back and forth.

"It was really creepy," said Butler, "when I was tilting the boards sometimes the chalk would just stop moving." When Butler was asked to open up the chalkboards, the name "Richard Plant" was written across them. The fresh piece of chalk looked as if it had been used.

It was so weird. I usually don't believe in these kind of things, so I wasn't sure what to think or expect." Aside from being an eye witness to this spectacle, one has to wonder: How is this possible? Is it possible?

Jeff confirms that it is the participant's own connection with the loved one that allows this to happen. So, even though the loved one may be deceased, they still live on and remain a part of that person.

The couple has been performing for well over 18 years. In 1983, Jeff Evason was working as a radio announcer and a part-time magician in Toronto. Tessa had recently moved to Canada from the Caribbean Island St. Lucia; she was working as a fashion model.

Although they had never met before, they did share a mutual friend in the fashion business. To enhance an upcoming fashion show, this friend invited Jeff to perform a short act of illusion using one of the models as an assistant. Tessa volunteered for the part.

"It took flight like a magic carpet," said Tessa. "By the end of the year I knew there was no turning back."

From then on they worked together. One of the most popular aspects of their performances was their feats of telepathy. With such positive feedback from their audiences, they decided to study the area of psychic phenomena further and devote more of their show to performances of extra sensory perception (ESP).

"Most people would think that what we do is impossible," said

Jeff. Jeff and Tessa are living proof that anything is possible.

"We feel so fortunate that we have had this incredible burning desire to be entertainers," said Tessa. "It's good to feel the joy we have as well as the joy people give to us. Entertainment is one of the

a lot of studying and time into it."

"You have to stimulate the natural abilities that you have," said Tessa, "and tap into the energy waiting to be opened."

On their web site, www.evason.com, there is information regarding learning more about the phenomena. On the site they display their book "The Magic of ESP," an introduction to the topic which includes several real ESP experiments you can do on your own. It teaches you how to develop your mental potential. Jeff also recommends the "Idiot's Guide to Being Psychic," because "the topics are very diverse and it's easy reading." Tessa added that you can also find more information at the library; it has numerous resources available.

"Let your intuition guide you," she said. "I believe we all have this gift and we all have the opportunity to develop it."

They don't consider themselves to be psychics and they don't do hypnosis. They have never claimed to have "super natural powers" and they aren't asking anybody to believe in the occult. However, they do believe that nothing is impossible, and that the powers of the mind reach far beyond what many assume. The mind is a terrible thing to waste.

"You have the ability to do anything you want," Tessa said. "When you believe in yourself you are drawing energy to yourself, and that's what makes things possible."



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Tessa Evason can read your mind.

hardest and most demanding professions that anyone can choose. There's always a fear of failure but really, you get to be who you are almost to the greatest degree." It was a risk that they were willing to take.

After the show it is pretty common for audience members to come and ask if they learn some of the same mind reading techniques. "Most of them want something quick and easy to learn, which is not a problem. But you've also got to realize that we've been doing this for twenty years, and we've put