

Starlight

CAST BIOS



KEVIN JAMES (The Inventor) became interested in the art of magic at a very early age. He remembers seeing his first magic performance and more importantly how it made him feel. He decided early on that performing magic for the world was going to be his life's calling. His style of performance is anything but conventional. His unique comedy and magic have gained him a reputation as a world-class visual artist. Kevin's fresh approach has allowed him to headline in some of the world's top theatres. He has performed in 110 countries to date. Some of his past performances include Broadway, the West End, the Crazy Horse in Paris and Royal performances for the Prince of Monaco, the Prince of Bahrain and the Sultan of Dubai. In Las Vegas he has headlined in nearly every major casino and a Command Performance for President Obama at the White House. He's also one of the highest viewed magicians on YouTube with many millions of views. He has been featured in *The Illusionists* from its inception. Kevin is a very prolific magical inventor and consultant. Not only is his show original but many of his ideas have made their way into the shows of other famous magicians like Doug Henning, Penn & Teller, Mark Wilson and David Copperfield, as well as several films. He received a Creative Fellowship Award from The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences in Hollywood in 2004 and is a multiple Stage and Parlour Magician of the Year. Kevin is related to the legendary P.T. Barnum and, in many ways, is like his famous ancestor. His art vision was to create the most unique show on the planet and make adults feel like a kid again. Best job ever!

MARK KALIN (The Showman) has been one of the most influential magicians of the last three decades, bringing his amazing illusions to arenas, performing arts centers, television shows and his own experimental theatre in Reno, Nevada, Magic Underground. As a young man, Mark's specialty was sleight-of-hand magic, but he later enlarged his act with Jinger Leigh to include tigers, panthers and sensational split-second marvels including the largest stage illusion of all time, the vanishing of an American Airlines jumbo jet. Working together as Kalin and Jinger, they produced and appeared in their award-winning shows, *Carnival of Wonders*, *Illusionarium* and *Before Your Very Eyes*. In addition to his onstage work, Mark has developed numerous illusions used in Broadway productions, live touring shows and Las Vegas revues.

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JINGER LEIGH (The Conjuress) has redefined the role of the magician with a unique blend of elegance and theatricality. Jinger began her professional career as a dancer when she was fifteen years old. She was one of the “Young Americans,” toured for companies like Disney, appeared on Fuji Television, and starred in Southern California dinner theater productions. It was while working as a dancer in Guam that Jinger first met magician Mark Kalin. Working together as Kalin and Jinger, they produced and appeared in their award-winning shows, *Carnival of Wonders*, *Illusionarium* and *Before Your Very Eyes* and their own Reno Theatre, *Magic Underground*. In 2015 as one of the featured stars in *The Illusionists - Turn of The Century* at the Palace Theater, Jinger was the first female magician to appear on Broadway. Jinger has offered her expertise to numerous live stage productions worldwide, as well as performance coaching and lectures in the US, Australia and England.

WES MATHISON (The Mentalist) is a Los Angeles native who now finds his home in Chicago. After making his debut in 2019 with the hit show, *The Illusionists Experience*, he is now at the Starlight Theatre here in Kansas City ready to read your mind! When he is not on tour, you can find Wes at the Chicago Magic Lounge doing everything from headlining the main stage show to close-up sleight of hand at the tables for cocktail hour. Wes’s comedic timing, lively stage presence and ability to read your deepest darkest thoughts makes him someone you won’t forget.

DAVID WILLIAMSON (The Trickster) has been featured on ABC’s “Champions of Magic,” where he appeared with Princess Stephanie as he performed his miracles at different locations in and around Monaco. David has also co-starred in several top-rated prime-time network specials including CBS’s “Magicians’ Favorite Magicians,” NBC’s “Houdini: Unlocking His Mysteries,” and NBC’s “World’s Greatest Magic III.” He was seen recently on The CW’s “Masters Of Illusion” TV series as well as “America’s Got Talent.” In 1981 David won first place in the International Brotherhood of Magicians’ sleight of hand competition. That year he also became the first ever recipient of the prestigious Gold Cups Award of Excellence in close-up magic. David was voted “Close Up Magician of the Year” two years in a row by his peers at Hollywood’s renowned Magic Castle. He was also twice awarded the “Magic Castle Lecturer of the Year” and the “Magic Castle Parlor Magician of the Year.” David was voted “Most Wanted Magician” at the 2003 FISM convention in Den Haag. Recently David was honored with the Performance Fellowship by the Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. In 2017 David was named The Magic Castle’s “Magician of the Year.” He was also recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership by the UK’s Magic Circle, the world’s premier magical society.

As host of the United Kingdom’s acclaimed television series, “The Magic Comedy Strip,” David’s irresistible mix of humor and skill helped make it one of the highest rated shows in the country. He has created illusions for and performed in several commercials and has developed TV shows for Walt Disney Productions and ABC, as well as consulting for illusionists David Copperfield’s and David Blaine’s TV specials. Other network television appearances include “Masters Of Illusion” and “The World Magic Awards” special where he was named “Comedy Magician of the Year.” A popular and respected teacher and creator of magic, Dave has traveled the world inspiring magical enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. His best-selling magic book, “Williamson’s Wonders,” has been translated into four languages. His instructional videos “Sleight Of Dave,” “Dave 2,” “Magic Farm” and “Ridiculous” are bestsellers worldwide. David is a featured performer in the World Tour of *The Illusionists Live* touring Australia, South Africa, Kuwait and London’s West End. He was featured in the cast of *The Illusionists Experience* at the Eldorado Resort in Reno. David is currently appearing in *The Illusionists Live* US tour. David is also featured as the Ringmaster in the exciting new show *Circus 1903* currently touring the world and returning to the UK for a holiday tour. He is also a frequent favorite Guest Entertainer on Disney Cruise Lines.

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JONATHAN GOODWIN (The Daredevil), British born Daredevil and Escape Artist, is widely considered one of the most creative, skilled and frankly crazy stunt performers in the world. He has been described as “the world’s greatest theatrical daredevil.” Goodwin has been hanged, buried alive, hung by his toes from helicopters, burned at the stake, attacked by sharks, bitten by rattlesnakes, has dodged arrows and has climbed under moving cars. Jonathan has starred in numerous TV series including “One Way Out” for Discovery Channel and “Dangerman: The Incredible Mr. Goodwin” for the BBC, as well as his own Specials, “Deathwish Live,” “How Not To Become Sharkbait” and “The Seven Stupidest Things to Escape From.” Goodwin has been a guest on TV shows such as “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” “Rachael Ray,” “Good Morning America” and “The Jonathan Ross Show.” Jonathan has starred in shows all over the world, including twice on Broadway, three times in London’s West End and at venues such as Radio City Music Hall and Sydney Opera House as well as the private birthday party of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Most recently Jonathan was a finalist on “Britain’s Got Talent” where he was described as “the most dangerous act ever.”

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