



2007 Press Kit



RESUME

Morgan & Mikala are two of the fastest rising stars in the World of Magic. Their innovative, cutting-edge style and creative illusions leave audiences spellbound, and fans for life.

International

SeoulLand Amphitheatre, Seoul, Korea

Hotels And Casinos

Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Aladdin Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
The Venetian Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
New York New York Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Bally's Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Rio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Caesar's Palace Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Texas Station Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV
Sunset Station Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

Television

FISM TV Show- Televised in 45 Countries
Reality Show on MBC – Seoul, Korea
E! Entertainment Television
Bravo Channel
Video Hits – One (VH-1)
National TV Commercial – Featured Illusionist
NBC Special – *“Extreme Variety”*
CBS Evening News
UPN 14 Las Vegas, *“Now with Dennis Bono”*
CBS Kenny Rogers Telethon

Exclusive Engagements

Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch Estate – Celebrity Party
Beacher's Madhouse
Caramel Lounge
MegaMagic
Official Annual Houdini Séance
The Magic Castle



BIOGRAPHY

Having grown up in a small town in the Bootheel of Missouri, Morgan has been captivating audiences for over a decade with his commanding stage presence and breath-taking illusions.

Morgan's entree into the World of Illusion began as a child when his parents gave him a magic set for his birthday. Instantly bitten by the "magic bug", Morgan began performing for family and friends. By his early teens, he was a local celebrity, performing close-up and stage magic for birthday parties, corporate events and church functions. At age 17, Morgan was immersed in the design and construction of his first full-scale illusion show. The show opened with Morgan magically producing a convertible sports car out of thin air!

That first show held greater significance for Morgan than even he anticipated. He was joined with Mikala, who would become his personal and professional partner. Morgan & Mikala started doing magic shows throughout the Midwest, capturing the attention of numerous television and radio stations. In an astonishing display of wizardry, Morgan & Mikala shocked and amazed the public when they vanished a 20-story municipal power plant that sprawled over 2 city blocks!

Morgan stretched his creative capabilities even further when he became the youngest magician in the world to catch a live bullet between his teeth. This deadly illusion, which had killed 13 performers in the past, garnered front-page newspaper coverage for Morgan, as well as exposure on the CBS Evening News.

Feeling the call of the World Mecca of Magic, Morgan, Mikala and their young son, Caleb, soon called Las Vegas home. Recently, the dynamic magical duo finalized design and completed construction of their revolutionary, multi-million dollar show, which ranks as one of the largest in existence. This extraordinary show will be supported by a professional cast of over twenty dancers and crew. Morgan & Mikala rely on the stellar technical expertise of Greg Mulvey of Las Vegas-based Presto Productions to capture their "magical presence" on the World-Wide Web and in custom video productions.

The buzz is spreading fast about The Magic of Morgan & Mikala. In the past few years, they were featured in a front-page article in the Los Angeles Times, interviewed live by the BBC in London and Scotland, performed on the NBC special, *Extreme Variety*, contributed their magical skills to a national television commercial, and entertained a "Who's Who" list of Hollywood celebrities at a party given by Michael Jackson for his father's birthday at his Neverland Ranch Estate.

During 2005, The Magic of Morgan & Mikala went "international" during a tour in Seoul, Korea. They performed hundreds of sold-out shows in the spectacular 2,200-seat SeoulLand Amphitheatre for more than a million people live.

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Also, Morgan performed personally for hundreds of Hollywood stars and celebrities, such as Tom Hanks, Ben Stiller, Jude Law, Quentin Tarantino, Michael Jordan, John Stamos, Paris Hilton, Tara Reid, Vince Neal of Motley Crue, Carson Daly, Jason Biggs, Lisa Marie and Priscilla Presley, R. Kelly, Ice T, and Anna Nicole Smith. The year's most memorable highlight came when magic's undisputed "living legend", David Copperfield, invited Morgan to give a private performance for him and his crew after his Las Vegas performance at the MGM Grand.

During 2006, look for Morgan in television specials and documentaries on E! Entertainment Television, Bravo and VH-1. Currently, Morgan & Mikala are immersed in pre-production design and planning for a future television special and global tour.





Los Angeles Times

Monday, March 19, 2001

Some Acts Hit Jackpot, Others Vanish in Mecca of Magic

Entertainers: Aspiring magicians flock to Las Vegas hoping to land a showroom on the Strip. Few succeed.

By TOM GORMAN, Times Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS--Except for a love of magic, they have little in common--the brassy young man in leather pants from Los Angeles who likes to float cigarettes and the polite kid in jeans from rural Missouri who cuts his wife--and the table she's on--in half.

Each has come to town on the same pilgrimage: to land a showroom on the Strip, sharing the city's bright lights with its resident lords of magic, Siegfried and Roy.

Simon Winthrop, 29, moved here in January from West Hollywood, carrying all of his tricks--and a packet of glowing referrals--in a briefcase. He's living off the money he's made performing at private celebrity parties.

Morgan Strebler, 24, arrived last year from Sikeston, Missouri, and began assembling \$250,000 in apparatus--financed by his father. Strebler's last big stunt before heading west was catching a speeding bullet in his teeth.

Each thinks he's perfected a spectacular act, the likes of which Vegas has never seen. But, so do the hundreds of other magicians in town who also want their names on Strip marquees.

Just as Hollywood creates stars, New York produces writers, and Paris nourishes artists, Las Vegas feeds magicians. The town is the world's mecca of magic, drawing hundreds of conjurers and illusionists from across the country to seek fame, fortune and--above all--a showroom of their own.

They would be in good company. The late Harry Blackstone Jr. and Doug Henning played here. On Feb. 26, Siegfried and Roy announced that they had signed one last multiyear contract at the Mirage before retiring from live performances. Like them, Lance Burton--with a 13-year contract at the Monte Carlo--and Steve Wyrick--with an eight-year contract at the Sahara--each has his own showroom.

Las Vegas is the world's magic capital in other ways as well. Penn and Teller live here; David Copperfield's personal magic warehouse and museum are here, and both acts play here regularly. The industry's leading trade publication, *Magic* magazine, is published here. The world's only school for master magicians is conducted here. People who construct \$100,000 illusions develop their crafts here.

How did magic flourish as a major form of entertainment here and nowhere else? Explanations vary.

"Las Vegas is, in its own way, an illusion where people come to escape," said Alan Feldman, vice president of MGM Mirage. "Visitors come here with a mind-set to be wowed."

And there are practical considerations. In many cases, Feldman said, "These are jaw-dropping spectacles that can't go on tour, because they have to be presented in theaters designed just for that purpose."

The emergence of magic in Las Vegas dates back decades, when magicians were employed in big production shows to entertain for 10 or 15 minutes during big scene changes. Siegfried and Roy and Burton spent years paying their dues locally that way before becoming headliners, with television further catapulting their stardom.

Also, entertainment executives have long considered magic attractive because it has a timeless and universal appeal, crossing economic, cultural, language and age boundaries in a town that thrives on international tourism.

And as Penn & Teller's comic bully Penn Gillette sees it, "Las Vegas is all about live performance," and of all the arts, magic--along with sex, he adds--is best experienced in person.

Magic flourished in the 1990s as magicians explored different themes and America discovered that it could embrace more than one king of magic. For spectacle, lasers and white tigers, there are showmen Siegfried and Roy.....for classic magic in top hat and tails, the elegant Burton.....for comedy magic, Mac King.

There's even sex appeal, with the belly-dancing First Lady of Magic and, down the Strip, the Showgirls of Magic--who perform topless in their late-night cabaret show. This is, after all, Vegas.

As magic established itself as part of the local entertainment smorgasbord, magicians were drawn here because no other city offers more jobs for them--in Strip and off-Strip showrooms, lounges and restaurants, and for all the convention and trade show events that are staged here.

Others, who have journeyed here but have been unable to land lasting big gigs, keep Las Vegas as a base and book engagements in other cities, join tours, perform in television specials or work on cruise ships.

Among other advantages: They can be billed, honestly enough, as "Direct from Las Vegas!"



But most resident magicians--as well as newcomers like Winthrop and Strebler--aspire to the elusive Strip showroom. Each hopes he has that right mix of imaginative illusions, unsurpassed technical skills, mesmerizing music and lights, and--most important--charismatic, audience-arresting personality, to stand out.

Even in self-promotion, their styles differ.

Strebler--who specializes in large-scale illusions--is following the standard strategy in producing his own promotional video, a 12-minute clip of some of his signature tricks. To produce it, he borrowed an unused stage at a Primm casino, set up his wares and shelled out \$40,000.

In one trick, his wife appears to be pierced by a giant needle. In another, he seems to pass through a stainless steel plate.

He hopes that booking agents and entertainment directors--some of whom say that they have videos from 150 magicians to view--will find something special about his act as they fast-forward through his snippets.

Winthrop, who specializes in close-up sleights-of-hand best appreciated in an intimate setting, is taking a more assertive tack. He found a restaurant hurting for business, on the second floor of a mid-Strip casino. To convince its manager that he could drum up business the other day, Winthrop hawked his own show on the sidewalk, luring small handfuls of skeptical tourists upstairs, where he performed for 10 or 15 minutes. The floating cigarette, he said, blows everyone away.

The strategy worked; starting today, Winthrop is renting a room at Casino Royale, on the Strip, for a one-month tryout.

Indeed, one option for entertainers is to rent their own casino showrooms--a far cry from the days when showrooms were financial loss-leaders, filled by costly headliners hired by the hotels to lure gamblers into casinos.

But as today's hotel executives demand profits from every department--including restaurants, guest rooms and entertainment--more of them simply rent out their showrooms, which guarantees them revenue, even if the entertainer flops.

Under these "four-wall" agreements, the hotels provide the venues but perhaps little else. The entertainers foot the cost of producing and marketing their shows--including paying bonuses to ticket agents to promote their shows over the competition--and anxiously count the gate every night.

"It reduces our risk," said Andy Tompkins, who, when he owned the downtown Lady Luck, "four-walled" his showroom to magicians Melinda Saxe and, later, to Steve Wyrick.

Last September, Wyrick moved to the Sahara, which converted its famous Congo Room into a \$7-million airplane hanger-themed stage on which he seems to walk through the spinning blades of a jet turbine.



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But Saxe, "The First Lady of Magic" and a Vegas veteran, couldn't command her own showroom and is renting hers at the Venetian. After her last performance of the night, she has to scurry off stage and make room for the next show, a French impressionist.

Still, "they come here because to work in Las Vegas is the pinnacle of a magician's career," said Las Vegas talent agent Sandy Dobritch. "It's the entertainment capital of the world, where you're seen by important people, get exposure and make money."

So what does he tell his hopefuls? "That the competition is fierce," he said. "You've got to have a lot of patience and perseverance, and talent, and a hook. What are the odds [of getting a showroom]? Very slim."

A more typical success story is that of Garry Carson, who performed for 2½ years at the MGM Grand and now works cruise ships and corporate events. He said he hopes to perform in a local showroom but is satisfied that he's at least working.

"At trade shows, magicians tell me they wish they could live here so they could get a job," he said, "and I tell them it's not that easy--that I live here, and it still takes a lot of work to get in through all the doors."

Still, there may be someone special in the wings being groomed to replace Siegfried and Roy in a few years.

"You never know when someone's going to show up out of the blue," said Burton, who helps other magicians hone their acts. "There may be a 14-year-old kid in Nebraska who's practicing magic and in 10 years will pop up, out of nowhere, in Las Vegas, and make it. The kids today are far more advanced than I was at that age."

Strebler is from Missouri, not Nebraska, but he wonders if he'll be that next magic superstar.

"I came here to make it big and, if nothing else, to get the best experience around because of who's already here," he said. "I'll take it as it comes, because I love what I do."

Winthrop is more sure of himself. "I know there are hundreds of guys like me out here, but I'm going to get myself a room," he said. "I want to get a standing ovation in Las Vegas."





Did he or didn't he?

MAGICIAN CATCHES BULLET WITH TEETH

John Pillers

Standard Democrat

SIKESTON - Few people have bullets fired at their head and survive, but Morgan Strebler did. The Sikeston resident and magician/illusionist turned himself into a human target on Tuesday afternoon, fulfilling a childhood dream.

Roger Moore, an acquaintance of Strebler's performed the shooting honors at ReArmms Inc., a local shooting range and firearms business.

Those taking part in the exhibition worked to ensure safety and emphasize the event was on the "up-and-up". Moore marked the bullet with his initials and Bill Fender, gunsmith, marked it as well. Fender also inspected the gun and declared it to be in perfect working order. The round was loaded with care as Strebler took his position down range.

The young man stood wearing a protective helmet, body armor, and shatterproof eye wear some 30-35 feet away from the shooter. Signaling he was ready, Strebler stood as the .357 magnum Colt revolver was pointed toward him. I kept thinking, "Please, God, don't let me die." Moore fired and Strebler's head pitched back in reaction, the helmet hitting the floor. Unhurt, he walked forward making sure not to put his hands near his mouth, while Moore put the revolver down and retrieved an ashtray."

In front of onlookers, Strebler spit out a bullet, asking Moore to testify that it was a fired round and identify the markings, which he did. The empty shell casing was retrieved from the revolver and Fender attested that it bore the markings he had placed on it.

Strebler smiled, brimming with enthusiasm.

Moore said he was contacted Monday night about performing the stunt. He recalled talking to Strebler, "I asked him, 'Are you sure this is what you want to do'?"

Noting that there was no way to practice the shooting, Moore said Strebler told him, "I have faith in you." Moore, a former deputy sheriff before relocating to the area, is an experienced hunter. "I wouldn't consider myself an expert. I do a lot of deer hunting, rabbit hunting," he said.

When hunting, Moore said he ensures clean kill shots to prevent the animal from suffering. "I'm not a marksman. But I know how to put the bullet where it needs to be put." Prior to the stunt, Strebler stepped outside the firing range for a smoke. "I'm a little nervous," he joked.

The 20-year-old remarked that 12 people have been killed attempting to catch a bullet and that he was among the youngest to attempt it. "Since I was little I've always wanted to do this."

Deciding to give it a try, Strebler needed a professional shooting range like Sikeston's ReArmms facility due to the danger involved. His first attempt to set up the demonstration at ReArmms was met with less-than-enthusiastic reception.

"They had to make sure that I would not sue if something went wrong," said Strebler. Either a sign of confidence or just oversight, he had not made any provisions in case anything went wrong. "I told them if anything went wrong just to dial 911 emergency - fast."

The stunt was tasking for Moore, who stated afterward, "You don't pull a gun on somebody and point it at them." He had a target area and treated the flesh-and-blood Strebler as if he were a paper target.

"I don't plan on doing this again," he said, despite the successful attempt.

After the event, Strebler was noticeably excited asking onlookers, "Did you enjoy it?"

Would he tempt fate again? "No, one time only! I'm never going to do this again," he replied.

How did he do it? "I can't tell," Strebler smiled.