

INTERNATIONAL MAGIC MAGAZINE

VANISH

JULY 2018

EDITION 48

ROMANY
Divā of Magic



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VANISH

International Magic Magazine

PUBLISHER

Paul Romhany & Joomag

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & DESIGN LAYOUT

Paul Romhany

COVER PHOTO

Neil 'Nez' Kendall.

THANK YOU TO

Chipper Lowell

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / LAYOUT FEATURE

Hal Meyers

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nick Lewin

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ben Robinson

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Romany

STAFF WRITERS

Jeff Christensen, Louie Fox, Chiam Yu Sheng, Joe Silkie, Colin Underwood, John Rose, Carisa Hendrix, Chris Philpot, Nick Lewin, Jeff Hobson, Paul Romhany, Jim Sisti, Lee Alex, Charles Bach

EDITORIAL SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

Hal Meyers, Ben Robinson

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Paul Romhany & Sydnie Anderson

CREATIVE DESIGNER & LAYOUT

Paul Romhany

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

Steve Hocevar

CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION

Harry Morgan

ADDRESS

1183 Blind Bogey Drive
Qualicum Beach, BC.
V9K1E6
CANADA

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FROM THE EDITOR

BURN THE BRA TRICK!

Oh my ... social media blew up this week over a magician performing the "bra-trick" with a young girl at a public performance ... put on by a magic organization. It was a magic club member who posted the photo which lead to the uproar and my questioning the ethics of anyone who would perform this effect with a child. The "bra-trick" is from the 1930's, in its original instructions the magician would use a stooge who knew what was going to happen - NEVER a 7-year old girl!

My friend Kent Wong, a lawyer and performer, offered great food for thought on the subject and what we choose to perform for children in general. This is part of his response on the subject of the bra-trick performance:

"As a long time children's performer, I am in absolute shock that anyone would even consider performing this trick, (bra-trick) let alone with a child volunteer. Yes, it may get a cheap laugh; but as Eugene Burger was fond of saying, "Not every laugh is a good laugh". This laugh is at the expense of the child and has the intended effect of embarrassing the child in front on all of her friends, families and strangers.

The performer knows what reaction he is trying to elicit. He knows what the child is going to be subjected to before he calls her up on stage. She trusts that the performer is about to do something absolutely magical and she's looking forward to helping in making that magic happen. But the child DOES NOT have any idea what's actually about to happen. She simply places her trust in the performer. And when the performer intentionally embarrass her, that's not entertainment; IT'S BETRAYAL OF TRUST.

It is not surprising that many people rank magic among the lower rungs of the entertainment ladder. It's also not surprising that many people are reluctant to hire a magician for their event (whether it be a children's show or an adult event). And it's not surprising that adults are so reluctant to volunteer to come up on stage. This type of abuse and betrayal taints us all.

At the end of the day, this affects us all. There are so many great effects and routines to choose from on the market today. There is no reason to resort to effects such as this. (I apologize if I sound preachy. This is obviously only my opinion.)" - KENT WONG

There is much more to be said on this topic and I am putting together a team of people, including two women who had the bra-trick performed on them as youngsters, along with respected performers to share their views and thoughts on these types of effects. This will be in the August edition of

VANISH and promises to be an eye opener for many.

Paul Romhany



Rom·a·ny

noun

noun: Romany; noun: Romani; plural noun: Romanis; plural noun: Romanies

1. 1.

the Indic language of the Gypsies, spoken in many dialects.

2.

a Gypsy.

adjective

adjective: Romany; adjective: Romani

1. 1.

relating to Gypsies or their language.

3.

ROMANY

The DIVA OF MAGIC



MANY OF MAGIC

ROMANY

Diva of Magic

DREAM BIG

BY PAUL ROMHANY

ROMANY is a professional magician who has just had her first book published, "Spun Into Gold." It's a book that talks about magic, dreams, reaching your goals and personal battles.

My first interaction with Romany was approximately eight years ago after somebody told me there was a magician in the UK using my name. Upon further investigation it became clear the name was spelled differently, mine is the original Hungarian spelling and it's my family name ROMHANY, and Romany turned out to be a woman who changed her birth name legally to ROMANY. Our contact started a terrific friendship that led to her writing articles for VANISH and more recently the release of her incredible book "Spun Into Gold." It wasn't until after reading her book I learned our paths crossed 21 years prior at FISM in Dresden, although I probably walked past her while she slept in her car - but you can read all about that in her book.

At this stage of her career she is riding the success train with gigs on high end cruise ships, private performances for Royalty including Prince Charles and appearances on television, most recently Penn & Teller's Fool Us and that's within numerous other top profile appearances.

Romany is:

- ... the winner of the **Golden Lion Award** at the Las Vegas World Magic Seminar
- ... named **The Magic Circle Stage Magician of the Year**
- ... winner of the **International Brotherhood of Magicians First Prize**
- ... and one of only 200 magicians in the world invited to be a member of **The Magic Circle Inner Circle with gold**

star for performance.

And in her spare time she turned her house in to a private theatre/studio which she opens up to the public and puts on performances, spending hours a day rehearsing new material to keep her act in tip top shape. The home theatre was described in an earlier article in VANISH.

I've just finished reading "Spun Into Gold" - The Secret life of A Female Magician, her incredible story which was published earlier this year. This book is an inspiring true narrative of a little girl who dreamed of standing centre stage in the brightest spotlights on Broadway, but as she says, "born the wrong shape, in the wrong town, and found herself living a life she never wished for."

Her story is one of persistence and faith - deciding to walk stubbornly towards her heart's desires and not stop until she accomplishes her goal, trusting the next step will appear - as if by magic. When I read her book I found elements I believe every magician can relate to. It's about the paths we choose to take, the passion to follow our dreams and the hard journey to get there. Even when others look at us and say, 'they've made it,' there are still battles we fight privately nobody else knows which can often bring us down. The entertainment business is very fickle and you have to be a special kind of person to pursue it ... stay the distance. Her writing is from the heart which she does with the same love and passion she has for magic.



DIVA of magic



When you watch ROMANY - THE DIVA OF MAGIC - on stage you are watching a person who completely understands her character. I always wonder, if you take away the magic from a performer ... could they still be entertaining - if the answer is YES then they understand the secret to any great act. In Romany's case, just like Jeff Hobson, David Williamson, Jeff McBride ... the answer is YES. It's the character people want to see - the magic is almost secondary. If your magic is wonderful, too, it's the icing on the cake, and in Romany's case her magic is fantastic. When you read her book, and I highly suggest EVERYBODY read it because it's not only filled with amazing stories, you will learn how she developed her character and how she worked incredibly hard to reach her goals. I'm not including her bio here, she delivers it beautifully in her book, so instead I asked some of her mentors for comments and put a Q&A together.

Questions with Romany

1

Your book has elements of things I feel a lot of performers can relate to as far as highs and lows in life and our careers - what inspired you to share your journey?

ROMANY (she referred us to *The Epilogue* of her book and granted us permission to reprint this)

Big Magic

"It's not fair, everyone else is out at the beach enjoying the summer but I have to stay in and practice," I whined. "It's so stupid, I make things appear then vanish then appear again. It's so boring." I was in the middle of a session with Matthew, my life-coach. Probably fed up with me moaning, Matthew asked innocently, "Romany, if you weren't practicing magic, what would you rather be doing?"

And this is what I said: "I'd rather be writing. I'd like to get up in the morning and write. I'd like to write all day."

This was odd because I'd never thought of that before.

"So what's stopping you?" he asked.

"No one wants to read my writing. No one's going to pay me for writing."

"How do you know?"

I've said it before: careful what you wish for; the angels are always listening.

As the words left my lips, magic swirled into action, forming a perfect golden spiral. Those golden cogs of momentum began to grind and whirl, just like they always do.

After our session, I biked to the market for some veg. Cycling past a book shop, I saw a brightly coloured book with the words BIG MAGIC¹ on the front. I screeched to a stop. It called to me as if it had a Buy Me label on it. I didn't even bother flicking through. I paid for it, dropped it in my panniers, bought some fruit and went home. I made coffee, opened the book and didn't stop reading until I had gulped down the last page at a silly hour in the morning.

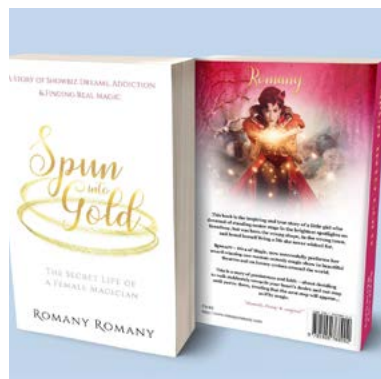
After a good chunk of sleep, I got up, made some coffee, got comfortable in my mother's favourite antique Queen Anne chair, and started writing.

And now here we are, you and me.

To the detriment of my magic practice and the firmness of my

1

Written by Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love*.



*Romany's recently published book **Spun Into Gold** is a story not just for magicians but for every person who has a dream and fights to reach their goals.*

"I'd rather be writing. I'd like to get up in the morning and write



From her early days as a street performer to working a private performance for Prince Charles Romany shares her incredible journey in her new book.

perky posterior, I wrote all summer. I got up at 5 a.m. and wrote until late. I sat in the corner of the garden under the shade of the ivy and wrote, and then when the summer cooled, I went inside and carried on, looking out at the garden as the roses faded and dropped. Apart from my ever more numbing bum, I was happy. I wasn't bothered about getting shows in the diary; I wanted to write more than anything else. So I did.

I started in August. By November, I'd written eighty-two thousand words."

That's what inspired me. But as the story of my life poured out, the motivation to be honest and authentic was fired and sustained by watching the TED talk of a s-hero of mine, Brené Brown, author of



Rising Strong and Braving The Wilderness.

Her talk <https://youtu.be/iCvmsMzIF7o> - watched by 8 million on YouTube - is about shame and the damage it does.

She says, "Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy—the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light."

I haven't given you the complete picture. You're missing a piece of the puzzle: the real catalyst, the slowly smoldering fuse,



something I've kept secret for thirty-five years. Thirty-five years is a long time to keep a secret, even for a magician. Telling my truth in the book was a huge challenge. Terrifying. I knew it could cost me my career and perhaps damage my friendships. But when I thought about so many people, probably young women who are struggling with similar issues, I wanted so passionately to help them that if it meant being despised or publicly criticized, it would be worth it.



All tied up!



It IS worth it. Ironically so far, people have been very kind but if or when I do get any hurtful comments, I'll remember what Brené Brown has to say about that too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-JXOnFOXQk> "If you're going to show up and be seen, there is only one guarantee, you are going to get your ass kicked. And if you not in the arena creating your own stuff, then I'm not interested in your feedback."

2

You seem to have a very strong concept of who your character is on stage - does this make it easier or harder to put magic into your show and how important is knowing your character?

ROMANY - Knowing your character makes everything much easier! When I started out, I spent more time developing the 'Diva' than anything else. How does she think, what does she want? How does she speak, how does she move, what does she believe, what does she care about? When I got to McBride's Mystery School and performed my work in progress, I honestly couldn't do any magic at all but I had a whole act because I'd worked on my character. Knowing your character is the most important foundation of creating a magic act and the key to putting your own spin on magic classics.

3

Recently the BBC World Service made a radio documentary following your journey to perform at The Magic Castle - and in particular a brand new effect you

were working on. It was interesting to hear your progress, working on something new. Is there a set path you take when creating new concepts and adding them to your show?

ROMANY - If you listen to the program, which has 75 million listeners worldwide, you'll hear that there isn't a set process, I do at all. Instead it's organic, each step leads on to the next. I'll have an initial idea and try a few things. Some things work, some not. Friends jump in with opinions and ideas, some things work, some not. Onwards. You make a mirror, it's too big, you make another, it's too small. Each time you get excited that you're getting somewhere but then you get a better idea. I find the whole process fascinating and frustrating in equal measure. You can't rush things. A typical development of an idea and one that actually took place in the week before the Castle was this. A friend suggested I put a drop down banner in my opening sequence. Great! I spent twelve hours making a hand-sewn one. I was really pleased with it until someone else pointed out that although the banner is a good idea, it should have 'Romany' written on it. Oh. I ditch the hand-sewn banner and research a way to make a new one. Another friend offers to make an electronic switch so they drop down magically. Great! Do I now need different banners? Maybe. Onwards! You have

"Knowing your character is the most important foundation of creating a magic act and the key to putting your own spin on magic classics."





PHOTOS BELOW:

- 1) Performing for Prince Charles
- 2) Early days of street performing as a stilt waker
- 3) IBM Magic Champion

to be willing to move on, to abandon work you've spent time and effort on, to ditch the good in search for the best. That new opening act I did at the Castle last month is really in its initial stages, I imagine it will only be good after another year or so of development. I love doing is twenty years in the making; I only found a great new line for it last year. This is the joy and fascination of our craft, never to be satisfied and always to be seeking a better way of creating magic.

4

In your book you openly talk about seeking advice from others such as Max Maven, Jeff McBride and Eugene Burger to name a few. Many would be scared to seek out criticism of their act, or if they do and don't like what they hear they throw it all away - What advice or tips do you have for those who want to seek out advice as far as who to ask, how much to take in, and how much influence do they have? I notice you also seek advice from non-magicians which I have always felt very vital.

ROMANY - Yes, I've sought out professional direction from day one. McBride, Bob Fitch, Joanie Spina, Bob Percy, Max and others. Over the years, I've learned it's important to be selective in what advice to follow. You have to find the people that really see YOU, who help you amplify who you are and what you are seeking to create with your magic and performance. Many magicians spend a lot of money on tricks but are reluctant to hire a director. I'd say a director is essential to help you get to where you'd like your magic to be. I'm lucky to be able to spend my own money on direction, but when I look back, every dollar spent was super worth it. My dream now is to create a real full evening show working with a top director. Forget diamonds and fast cars, that would be my idea of wealth and fun.

5

You are a female in a male-dominated world. I've always had the impression, myself, that a magician is a magician, neither female or male. How hard, or easy, has it been to fit into this business and does gender even come in to play as a magician?

ROMANY - I agree. A magician is a magician regardless of gender. We're not athletes, men and women magi have the same potential. It's annoying that people compare female magicians against each other rather than against all magicians. Magicians are artists not sprinters. I want to create the best magic I can and I want to see my magic friends doing the same. Your luck depends on your ability in the long run, if you have a good act, you'll get booked. As



to how hard or easy it was to fit in, in my case, that didn't depend on anyone other than me. I was the one who either slowed down or sabotaged my progress or got anywhere depending on my own thinking and behavior.

6

Your book is filled with amazing stories showing that you are a person who is extremely dedicated to the craft. Can you share the story about the time you slept in the car at FISM in Dresden. The only reason I ask is that I was at the convention and chances are we probably met or I probably walked past you asleep in the car.

ROMANY - (excerpt from book) To my huge excitement, I discovered that that summer FISM was being held in Dresden, Germany. I asked if I could work as an interpreter in return for a free pass. My French and Italian were adequate, although my German was still basic. Someone agreed and I drove down. I didn't have enough money for a hotel, so I slept in my car, parked on the double yellow lines outside the convention centre, my glove compartment full of screwed-up parking tickets. I took a shower at the local swimming pool and cleaned my teeth in McDonald's.

At the convention, the organisers gave me and the rest of the support team a name tag, a blue waistcoat and a specific duty. My job was to stand outside the lecture rooms, keep an eye on the queue, then open the doors to let the magicians in at the right time, but as soon as I opened the doors, I ripped off my blue waistcoat and raced to sit gleefully in the middle seat of the front row.

I was a sponge, fresh to this fascinating world of stage magic, greedily drinking it all in. The best magicians in the world were there: Cellini, John Carney, David Williamson, Eugene Burger. Each had a nugget of gold to share. David Williamson, a giant comic genius, said something so important I've never forgotten it. "Imagine if Michael Jackson or Meryl Streep were to perform just one trick. Imagine how they would polish it to the limit of its possibility. Take one trick. Make it your greatest gift to the audience. Then, and only then, are you ready to perform."

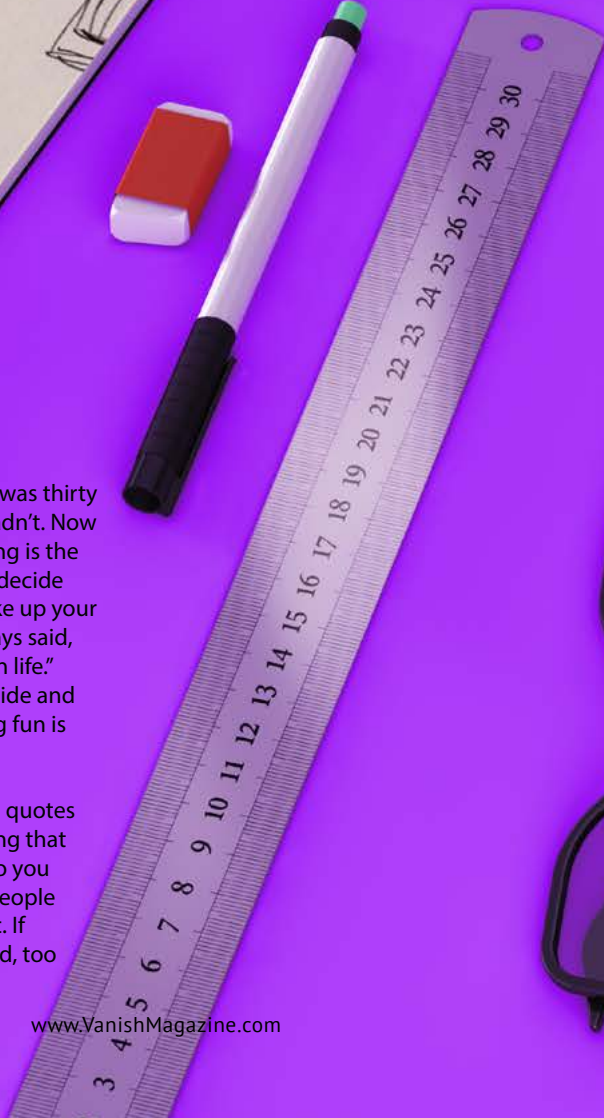
So yes, I slept in my car. It wasn't a big car but I put the front seat down. I was parked right outside the convention centre. One night a magician kindly said that he wasn't using his hotel room (maybe he had got lucky somewhere else!). He gave me his room key but I got the room number wrong and couldn't get in so I laid down in the corridor to sleep. The trouble was that everyone else coming in later thought I was dead, screamed and woke me up. At the next FISM in Holland, I still couldn't afford a hotel, so I camped in a tent at a local campsite and biked in and out. On the way in one day, the heavens opened. When I arrived I was so drenched that I literally had to wring my clothes out in the restrooms. I rejoined the thousands of magicians thinking to myself that not one of them could magic me up some dry clothes. When I expressed as much to a strange looking man dressed in black with eye-liner and a widow's peak hair-do, he smiled, vanished and re-appeared with a steaming cup of coffee. "But I can bring you this." He said. Max Maven of course. If you want to know what happened next, ha! you can read the book!

7

There will be younger readers out there, both female and male, who are possibly at the position you were at in their late teens early 20s. If you could look back and give yourself advice as a young 20 years old what would it be?

ROMANY - I would say, don't be in such a hurry! You're not here to 'get it done'. Nothing is really that important. Now I like to think of life as a game. Winning doesn't matter, what is 'winning' anyway? I





bad. If people misunderstand what you've created, don't sweat it. And what if people absolutely hate what you've created? What if people attack you with savage vitriol, and insult your intelligence, and malign your motives, and drag your good name through the mud? Just smile sweetly and suggest - as politely as you possibly can - that they go make their own fucking art. Then stubbornly continue making yours." I love that!



Your book is also about a personal struggle. We don't have to go into it here because you are very open and honest about it in your book, and it is something you still have to work through today. You opened up my eyes



thought I had to 'make it' before I was thirty and often beat myself up that I hadn't. Now I'm older I've realized the best thing is the journey not the arrival. Plus, YOU decide how you'd like your life to be. Make up your own rules! As Eugene Burger always said, "You are the magician of your own life." What do YOU want to create? Decide and do it. Lighten up, have fun! Having fun is the best way to get stuff done.


Oh and here's one of my favourite quotes again from Liz Gilbert. "Recognizing that people's reactions don't belong to you is the only sane way to create. If people enjoy what you've created, terrific. If people ignore what you've created, too

to what you go through and I feel many people suffer from something. Often we don't share our struggles because we feel people don't want to know or care. The power of your book is not ONLY that it is a great read for magicians but also very inspiring and you showed how it affects you personally. If you could reach out to somebody who needs help or is looking for help with something they suffer from what would it be?

ROMANY - The Buddhists say, "Life is suffering." It's true. Life isn't fair, we get ill, people we love die. Everyone has their personal struggles. The thing that helped and still helps me most is the philosophy to reach for a slightly better thought and a better feeling. Not a drastically better thought; you can't get to happy from unhappy, it's too big of a jump. But if you're struggling, you can look about you for something to admire or be grateful for. Maybe because it's a nice sunny day. Maybe just because you have shoes. You can blink! Something, anything. The practice of being grateful is the most profound and life changing habit I've found



and the biggest thing that has changed my life for the better. Little steps of deliberately practicing gratitude consistently is the best advice I would give anyone. I could say more but there is information in books and on the internet that will explain it better. Google 'gratitude', work on finding what makes you happy, concentrate on that, make that your work.



BOB FITCH has helped
many stars fine tune
their performances.
ROMANY has worked
closely with Bob to help
her reach her dreams.

BOB FITCH

In last month's issue of Vanish, Romany said some very nice things about my work coaching her performance act. For that I am very grateful. She is a gifted, gracious and very talented performer. In my Performance Workshops I stress that "One must be ALIVE. If you FEEL it and PRESENT it, then the audience will FEEL it and FEED it back to you. Its the inseparable give and take bond between the audience and the performer. You must experience it BEFORE the audience can experience it. Make them SEE it. Does it EXCITE you? Don't explain...take them there." Why do I say this? Because Romany does this 100% of the time. See her in action and you will know what I'm talking about.

What does one say after seeing a ROMANY show? ... CAPTIVATED? You bet! SMITTEN? Without a doubt!....ASTONISHED? Yes...and fooled too! ENTERTAINED? You have to ask? YES, And? ENCHANTED!..... WHY? Because she took me someplace! Like Alice in Wonderland, she took me to this secret place where, let's say, my secret adult child could be free to laugh and play.

She shared something special with me (and the obvious extension...her audience)...i.e. her DREAMS. She seemed to be totally fancy free and very simply created a special and very private place where one's own heart ...can SING. This is a very rare experience place in the theatre where so many exhibit a self-consciousness that

detracts from the story or feeling that's meant to be created. Its the essence of art.

So working with her seemed effortless. She had a strong desire; a wish to always be better...to improve her act and her material...to discover her deeper self...to make better magic...and she did it all with boundless energy. She was unafraid to step up to the next rung; certainly not afraid of failure. because as we both believe... There's no such thing as failure because its really ...discovery! And with her unfailing memory for detail, she truly displayed an amazing life force.

My job seemed easy. I felt that I helped to strengthen and showcase other aspects of her character, i.e. her humor, her serious side, her interests, her concerns, her humanity. In short, a very real Romany. So you don't just watch her, you are captivated by her, i.e her energy, her character, her enthusiasm and her freedom of expression. I think one feels a bit of envy, because it all seems so easy for her to do. Unseen perhaps is a very keen mind that knows what works for her.

If I could bottle that and give it to everyone I work with, I would. And to think....that she does this...as a woman! In this profession which has always been dominated by men is truly ground breaking. Because it meant surviving the put downs, the sexist comments, the dismissals, the closed minds...

about women in magic! The SECRET? She doesn't just do Magic...she does Theater (which increases the dramatic impact of Magic!)

In reading her book, *SPUN INTO GOLD*, which you must read and gift to any young woman who wants to do magic or frankly, any endeavor that requires patience, hard work, failures and a very deep need to succeed. Romany's dreams, prayers and deep faith have enabled and sustained her in this difficult endeavor. As she says, "Always believe that something WONDERFUL is just about to happen." (A quote she got from a TED talk by Elizabeth Gilbert entitled "Big Magic").

I personally have always felt that when we do the best that's in us, we've expressed something spiritual, i.e. "the love within us will shine". Or its "creative living past fear!" If we all want to reach that higher rung, we have to leave the lower rung we've been standing on for so many years. Its a perfect metaphor for someone who's achieved that...namely ROMANY!

Without that spirit, she could not have won the IBM Stage Award - the Magic Circle Stage Magician of the Year Award, the Las Vegas World Magic Seminar Award (Siegfried & Roy), performance for Penn & Teller's "Fool Us", Star on World Cruise Lines. I wish her even more happiness and success. And.....you have to see her!



I personally have always felt that when we
do the best that's in us, we've expressed
something spiritual, i.e. "the love within us
will shine".
BOB FITCH





ROMANY ... WOW

BY HAL MEYERS

aka DAMEON

I've known of Romany - The Diva of Magic - for about five years now, and have magically communicated with her on a regular basis for the last two. And yet, we've never met face to face. She resides on the other side of the "pond" - however, geographically I am probably closer to her than most other folks in the USA ... currently living in Maine.

... when I first laid eyes on Romany I was floored. Her appearance is stunning - her gloriously bright pink corseted costume, her incredible smile, perfectly coiffed hair, beautiful wide eyes, impeccable make-up, perfect figure and I must add ... gorgeous legs! All of which she has transformed into an amazing on-stage character.

... she is charmingly funny with a titillating seductive comedic wit that catches you by surprise and causes au-



diences to burst out laughing throughout her performance.

... and to top it all off, her magic is tremendous to say the least, moments of pure draw dropping wonderment. Which, and I know for a fact, Romany researches, creates, discusses, builds, writes, re-writes and then endlessly rehearses to the nth degree. The effortless timing and flawless presentation you see only come from her countless hours rehearsing until the presentation feels right, then performed and tweaked over and over until the routine is Romany-ized to perfection.

... I encouraged her to contact and work with Bob Fitch (last months *VANISH* cover), something we discussed as one of her things to do in the near future. Without further hesitation she contacted Bob and booked a one-on-one multi-day session in Canada. Romany came away from the Fitch experience thoroughly excited, delighted and eager to enhance and take her performances to another level.

... she is relentless in pursuit of her goals.

One recently completed is her terrific book "*Spun into Gold*." We discussed it numerous times as she was writing. I had the privilege of seeing advanced versions, reading a chapter or two before the next iteration happened, usually over night. Romany is meticulous and spared no expense to reach her publishing goal seeking out and hiring whomever it took to assist her to create the best product possible. I highly recommend her book. You will be astounded, delighted, moved, enchanted and mesmerized by her journey.

... Romany is the complete package, talented, vivacious, incredibly clever ... someone who knows herself and what she wants to accomplish. Even with all her recent attention/success she remains extremely humble, thoughtful, kind and understanding.

... I am totally enamored with Romany, and yet, we've never met face to face.

... wow, Romany!



Get BIGGER Dreams

BY ROMANY
DIVA OF MAGIC

Top Tip! When you answer these question, preface your answer with 'Wouldn't it be great if...' This prevents your inner cynic from grumpily stomping his/her feet and pre-empting this exercise with pessimism and doubt!

- What would you do if you knew you could not fail?
- What would your show look like if you could do everything you can imagine without limitations?
- What audience would you love to have? Which type of theatre/ audience: huge, tiny, touring or street would you prefer?
- What would you like critics to say about you and your magic?
- What companions and environment would you like to be surrounded by?
- What is your greatest idea of the best fun ever?
- If someone waved a magic wand and transformed your life into 'Amazing & Joyful & Satisfying', what would it look like? Be specific!
- If you could give back to the world in the most effective and fun way you could, what would that look like?

For example... (and note that it's a good idea to put your dreams in the present tense!) Mine might be: Wouldn't it be amazing if my book got on best-seller lists all over the world, inspiring people to dream again and have courage! Wouldn't it be amazing to work with a brilliant and fun director to shape my show into a wonderful, popular theatrical night on Broadway! Wouldn't it be brilliant if Walkabout (husband) and Bongo (dog) are with me having a great time doing their thing too! Wouldn't it be cool if we live in or near a wonderful Buddhist centre and Bongo has great places to walk and swim. Wouldn't it be wonderful that I adore performing my show, it's funny and inspiring and beautiful. I have great fun audiences and enjoy meeting them afterwards. Walkabout and I have lots of fantastic friends and places to go dancing and enjoy great vegan food. I have a hilarious hunky personal trainer that I love running and training with. Wouldn't it be brilliant if I did a great TED talk that really helps people! I love working as a speaker and perform my show for conferences too. Wouldn't it be great to be really slim, fit, healthy and full of energy, etc. etc.

You get the idea! Find the key words that you prefer, mine are Fun & Easy! The more often you do an exercise like this, the more you will discover what you'd really like to create. Maybe you won't manifest all of it, but you can take the essence and weave that into your life where you are right now.



MAGIC REVIEWS

PAUL ROMHANY & FRIENDS

Based upon top selling products from magic retailers and wholesalers, as well as consulting with over a dozen professional magicians, Paul Romhany reviews tricks, DVDs, books and Apps.

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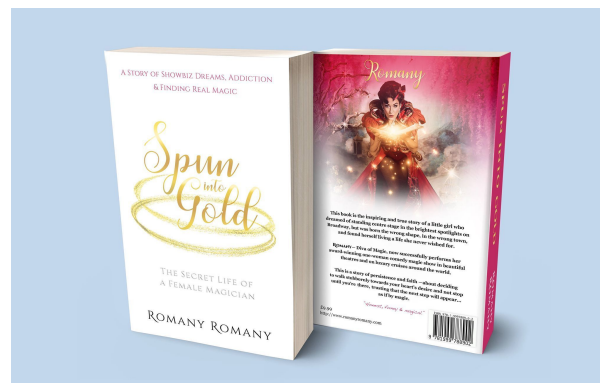
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25 years and a lot of the earlier ones are outdated. Now and then one will come along that will really inspire and show you exactly how to make a living from this business. This book does EXACTLY that. One of the most important parts of this book is talking about how to get a six figure income. Now, what makes THIS such a great book is that Richy lives in a small town - not a large city and his fees are probably far more than any magician in the big city I live of Vancouver. There are a lot of magicians in this city I live that need to read this book because they are all missing. He decided it was time to charge more and he stuck to it. I always find it funny when I get an email from local magicians saying there is a gig available for a few hundred dollars and I should take it - because what else am I doing on a Wednesday night. This type of attitude will always keep you in the lower fee bracket. This theory will always backfire on you and always keep you in the lower bracket of show business. In his book Richy shares his opinions (which are proven and work) on how to get the higher paid gigs. Take yourself out of the \$1500 magician range and put yourself into the \$3000 and higher price range. He sums it up in the chapter on Understanding Our Value. Somebody once tried to impress with by saying he was getting other magicians an incredibly high fee of \$5000. I thought to myself this guy really has no idea of what a high fee is. For the amount of work involved in that gig and the travel, etc. \$5000 should be the very base fee! This is something I see many magicians don't fully understand. The value of what we offer is much more than you think, or at least if you are good enough it should be. There is a page in the book with LARGE quotes that is something you need to put on your wall ... "YOU JUST DO IT. RAISE YOUR PRICE TAG TODAY AND DON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT."

This book is filled with great chapters and Richy doesn't hold back on sharing the information he has gathered. The topics covered range from your price tag to reasons for working is, and a huge section on marketing. In this section he talks about social media, knowing your clients, creating a mailing list, publicity, advertising and even an ultimate promotional item. The final part of the book is all about sales. This is one of the most important parts and something many people, myself included, fall down in. Richy talks about how to negotiate, added value and how to close a deal. This book really does cover everything. Without a doubt one of the best books filled with advice from somebody who walks the walk.



10 SPUN INTO GOLD BY ROMANY



PRICE: \$14.95 Paperback

KINDLE: \$6.95

AVAILABLE: www.amazon.com

Romany, a chubby child and overweight teenager dreamed of standing in the brightest spotlight on Broadway but ended up living a life she never wished for - selling telephones. Her true story takes you behind the curtain, spilling the secrets of how she became a magician, plus revealing her secret rollercoaster ride caught on the paralyzing barb of cruel and persistent eating disorder while reaching, always, towards a dream of Light. Now Romany - Diva of Magic is one of the world's favourite magicians and tours internationally with her one-woman comedy magic show.

Her true story is about magic: stage magic, real magick, and whatever other sort of magic you fancy. It contains dreams of theatre, meddling angels, love and marriage, heartbreak and divorce, a swirling sacred fire, extraordinary cosmic adventures, a helpful ancient-Egyptian Goddess, and handy detailed instructions on how to manifest the man (or woman) of your dreams.

This book is about keeping hold of your vision for as long as it makes you shiver with excitement any time you come close. It's a story to convince you to ignore anyone who says "you can't," to ignore the even louder voices in your head that tell you in a million nasty ways that you're never going to be or do what you've always dreamed of.

This book is about deciding that you're going to walk stubbornly towards your heart's desire and not stop until you're there. Where?

There.

Then deciding that same thing over and over again, damn it, until it's done. Or you are. Hopefully it. My story is about trusting that the next step will appear. Yes, as if by magic.

And why draw the curtain aside just now? In magic, timing is everything. It's time to share what I've learnt in the hope that it will help someone, somehow. That's what my heart wants.

There is nothing more important in the world.

MY THOUGHTS:

As professional magicians we all struggle to achieve our dreams, and nothing comes easy. This book is a journey and testament to Romany's dedication and belief in herself and always holding on to dreams. There are times when she might have thrown the towel in and move on to other endeavors, especially when she reveals

her personal struggle. It takes a very special person who can open up and share their story with others knowing that somewhere out there are people who can relate and realize they aren't going through something by themselves.

This book is a fascination page turner that is an easy read but is very emotional. There were times during the book that left me crying and times I was laughing. Filled with stories of her journey from a young girl with a dream to somebody who was invited to perform for Prince Charles and now works on the most luxurious cruise ships on the seven seas. This book could easily be enjoyed by non-magicians as much as magicians and in some way there are things in there we could all relate to.

I love her style of writing. She has a natural flair about her, which I imagine comes out in the character she portrays on stage. I would love to hear an audio version of this as well because I think it would be very powerful. She knows how to draw the reader in and keep them hanging on to see how her life panned out so far. There is a humorous style about her writing that makes this an easy read. This is a very honest, funny and magical read. I love this line from the book, "From six-years old, running along the garden path, whispering *I want to be a fairy, I want to be a fairy*, to this moment, right here, right now, I've believed - *I believe* - in magic." It sums up the book about a young child's dream and where she is now years later. This book is about having faith that the pieces will fall into their perfect place. And throughout the book things do fall in to place, and some pieces certainly go a little wonky.

I would recommend this book to every young magician out there, as well as any old magician, but it's a great example of the real world of what being a professional performer is all about. To top it off, she is a female in a very male dominated business, and it's a real insight in to what females go through. Throughout the book there are great examples of 'names' you will recognise that have helped guide her career and when you magic heroes turn out to be really nice people then it makes you feel good.

There is a passage in the book which answers a question many people ask, 'why are there so few female magicians?' Her answer pretty much knocks the nail on the head when she says, "A female magician needs to have the *chutzpa*, guts and tenacity to create an original act and then walk into a new environment over and over to face a fresh audience each time." Romany has all of the above and more! She finished the chapter by saying, "*You can have anything you want but you can't have everything.*" This book is filled with wisdom and gems just waiting to be discovered by young minds who are about to start their own journey. For us older minds it makes us think about what we went through and feel that everybody has a struggle of some kind. It's how we deal and cope with that struggle that defines us.

The book is beautifully laid out and is 287 pages long. You'll want to sit back with this one and just enjoy the ride. Be prepared to have your 'do not disturb' sign out because you won't want to put it down.



11 CODE OF SILENCE BY GARY KURTZ

Reviewed by Nick Lewin

Video Download. (\$5.00)

The Vault Series by Murphy's Magic.

Code of Silence allows for some interesting transfers of information between a magician and the 'in the know,' helper of his choosing. It is broken into two parts with the first involving playing cards while the second segment codes a specific series of numbers. The first segment seemed to me to cover the territory nicely and fit within the parameters of "teach to a friend, or the CEO of a company in minutes" that are used to describe the effect. If you want to "let that special someone in your life shine," I would suggest it might be advisable to take more than just a few minutes teaching the techniques involved in the second segment or that "special person" might just fall flat on their face! That said, I do think that even the simple first segment is worth the price of this download and fully achieves the stated goals.

This release is an interesting example of the strengths and weakness of the current predominance of video downloads as the preferred method of learning by an ever-increasing majority of the more youthful magicians. This video takes a very specific magical 'problem' and for just five dollars provides a simple 'answer' for that particular scenario. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that transaction and if you are interested in that particular information it may be exactly what you want and concisely delivered in a minimal time. However it is the kind of information that has been contained in just a couple of pages of some of the books that Gary sites in his video. You might well have found a treasury of information in the rest of that book. The bottom line is that if you are interested in performing what this 14 minute download focuses on, for about the price of a latte, you will have more food for thought than the biscotti that you would probably have bought to accompany your frothy coffee.