

64. Oakville's Teen-Age Magician

. . . WAS NONE OTHER than Doug Henning, just in case you did not recognize him without his curly locks and mustache. Doug and I met at the S.E.A.M. Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee in the summer of 1965, and he showed me this flyer he had made up at the time. He was only 18 years old, yet look at the publicity he had already generated. How? Simple: He got out and got busy and got stories written about himself! He worked at it, the business side as well as the magic. But let's turn the page. . . .

65. Oakville Youth Works Magic

HERE IS OUR boy wonder again, this time floating his sister on the roof of an apartment complex. Great publicity shot, reflecting what I said about the good old Super X in the last chapter. This article appeared after Doug and I returned from our partly famous trip to Europe in 1966. On the humorous side, Doug noted with a line and question mark the fact that the writer accidentally called him "Peter" near the end of the article. Well, Doug, at least they didn't call you "Gin."

66. Doug Henning: Omaha World-Herald

THIRTEEN YEARS LATER Doug is still up to his tricks, but no boa constrictors or Super X's this time. In this 1979 review of his show at the Orpheum in Omaha, he got a glowing review by staff writer Peter Citron. Notice what the writer points out in the second paragraph: "What separates Henning from a passel of hand-up-the-sleeve artists is his showmanship." The writer hardly talks about the illusions or the beautiful girl assistants; instead, his emphasis in the review was on Henning's personal impact on the audience!

Another point of interest: notice how well the needle through balloon trick comes off as an action publicity photo. One picture tells it all!

Oakville's Teen-Age Magician Has Mastered Remarkable Skills

Hendoo, Magician Makes 7 Become 6

Magician, wizard, necromancer, conjuror, call him what you wish, Douglas Henning is an entertainer par excellence with the aplomb of a professional (which he is) and composure that belies his seventeen years.

We had occasion to talk with young Mr. Henning before his CBC-TV show last Thursday when he performed in the children's program "Razzle-Dazzle." He razzle-dazzled this reporter with some card tricks, a small sample of his complete bag, which a week later are still making me chuckle, and will always be mystifying.

Doug Henning, a grade 12 student at Oakville Trafalgar high school, and the only magician in Oakville, has been practising sleight-of-hand for seven years. He started when he received a "box of tricks" for his tenth birthday: since then he has learned mainly from books, he says.

Now a professional, although not allowing it to interfere with his school studies, he worked in Barbados hotels and nightclubs for five weeks last summer, no mean accomplishment for a young man.

Two years ago Doug Henning worked with Mark Wilson, who has a world-wide reputation in the profession in his "Magic Land of Alakazam" on US television, at the Canadian National Exhibition. Doug says that Mark Wilson has

been a great influence in his work. (To page 4)



Henning

(From page 1)

Last year Doug attended the four-day convention of the International Brotherhood of Magicians in New York. This was four days of "jam sessions" with leading conjurors from Russia, Japan, the UK, continental Europe and the Americas, and was one of his most thrilling experiences.

Doug is a member of IBM (not to be confused with computers, but equally as mystifying, and in some respects more so). Entry into such an august body is not easy, but Oakville's magician secured the necessary two sponsors. He is also a member of the Hat and Rabbit Club of Toronto, a local branch of the IBM.

As if this were not enough, Doug is editor of "Zombie," the teenage section of the magazine, "Hade-E-Gram," the only magic publication in Canada, published in Calgary.

Doug Henning performs under the professional name of "Hendoo," and performs for children's parties, scouts and cubs banquets and the like - he is good enough for any adult audience. He hopes to be a full-time professional when he has finished his education, and he plans to

study science at either Toronto or McMaster University.

Hendoo's repertoire includes fire-eating, juggling, a mind-reading act - and driving blindfold! - as well as a bagful of card manipulating.

In the last-mentioned category Doug Henning can shuffle a deck of cards with one hand, make a deck sail singly through the air from one hand to the other, and make cards perform boomerang trajectories in the air.

One trick that Doug performed completely mystified this writer. I was asked to pick a card from the deck, note its suit and number and replace it. The deck was then shuffled and I told to cut the deck in three. From the bottom of each pile Hendoo took the last card and placed them side by side. He then shuffled the deck, announcing that the card I picked was not one of the three singles. This I knew to be incorrect because I had seen the three cards and the seven of Diamonds was the third.

He then produced a card from the deck saying that it was the one I had selected. Turning it up it was my card - the seven of Diamonds - and the third card on the table was the six of Clubs! I was there! I saw it with my own eyes! Or did I? That is the secret of Doug Henning's magic.

TORONTO TELEGRAM

SAYS . . .

A TUXEDO-CLAD teenager waves a silk-wrapped bamboo stick in the air. It quivers and suddenly transforms into a four-foot Boa Constrictor named Shadoo.



OAKVILLE BEAVER

SAYS . . .

Last year he created a sensation in Barbados, where he performed at a number of night clubs.



BARBADOS ADVOCATE

SAYS . . .

There is a teenager in Barbados who is delirious with every audience that sees him. He is 17 year-old Doug Henning, here on an excursion from Canada.



BARBADOS NEWS

SAYS . . .

Henning, who received class honours last year, practices magic with the precision of a professional magician. His sleight-of-hand tricks and his ability to notice are indeed flawless.



HOTEL ROYAL On Sea
TONIGHT
DANCE

to the music of
THE TROPICAL ISLANDERS

Extra: Attraction:—

First appearance in Barbados of

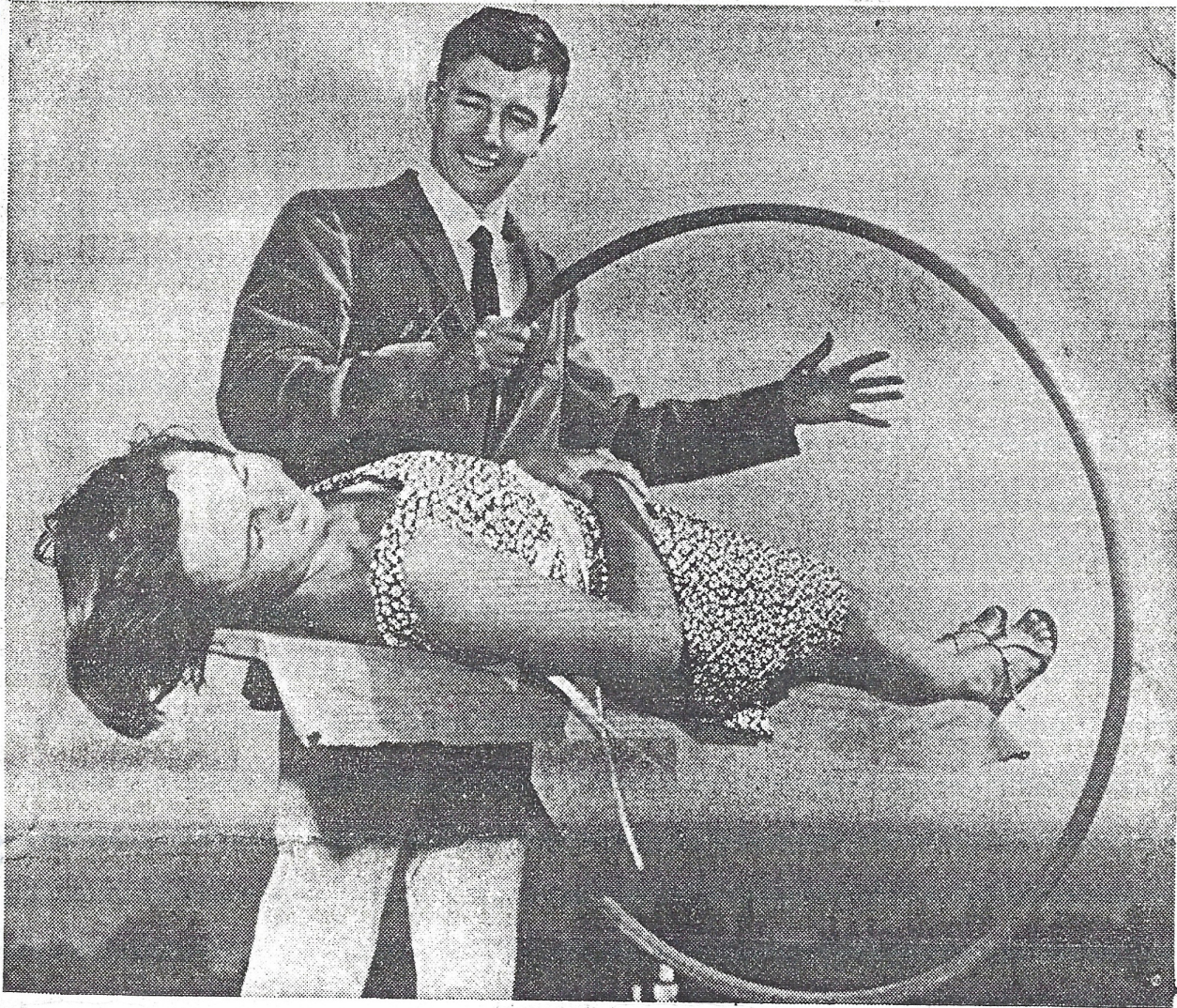
"HENDOO" (Magician)

Sandy Lane
HOTEL

BARBADOS

Tonight
Special \$6.00 Summer Dinner
and DANCE to
KEITH CAMPBELL'S
Sextet RICHARD MASSIAH'S
Steelband

OAKVILLE JOURNAL



OAKVILLE MAGICIAN DOUG HENNING APPEARED AT CNE PREVIEW
 Demonstrates Levitation trick on apartment roof top

Oakville Youth Works Magic

By ROY HAYNES
 Journal - Record Staff

OAKVILLE — Housewife Mrs. C. R. Henning doesn't say much about it — but her 19 - year - old son, Doug has two boa constrictors in the basement of their Brentwood Road home.

Doug uses one of the constrictors — 4 foot snake called Shandu — in his act. He is a part time magician.

Doug appeared before a special Canadian National Exhibi-

tion preview show at the Government of Ontario stand Thursday. Principal guest was Premier Robarts of Ontario.

Doug was selected from more than 100 other Ontario students who took part in school concerts last year.

He has just returned from a trip to Europe where he met many magicians who were prepared to share their secrets with him.

Doug says he likes spectacular tricks and at Thursday show

he will try levitation.

Doug has appeared on coast-to-coast television twice.

"Doug has been mad about magic since he was given a box of magic tricks when he was a little boy."

He is a member of the Hat and Rabbit club of Toronto.

After tomorrow's show Peter? will also perform in the ordinary shows of talented students put on by the Ontario department of education and the Government of Ontario building.

Poof! Magician Henning's Tricks Spring to Life

By Peter Citron

World-Herald Staff Writer

There were many old tricks at the Orpheum Monday night, but Doug Henning turned them into brand new dogs for a stupefied crowd of 2,521 for the first of his three nights in the theater.

What separates Henning from a passel of hand-up-the-sleeve artists is his showmanship.

The puckish, young magician has his tricks and show choreographed, giving the illusion that it's much bigger than it is as he seemingly disembodies a

Review

woman, levitates another, gets his audience involved in the shenanigans, to the point three different persons pick the three numbers enveloped on a chalk board.

At the center is Henning, bouncing boyishly through card tricks, needling a balloon that won't burst, changing places inside a locked trunk with an assistant.

The mustachioed marvel with shoulder-length hair pulls a big cat from his hat, floats handkerchiefs and stainless steel balls through the air and plays the audience as if it was his personal Stradivarius, and he's got it perfectly tuned.

Besides, Henning has done his homework. His sands of time illusion that he has used on TV no longer is Egyptian. It uses water from our own Muddy



Henning needles balloon . . . that won't break.

World-Herald

Mo and sands from Merritt Beach.

If you saw Blackstone Jr. at the Orpheum a few months back, you saw more lavish illusions, but Henning's timing and packaging are much better.

The spontaneous standing ovation was proof positive in a show that seemed equally enjoyed by man, woman and child.

I don't even think the audience was aware that his music was canned.

Henning's banter was as dis-

arming as his trickery, as he led his audience by the nose through his fun and games.

The whole was as slick as a Cape Cod raincoat, and even illusions some more jaundiced members of the audience may have seen before were pulled off with the finesse of a professional pickpocket.

Opening the show for Henning is a talented quick-change artist, Michael McGiveney, who unbelievably skipped from costume to costume, role to role in split-second timing.

His Western saloon skit may have been more hoke than substance, but the tykes with me wouldn't believe it was the same man playing the half-dozen roles.

McGiveney is a second-generation quick-change artist. Quick-change is a dying craft.

His father and mentor, Owen, last played the Orpheum in 1915.

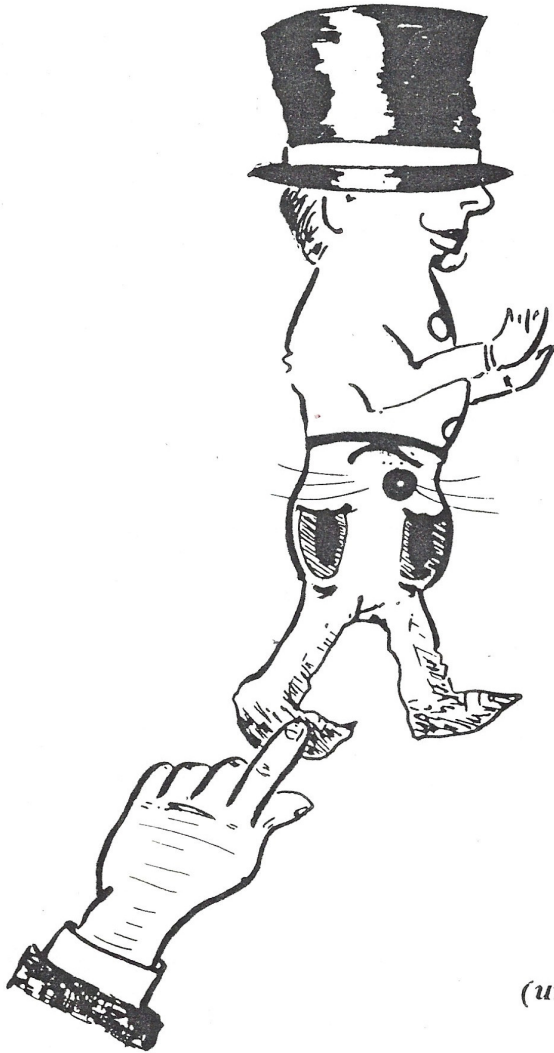
Henning's show will continue nightly through Wednesday and is highly recommended for its fun and sheer exuberance.

Here is an early Doug Henning flyer he gave me in two pages.

You turn the flyer upside down to reads Doug's contact information.

Don't Be In The Dark

Concerning Entertainment



ANY FESTIVE OCCASION

OR

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

BANQUETS

FOR

OAKVILLE ONTARIO

48 Brentwood Road

Phone: 845-8963

DOUG HENNING

(Oakville's Own Magician)

“HENDOO”

Hire A Magician?...

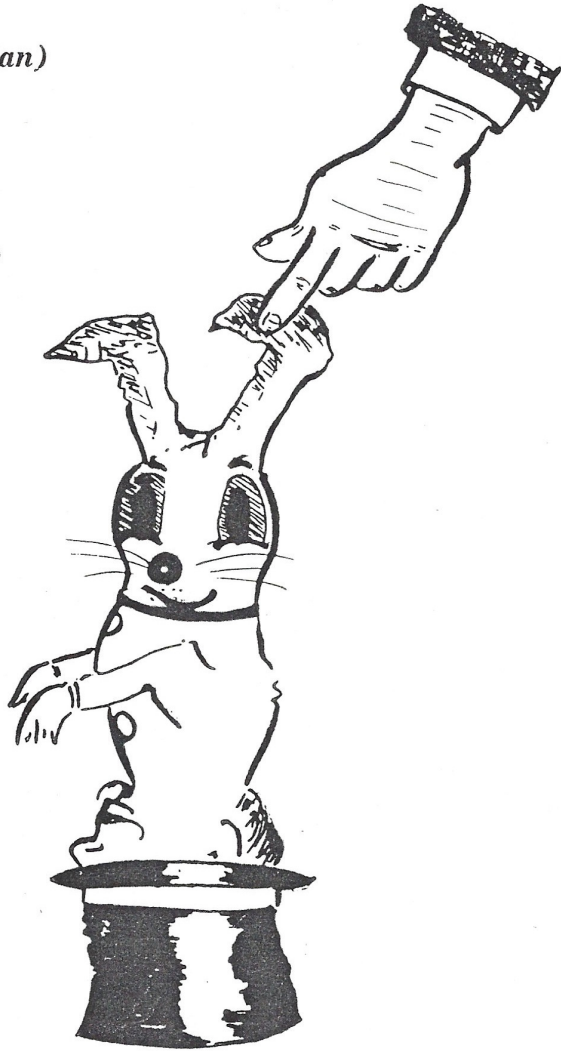
Hire A Magician!...

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