

# The Magnificent

By Paul Embury

# Magical Micheal



Held captive by wonder, and enchanted by illusion, everyone enjoys the thrill of the unknown. Every one of us at some point in our lives, have seen something that still to this day, we cannot explain. Maybe it was in your youth, perhaps on a cruise ship, or while being dazzled by a Vegas stage show containing a white tiger side kick, later to be deemed homicidal, but no matter where or on what scale, we've all asked ourselves a similar question along the lines of "How did that rabbit breathe in there?" The frightening reality is, as we get older and "Mature", those moments of awe are too quickly replaced with less inspiring statements such as "I'll bet that hat stinks." At that point all we can do is hope that something comes along, forcing us back up that tree, allowing ourselves to be amazed again. Over the past few years, that is exactly, what has been happening all over Vancouver Island. One magician has been turning more heads, opening more eyes, and creating a buzz that has renewed outside interest into the world of magic here on the Rock. Unfortunately most of us "Mature" adults miss the shows because we are usually out way, way past this magicians' bedtime.

At five years old, Micheal Machek first started out his career by stunning his family with his disappearing grape trick, where he would display the grape, put it in his mouth, and make it disappear. He's been on a pretty steep learning curve since then. Starting out with tricks involving dice and sponge balls, Magical Micheal was quickly drawing audiences while performing at local birthday parties, as well as his own. What quickly set him aside and demanded his parents serious consideration, was not only his skilled slight of hand and professional manner at such a young age, but also his complete lack of stage fright. At seven years of age, Micheal was performing flawlessly for entire schools, including his own scholarly body of peers while being taped by Chek TV without the slightest hint of hesitation. This was also the year, that his show acquired its most valuable family of tricks. With stern vigilance, Micheal informed his parents that he needed doves. After meeting with a retiring cruise ship magician, the Machek family struck a deal for the birds, on the condition that they took all four. Six months later, after a few closed cage sessions, two new eggs were produced, who were aptly named what else? Abra and Cadabra, the doves you can currently see Micheal produce from, and vanish back into some unknown dimension. If only they could talk, the stories they'd tell. Now to top of this amazing year would be tough for most, but not for one Magical Micheal. As if by some mystical manifestation, the universe provided the magician the opportunity not only to meet, but also sit down with one on one with his greatest inspiration and influence, David Copperfield. Seven, was definitely a lucky year for this young sage.

With constant reinforcement and inspiration, the Magnificent Magical Micheal persistently continued to polish his craft, and for his much deserved dedication, he was awarded the chance to perform for his largest audience to date. On July 16th of 2005, Micheal was among ten professional magicians chosen to perform in Parkville's Battle of the Wizards. In front of 650 spectators, and at the age of eleven, he placed second only to the professional duo of Que Bola Magic. Combining his cat like timing with well-placed humor, Micheal left the stage leaving the strongest, and longest lasting impression on the crowd, who talked at greater lengths about his act, than that of the victors. Along with some prize money, Michaels second place standing also won him an automatic entry into next year's competition, to be held in July 2006.

Just this past November, Micheal added his greatest single career accomplishment to his ever-growing list of awards. Micheal won the competition for the "A Channel/Save On Foods Amazing Kid" While the event was filmed and televised, there does remain the most amazing aspect of the display of talent yet to be told. What most people don't know, is that after all was said and done, A Channels' Adam Sawatsky and his camera crew were so dazzled by Micheal's illusion in which he makes his dove cage disappear, that they sat down with their footage to try and figure it out. After an hour of dissecting it frame by frame, they gave up. This kid's good. This kid's eleven.

Micheal has already re-invested his thousand-dollar award check from the Amazing Kid competition into the hottest stock around, himself. With new and even larger scale tricks and illusions being added to his repertoire, his parents have been forced to buy storage space for their property in order to still have enough room around the house for such items as a box of toothpicks. Every inch of their lives and home are being invaded by Micheal's craft, and they couldn't be more proud. With all that has been exploding around him, Micheal has remained true to himself. He still likes to curl, he's still good at math, and he's still in sixth grade. With the complete support of Cobble Hill Elementary, Micheal has not only been allowed time off from school to perform other shows, but he has also kept on top of all of his subjects. With a humble and almost shy personality off stage, it's easy to see him as a positive role model for others, of all ages, and that is exactly what he wants to encourage. While speaking with the magician during the interview for this article, I asked him the standard, mundane question about advice he could offer for others, thinking that I'd get some pointers on slight of hand, or tips on removing dove poop from a silk scarf, but here's what he told me: "I want everyone else to realize that they can do anything they want if they put their minds to it and work hard, if I can make things happen that shouldn't, they can make things happen that should."

As for up and coming shows, you can hope to see two new elements being added down the road, levitation and ventriloquism, and with the Mirth and Magic show in May, and the Battle of the Wizards approaching for next July, you can be sure that the Magnificent Magical Micheal is already hard art work. If you'd like to learn more or to book a show, you can find a link to Magical Micheal at [www.oceanmistretreat.com](http://www.oceanmistretreat.com).



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