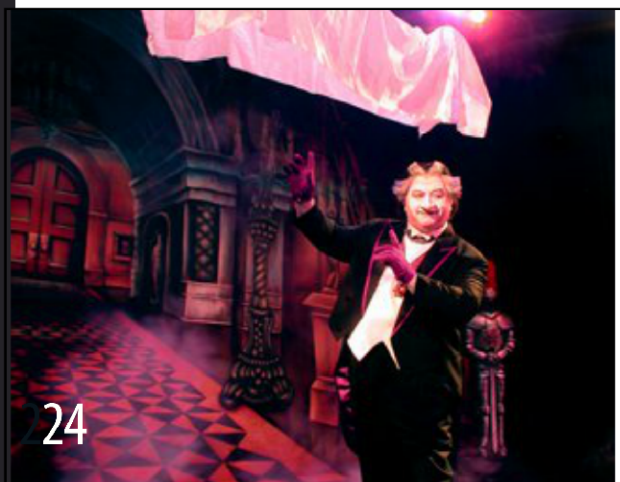


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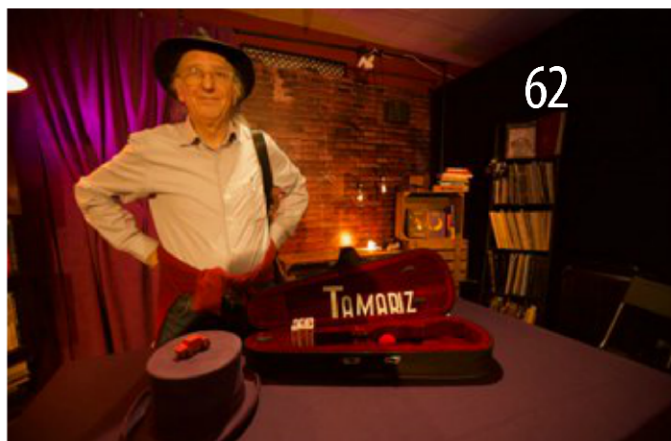
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# VANISH

International Magic Magazine

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### OUR HEARTS GO OUT ...

Our hearts go out to everybody in Las Vegas and all those from around the world who were visiting or lost somebody in this tragic event. My wife just returned from there, the night before, from her special birthday celebration, so we were thankful she was home safe and sound.

I imagine Las Vegas has more magicians or magic shows than any other place on earth, and with so many magicians in one place it really hits home that friends and family could have been victims. I will never understand the mentality of people who commit these horrendous acts. Again our thoughts go out to those effected.

I'd like to thank Hal Meyers(aka Dameon) for introducing me to the amazing character magic of John Bundy and Morgan. I've always been a huge fan of this type of work and admire anybody who can do it and do it well. Having spent the past 25 years working on my Chaplin Act I know the work required to really nail any type of character. It takes YEARS and YEARS of work ... the hardest part of this type of show is remaining in character for the full performance. Your magic skills have to be in tune because you need to really concentrate on staying in character.

John Bundy knows this better than anybody and after seeing his work I can attest to the fact he is one of the best in the world. Morgan, his on-stage partner, THE ASSISTANT, is also somebody who has an amazing story, both in and outside magic. Morgan has some extremely strong fascinating views on being an assistant and you can read these in her own story.

Recently on Social Media somebody asked the question, "Why do most magazines publish so many card tricks?" It's a fair question and something I've been cognizant not to do. I think VANISH offers the most diverse range of tricks over any other magic magazine. Sometimes it might be as many as eight effects, but I do try and balance them out keeping card tricks to a minimum. If you would like to submit any trick to VANISH please drop me an e-mail as I'm always open to what readers have to offer.

No matter where in the world you come from, or what your beliefs are, we ALL have one thing in common - our love for magic. Let's all go out and spread some magic and a little joy to a world that needs it now more than ever. Yesterday I performed a 90 minute show with several friends, it was well attended by over 400 people and raised money for a great cause. The one thing I know for sure is that doing something for others is good for the soul and is very therapeutic. Go out, spread your magic and let's bring some happiness to those who need it.



# BRIAN MILLER

# WHEN THE NAVY CALLS

Even in the bright Florida sun, I noticed my phone light up with a call just moments before it began ringing. I was livid. I had given clear instructions to my agents: Do NOT call me on my honeymoon.

*"It's okay. You can answer it,"* Lindsey said gently, only two days into marriage with a traveling entertainer.

I picked up the call, *"What?!"*

Danny, one of my agents, sounded nervous.

*"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I know you're on your honeymoon, but I'm sitting with the director of Navy Entertainment and she wants to know if you'd like to do a tour for the troops in Europe."*

Thus began my association with Navy Entertainment, a relationship that has since taken me on three tours for the American troops stationed on military bases overseas.

Before I dive into the details, I should probably introduce myself. My name is Brian Miller, 29 years old ... a professional magician. I founded my business at 16, put myself through college doing magic, and it is all I've ever done since. If you recognize my name at all it is probably from my TEDx talk, "How to Magically Connect with Anyone," which I'm proud to say has achieved global success, with 2.6 million

views on YouTube. Having developed my comedy magic act in college, I was a natural fit for the campus activities circuit. After a few years of touring colleges nationwide I began receiving requests for corporate and private events, and I now split my time between the college and corporate markets.

My first military tour was Europe, described by Danny and Navy Entertainment as a "test run," not just to find out if the bases enjoyed my shows, but also if I enjoyed the tour. I was immediately informed these tours aren't for everyone, the schedules are tight and the travel can be grueling. Furthermore, even the beautiful locations are in fact active military bases, and anything can change at a moment's notice.

Lindsey was understandably concerned about me heading overseas to military bases, and even more so when we found out the tour was only six weeks away. Still, she believed as I did that it was the right thing to do, not to mention a terrific career opportunity. It seemed like a win-win: I get to give back, in my own small way, to the men, women, and families who sacrifice so much for our country. In return I get an all expense paid trip to see Spain, Italy, and Greece, and one of the best lines for promotional materials you could ask for.

I was in.

The first hitch came before the tour even started. It was March of 2016, just weeks before the start of the tour, when I heard the news that the Brussels airport had been the site of a terrorist attack. It was an awful tragedy. As the story developed I couldn't help but wonder if it would affect

*My first military tour was Europe, described by Danny and Navy Entertainment as a "test run." ...*

the tour. I didn't have to wonder for very long. Within hours of the live news coverage, Greece had been taken off of the schedule and the tour was rerouted accordingly. It was incredible how fast Navy Entertainment reacted, and my first encounter with a fundamental truth of American military bases: civilians get to safety first.

A few weeks later I found myself being greeted by an MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) rep at the airport in Rota, Spain. I was given one night to sleep before commencing a whirlwind tour of three shows, three locations, two countries in six days. The first show was a blur. I wasn't used to performing with jet lag, having only one overseas experience prior to this tour. But there was a much larger hurdle for me.

Shortly before the tour started I

discovered I was to perform as part of the "Month of the Military Child." I called Danny in a panic.

"Am I supposed to be doing kids shows?" I asked.

"Yeah, they're just family shows with lots of kids. Easy," he responded.

"But I'm not a kids magician," I continued. "I've never done a kids show, ever. You know that."

"Just do the sponge balls. It'll be easy."

Sure, I'll just do the sponge balls ON STAGE FOR AN HOUR, I thought to myself. My preparation for the tour had not been smooth sailing, as I desperately tried to find enough material to cover kids and families for an hour.

And so I found myself giving a kid-heavy magic show to an audience of 200+ on a military base in Spain with jet lag. It went better than anticipated, all things considered.

The next two shows in Italy - Naples and Sicily respectively - went much better. I was rested and better prepared after going through the initial process. My show in Naples was



*My preparation for the tour had not been smooth sailing, as I desperately tried to find enough material to cover kids and families for an hour ...*

covered by the base's newspaper and photographer, which led to an incredible front-page headline and photo. Talk about a great promo piece!

I didn't have any days off on that first tour, but with a half day in Naples I was able to find a few hours to take a tour of Pompeii, the ancient city covered in ash by Mount Vesuvius. At one point I found myself in an amphitheater standing on the very same stage my entertainment ancestors stood on thousands of years earlier. It was a surreal moment.

That first tour was by all accounts a huge success. A few months later I was invited back overseas, this time to the Middle East and Africa. But that's a story for next time.

\*\*\*\*\*



For more information about Brian's work, visit [www.BrianMillerMagic.com](http://www.BrianMillerMagic.com)

Social media: @bmillermagic

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/brianmillermagic](http://www.youtube.com/brianmillermagic)