

## **MAGIC MUSEUM ANNOUNCES SUMMER OF MAGIC LECTURE SERIES**

The American Museum of Magic is pleased to announce the second season of its history of magic lecture series Behind the Curtain. Presented by magician, author, and magic historian, Dennis Laub, the series will tell stories and show rare artifacts related to the most unusual and interesting magicians and mystery entertainers in history. The two part series will be presented at 7 p.m. on July 21 and August 25 at the Museum's Lund Research Library located at 111 E. Mansion St. in Marshall, Michigan. Seating is limited and it's recommended that tickets be purchased in advance.



**Thursday, July 21: Magicians and Card Sharps** will explore the relationship between magicians and those who cheated at card games. These two groups often sought each other out to learn secrets of handling cards. Part of the program will focus on the mysterious S. W. Erdnase, author of *Expert at the Card Table*, an expose of card cheating methods. The book set off a quest to find the real identity of Erdnase.

Special guest for the evening will be Darren Hart. Darren is an expert card manipulator who will demonstrate many of the techniques use by chard cheats. Darren learned his craft from some the best magicians and real card cheat and hustlers. His slight of hand will amaze and baffle you.

Visitors to the museum will also be able to see Darren perform a few close-up magic tricks at the museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Darren will stroll the museum entertaining visitors and showing off his card skills.

**Thursday, August 25: Women in Boxes** The American Museum of Magic will present this award winning documentary which is the first film ever made that uncovers the story of the unsung hero behind the magician. For centuries, women assistants have been distorted, cut into pieces, stabbed, set on fire, crushed, dismembered, and restored to life without getting any of the credit. *Women is Boxes* helps set the record straight. It features interviews with many of the women who worked hard to make the magician look good.

Please note that *Women is Boxes* contains some language and a few images which may not be suitable for all audiences.

The Behind the Curtain lecture programs will provide an entertaining look at some of the little known stories of magic, as well as show off some of the rarely seen artifacts in the American Museum of Magic's collection.

All programs will be held in the Museum's Library at 111 E. Mansion Street and begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10/person and will be sold at the door, however seating is limited and it's recommended that tickets be purchased in advance, either at the Museum's admission desk or by calling (269) 781-7570.

The Behind the Curtain lecture series is being supported by a generous grant from the WKK Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. The WKK Fund is a donor advised fund underwritten by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) as part of a grant program to allow WKKF board members to designate grants commensurate with the purposes of the WKKF. Mrs. Dorothy A. Johnson, a Trustee of the WKKF, has requested that this grant be made to support the museum's educational programs.

The American Museum of Magic is open Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the months of April, May, September and October, and Tuesday through Saturday in June, July and August (Adults \$5; Seniors/Children \$3.50), or by request (269-781-7570).

The mission of the American Museum of Magic is to inspire and delight the public with the wonder of magic, as well as to document and celebrate the contributions and resilience of the magician.