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MILLENNIALS RISING MAGIC STARS OF TOMORROW

By Dakota Rose



Always a Magician Meet Matt Schick

“Sometimes happiness is a blessing, but generally it is a conquest. Each day’s magic moment helps.” *Paulo Coelho*

Real magicians perform magic everywhere they go. It is a part of them, and magic isn’t just something they do on the side. Meet sixteen-year-old, Matt Schick, who is “always” a magician. He performs magic for everyone, everywhere, and he is always hoping to make someone’s day brighter. He does not necessarily carry a bunch of “tricks” with him, but Matt has a unique way of thinking about magic. Matt says, “I wake up in the morning and think, how can I make someone’s life better today using magic?”

“I feel I share this trait with one of my biggest idols, Jeff McBride, because he too lives a daily life of a magician in a similar fashion. Whether I am in school, at a local coffee shop, or any other strange ‘venue,’ I am always performing impromptu magic with things that I find, such as coins, straws, etc. Magic enhances my life because it allows me to help make the world a better, happier place.”

This Robbinsville, New Jersey resident has enjoyed magic since he was very young. “I have always enjoyed watching magic both live, and on television. Whenever I would see a magician on the schedule at the local library or at town fairs, I would beg my parents to take me to see the show. I grew up watching Brad

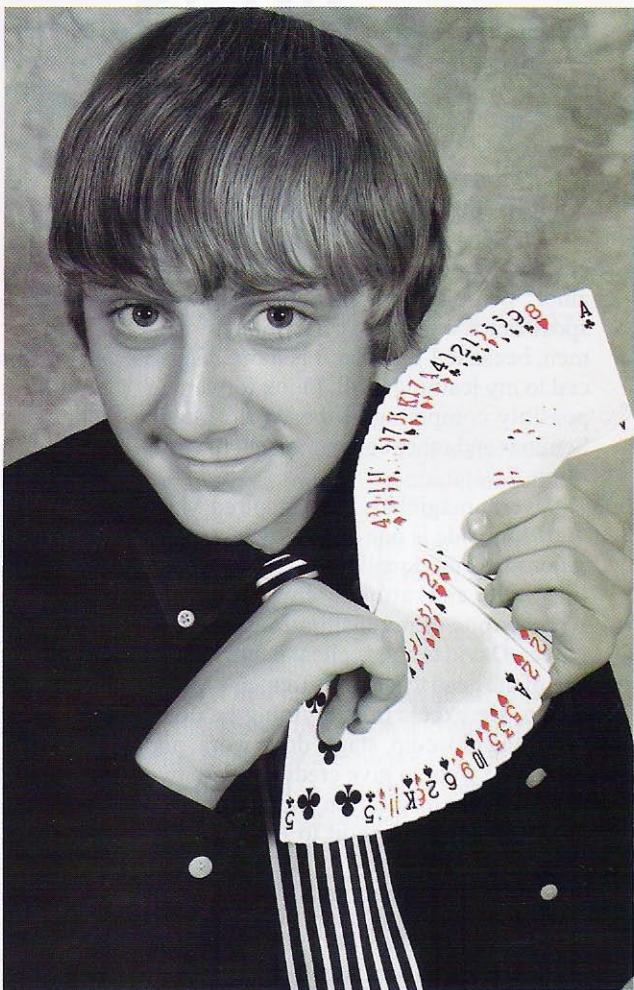
Ross perform his illusion show ‘The World of Magic’ at Six Flags, in Jackson, New Jersey. My family would buy me magic kits on special occasions, such as Hanukkah and my birthday. When I was ten years old, I attended a sleep-away camp in the Pocono’s, and I quickly learned that they offered a magic class as one of their weekly programs. The class was taught by magician Bryan Doane. I learned Professor’s Nightmare and some other basic card tricks. On the last day of the class, we were introduced to David Blaine’s street magic DVDs. I remember thinking, ‘Wow, I need to learn how to do that!’ The magic bug bit me during the camp, turning this fascination for magic into an obsession.

“Until the last year or so, I had been separated from the magic community because I did not know that much about conventions, etc. This past April, I was fortunate enough to attend the World Magic Seminar Teen Weekend, which is a pre-convention master class taught by Jeff McBride, Abby Spinner, Eugene Burger, Larry Haas, Jordan Wright, Bruce Kuhlman, and many other renowned magicians. It was an excellent experience. I cannot wait for next year! I have also attended Tannen’s Magic Camp for the last two years, which is a fantastic experience and probably the best week of my year. My first magic convention that I attended was

the 2007 Magicians' Alliance of Eastern States Convention (MAES), and aside from competing and meeting many new friends, I also met a magician named Robert Sode, who would soon become my mentor. Robert is a fantastic dove magician. I cannot even begin to describe how much he has helped me jump-start my career in magic. He is one of the most generous people that I have ever met in my life.

"I really do not have a favorite type of magic. I enjoy watching any magic, as long as it is presented well. Jim Stein-meyer's Origami Illusion is one of my favorite pieces because it looks like real magic to me. I also love watching performances of Metamorphosis, and just recently purchased a Sub Trunk, which I am practicing with my good friend and assistant, Kayla Kano. I really enjoy close-up because it gives me a chance to actually meet everyone that I am performing for, while showing off skills that I have been practicing for years. I like the intimate nature of close-up. I also enjoy performing for children, which I used to really dislike. I was recommended to David Kaye's *Seriously Silly* book, and it really has turned me into a fantastic children's entertainer. I am also looking to transition into stage magic because I love being in front of a crowd, as well. This transition is not easy, because I do not really know where to start."

Matt is highly sought-after in his community and is on fire with developing his business. "I often perform at birthday parties and just started getting into some corporate work, which is what I really love doing. I just secured a corporate party for the Bank of New York, which I am very



proud of. It is difficult to find walk-around work as a teen, but I try to find as many opportunities as possible. I perform constantly in school and am well known by my peers. My school fully supports my magic. During my freshman year, I raised money for a teacher's sick daughter and was quickly awarded Student of the Month. My principal recently approved a big stage show that I am planning for the Spread the Magic Foundation next year, which she was very excited about."

Matt has gained an excellent reputation in his town and nearby communities. "I am constantly working on my marketing plan and my business. My new Web site, www.MagicofMatt.com, was recently

launched. It was designed by Dan Sperry.”

Matt has just started competing and has already won several awards. He took first place in the Junior Close-Up Division at the 2007 MAES convention. He has taken two awards home from Tannen’s Magic Camp in 2007 and 2008, as well. Matt was also chosen to be in the Sweet Sixteen article in the September issue of *Magic* magazine. “While I love competing, I typically spend much more time performing for laymen, because I feel that it is more beneficial to my learning. Still, I look forward to possibly competing at the World Magic Seminar and other conventions in the near future.”

Several magicians have inspired Matt. “Jeff McBride is one of my biggest inspirations because I really enjoy his performing style and attitude toward magic. Another one of my inspirations is David Oliver. David is an excellent magician and one of the head teachers at Tannen’s Magic Camp. He excels in everything he does, including close-up, stage, dove work, and comedy. I want to give credit to these two men for their inspiration and their help. I also want to give credit to Robert Sode, Brad Ross, and many of my fellow teen magic friends. I have made some great friendships from all over the world. We all help each other out as much as we can. I think one of the greatest advantages of being a magician is that we have such a small community. I have met many of my idols such as Jeff McBride, Lance Burton, and Johnny Thompson, which is something I believe many of us take for granted. If you are a singer and your idol is Bruce Springsteen, what are the odds that you are actually going to get to meet him and learn from him? If you are an actor and your idol is John Travolta, what are the odds that you are ever going to meet him? Well, the odds are very low. In magic, you *can* meet and learn from the magician that inspires you, and that is one of my favorite parts of being a magician.”

Like most young magicians, Matt’s family supports him. “My Mom and Dad,

Robin and Kevin, and my brother, Kyle, are always there for me, although they do not really enjoy magic as much as I do. They allow me to attend conventions and magic camp. I’m grateful to have their support.”

Matt also has other hobbies, some of which he incorporates into his business. “I enjoy writing and learning about technology. I am very interested in graphic design, which has come in handy when creating promotional materials, and I am also very good with computers. I love to ski and hang out with friends. I enjoy taking the train into New York City where I can visit some of the best magic in shops in the area. I am also very active in the community. In the fourth grade, I was elected president of my elementary school’s Earlyact Club, which is a subsidiary of Rotary International. I am an active member of numerous service clubs at my high school, and I try to use my magic to help out the community as much as I can.

“Magic has changed my life in numerous ways. I think about how I can help others with my talents. I am a friend with some of the most talented and generous people in the world. My goals and dreams are steadfast; I know by continuing to work hard, I can fulfill my dream of someday having my own stage show in Vegas.”

Magic is something far greater than doing tricks. It is a living, breathing web of energy. Magic works to ease boredom, pain, and fears of many people in mysterious ways. There is a lesson to be learned for many of us from Matt Schick. How can we make someone’s life better each and every day with our talents? Undoubtedly, with an attitude and philosophy like Matt’s, we will be seeing his name on a flashing billboard in Vegas.

Junior magicians, this column is just for you. If you would like to be featured here or know of a young magician that would like this, please contact me at MagicDakota@aol.com.