



INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

VOODOO

THE MAIL ON DECEMBER 2019

THE SACRED RIANA BEGINNING

LUCID DREAM

HOW TO TELL IF
SOMEONE
IS LYING





INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

VOODOO

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EDITOR'S NOTE >

Hi everyone,

I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who has commented and the fact that this digital VOODOO magazine is still getting some fairly high visitor stats I'm incredibly thank you!

In the meantime, there are plenty of articles on this VOODOO magazine that you can read to hopefully improve or at least understand Mentalism in a little more detail! Again, a huge thank you to everyone!

—Saji Vijayan, on behalf of the team Voodoo
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (MASTHEAD)

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MAGAZINE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (MASTHEAD)
Saji Vijayan

FEATURES EDITOR / MULTIMEDIA & CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Veena Saji

SME / CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Joe

PR & CUSTOMER SUPPORT DIRECTOR
Malar

CREATIVE DESIGNING & LAYOUT
Retro Group

PUBLISHER & MARKETING
VOODOO SCHOOL

saji vijayan

Sajivijayan

ADDRESS
VOODOO SCHOOL
SRA-183,PTP NAGAR,ELIPPODU,
TRIVANDRUM, KERALA, S.INDIA
Email: voodooschool.info@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

PEN BENDING

Mirage, very aptly titled. Do you know what that great oasis in the desert looks like? Me neither! At first I thought I saw a great trick here, but then it vanished just like evaporating water in the desert.

Simply you are supposed to, with your mind, bend a normal plastic pen, right under their noses. This sounded fine to me, in fact almost exciting. I tried it on my kids (in low light, just after they had eaten) and they were silent! A complete confounded confusion! They couldn't believe that they had just seen an amazing feat of dad's mind. So with great gusto I took it into the public arena.

That is where all my hopes for this trick were baked in the 150 degree sun. After that first performance with my children there was no way of ever reproducing that reaction. I got just the complete opposite reaction from there on. People even told me exactly how I did it. That is just not even cool!

I did discover that the trick worked in low light. So if you work in a haze filled low-light bar you may have a shot here . . . depending on how many shots your patrons have had.

Sadly, or was it on purpose, I have no idea whom to discredit here.

This is a complete cave in. Save your money!





HOW YOU CAN TELL IF SOMEONE IS LYING

Do you believe that minds can be read? Is communication only about the hobgoblin of utterances or is there something intangible to it? If mind-reading has intrigued you and you believe in a better purity of communications, sure what follows is for you. Nicolai Friedrich, the famed German magician and mentalist, reads minds, makes magic and creates illusion like no one else. We got in touch with him to understand how the art of mind-reading works, how to know if someone is lying, if it is possible to communicate without a conversation and how he creates magic out of mind reading. Here's the lowdown of our conversation with him.

- When and why did you choose such an unorthodox profession?

I went to watch a show at a circus when I was four years old. I saw a magician on stage and was really amazed by his act. That changed my life as I decided to become one myself some day.

- The million dollar question - How do you read minds? What are the basics to mind-reading?

Mind reading, as it is often believed, is not about having a supernatural power. It is a combination of psychology and the power of suggestions. It also comprises studying body language.

- How do you know if someone is lying?

Let's say if you want to talk about lie detection, the first thing you must do is look for a change in behaviour and any deviation from normal. Here are certain things you can deploy:

- Ask repeated questions and see if they change behaviour or the way in which they respond. There could also be a change in the pronunciation of a similar answer. For example, if you want to ask someone to choose from a list of options and he is answering 'no' to all of them, notice where the pronunciation of 'no' is slightly different.

- Also, if people tell stories more often in the third person and the use of 'I' is minimal, chances are they are lying.

- If they don't discuss emotional aspects of an incident, they may be lying.

- If they delve into irrelevant aspects of an incident and are not specific about the primary part, they may be lying.

However, all these are puzzle-pieces which will help you detect lying only if you put them together.

- How does the power of suggestions work?
It includes two primary things:
Body language and eyes.

BODY LANGUAGE

A challenge of studying body language is that you must only notice an unconscious reaction of the person, not a conscious reaction. A false body language can easily be adopted if the person knows he is being observed.

Also, body language is subject to misinterpretation because a sign can mean various things. For example, a dog can wag his tail because he is happy but can also do it if it is trying to hit a fly. Similarly, closed arms can mean that a person is disinterested but it could also be because of cold.

The eyes

- If the pupil is very small, the person may be hiding something. However, pupil also changes due to lighting conditions.

- Blinking can also be a sign of lying.

- If the person is trying to recall from his memory and rolls his eyes upwards towards the left, this means that he is saying the truth. However, if he rolls it elsewhere or on the right, chances are he is lying.

- Is it possible to read's one mind without a conversation?

It is very, very difficult to read mind without having a conversation. Body language and suggestions can help but they will only be puzzle-pieces which are incomplete in number.

- Can you go a step ahead of reading minds and also manipulate people's thoughts?
How?

Of course, you can. This is called the power of suggestion. It looks like mind reading to the person being read despite that I am making him think what I want him to think. However, they think they are thinking what they want to and not being manipulated in any way. This is achieved by communicating signals to them at a subconscious level, that is, through body language, symbols, gestures, etc.

For example, if I have to ask you to choose a number between 1 and 5 but before this I show you a number (let's say 2) through my hands or by another subconscious means, the chances that you will choose that particular number (2) become very high. Not a cent per cent chance, but sure the chances get very high.

- Which are the top two traits you have read in people which they are most uncomfortable acknowledging?

Dishonesty and pretentiousness - These two top.

- Is mind reading a science or an art? Can it be learnt by an ordinary person?

It can be learnt by everyone and there is nothing supernatural about being a mentalist. It is based on science but to practice it is an art. The challenge is to make science entertaining and that's what makes it an art form. However, one must start learning early and should have a lot of experience, practice and meet thousands of people to become a successful mental magician.



- Reading people's minds is very intriguing for sure. But is it also scary because you step into another's intimate territory?

It depends on what people are thinking. If it is only nice thoughts, it should not be embarrassing for either of us. However, it can also be funny at times because people believe that I can get to know their ATM PINs.

- How are magic and mind reading related? Or what is the basis of mental magic?

Both wow the audience. However, magic is more visual and mind reading is more internal. The methods that are deployed in both are different.

- Is magic all about creating illusions?

Yes, of course. However, it is also about inspiring people as it signifies that impossible is also possible because someone just did it right there. It is not only about illusions but to make their thinking more magical and to motivate them to become magicians of their own lives.

- As you have been to India before, is there any peculiarity about Indian audience and its taste wrt magic?

During my last trip, I felt that in India, people can say 'yes' or 'no' by both nodding and shaking their heads, something that doesn't happen in other parts of the world. That quite amazed me.

However, Indian people are more willing to suspend their disbelief and believe in magic. They like the sense of wonder because they believe in spirituality. In other parts of the world, it takes me longer to make people suspend their disbelief and enjoy the act.



How To Be A Human Lie Detector



1. Raised eyebrows often signal discomfort.

2. If their voice goes up or down, they're most likely interested.

3. Eye contact shows interest – both positive and negative.

4. But if they look into your eyes for too long, they might be lying.

5. Crossed legs are usually a sign of resistance and low receptivity.

6. If they mirror your body language, the conversation is probably going well.

7. Look for a lack of crinkles around the eyes to detect a fake smile.

8. If they're laughing with you, they're probably into you.

9. Expansive, authoritative postures show leadership.

10. A shaking leg signals a shaky inner state.



Truth

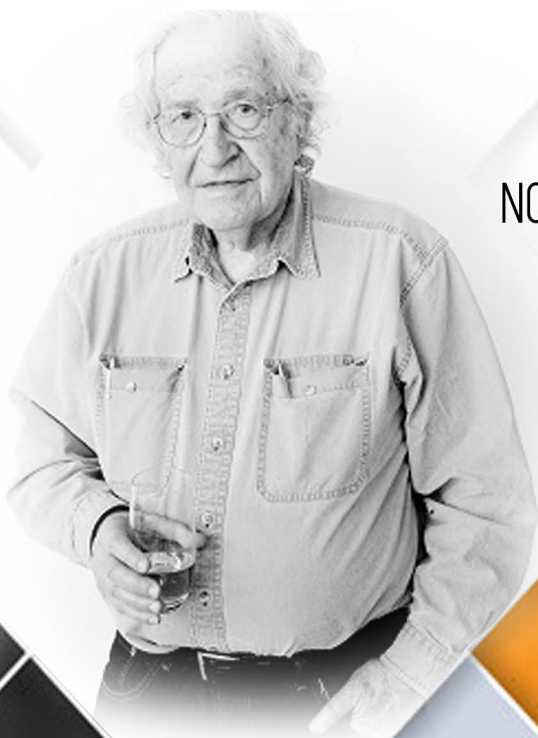
Lies

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

VOODOO

Exploring Mentalism

NOAM CHOMSKY is a person well known for many things, from his activity in the resistance movement to the Vietnam War to his many writings and books concerning politics and political thinking and theory. However, he is also well known for his contribution to the discipline of linguistics. Chomsky has done much to change the thinking and views around language and linguistics, and his theories, while still controversial among some, have been ground breaking for others. Herein, we will discuss one of the founding principals of Chomsky's linguistic beliefs—mentalism. Mentalism is, essentially, the innate or subconscious nature of language and language learning.



NOAM CHOMSKY

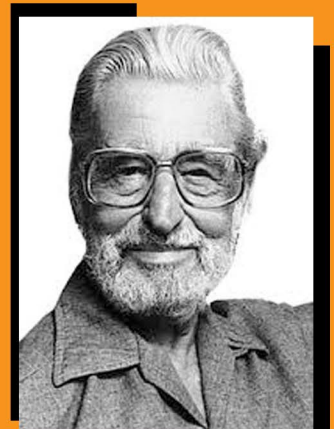
LEONARD BLOOMFIELD'



It explores the relationship between language, thought and reality, and describes the internal language devices that explain the creativity in language acquisition and the processes involved in thinking, speaking, and understanding (Strässler). Here, we will explore the aspects of mentalism that make this theory so unique and, in my opinion, steadfast. In order to better understand mentalism, it's best to start with its contrast to Leonard Bloomfield's theory, commonly described as the mechanistic approach.

Before Chomsky became so fascinated by the linguistic field, Leonard Bloomfield had become well known for his theories concerning language acquisition. Bloomfield postulated that a structural and mechanical approach to linguistics was the way to understand language learning and capacity. Namely, he believed that language was acquired through interaction with our environment through stimulus, response, reward systems, etc. Children learned and were taught language with nothing more than a capacity to learn, thus putting parents and important figures around the child as the primary resource for language acquisition (which would mean that the child would only be able to use language as those around them did, creating a vacuum of sorts for the possibility of creativity and growth). In this way, language builds through a lifetime based on direct environmental factors. However, in 1957, Chomsky challenged this theory, firstly by publishing his book *Syntactic Structures*. Chomsky was highly influenced by mathematics and logic, but his theories would build on linguistics, biology, and philosophy as well. Mentalism, which Chomsky brought into the modern era, is based on the idea that all humans have an innate ability to create utterances and that there is a commonality beneath all language systems allowing for language to be infinite in its capacity. Thus, Chomsky is asserting that language is not taught at all, and that teaching language is not essential to acquiring it.

Chomsky believes that language learning is guided by an innate language acquisition device that is a result of human evolution (Rowe, Levine). That is, that we are preprogramed to language just as we are to grow organs or arms or legs. The language acquisition device (LAD) that Chomsky refers to allows any child to acquire language with minimal assistance and sometimes even no teaching. Because children are able to acquire language this way, and because children are able to string together utterances or sentences they've never heard before, Chomsky deduced that language cannot be taught alone, that there has to be an innate genetic conditioning to allow for such behavior. Underlying this language learning mechanism is the concept of universal grammar, which allows a speaker of a new language to advance from general rules of language to advanced rules because this ability is hard-wired into the brain. Since the child is capable of acquiring any language depending on its environment, the same constraints should be found in the grammar of any language and should be part of universal grammar. This hypothesis predicts that the study of English grammar can tell us things about French, or Japanese, or Turkish grammar, or an empirical prediction (Harman), which turns out to be basically correct. As well, children construct grammar through a process of hypothesis testing based on said innate understanding, which accounts for children creating utterances that are completely unique (my daughter, as an example, used to call our car the "chocolate bye bye". The car was brown, but we never said chocolate in reference to it, we simply said "car". She was able to create this utterance all on her own). If we were to accept the Bloomfieldian view, we'd have to accept language as a more rigid machine than fluid, and also accept that based on environment and exposure to language, it would be rather finite. Chomsky, however believes in a deeper, subconscious root for language, which he calls deep structure.



DR. SEUSS

Bloomfieldian Linguistics, with its root in mechanistic language acquisition, focuses primarily on linguistic performance, or the actual utterance of a sentence or sound, which is also known as surface structure. Surface structure is the literal utterance, which can be broken down methodically by syntax. Chomsky emphasizes linguistic competence, which is concerned with what the speaker subconsciously knows about his or her language. Early Chomskian linguistics dealt with how the deep structure is transformed into the surface structure and how an infinite number of utterances can be generated from a finite number of rules and lexical items (Rowe, Levine). This infinite capacity to create language (especially when one has never heard an utterance before) is known as productivity, and begins to explain creativity in language, which Bloomfieldian Linguistics fails to fully account for (if every utterance is learned, how did Dr. Suess create his beautiful poems and books? No one has ever spoken like this before!). Another phenomenon in language which is unique to mentalism is recursion. Recursion refers to the rules that allow for phrases to be connected infinitely, allowing for language to take new forms and shapes in infinite ways. Consider the utterance: "The mom who went to the store before the dad who went to the store before the boy who went to the store...", this utterance could go on forever (or consider Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose sentences could go on for pages!). By looking into the subconscious knowledge of language speakers and their ability to create new words and phrases and utterances, we begin to understand mentalism and our genetic disposition to use, learn, and grow our language.

One of the few pitfalls of the mentalist approach is that it cannot be directly observed in the self, it is a bit abstract. As Chomsky himself admits, we have limitations to studying language (for example, there are no controlled environments). However, as Chomsky has proven quite well, there are still means to understanding language at its core, and to coming to these hypotheses. We know that all languages have similar properties and that children express an innate ability to learn language even without teaching or much guidance. We know that through deep structure and productivity, children (and all human beings) are able to create completely new utterances without having heard them before, strongly supporting the idea that language is not a mechanical learning process.



We know through recursion in language that language is infinite and open to the never-ending possibilities of creativity. While the theories of Chomsky, including mentalism, are still challenged even today, it's hard to resist the mentalist approach when observing our own utterances, and even more so when observing a child come alive with fresh and new ways to use language.



LUCID
DREAMS

LUCID DREAMING

BINAURAL BEATS

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

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A *LUCID DREAM IS A DREAM DURING WHICH THE DREAMER IS AWARE THAT THEY ARE DREAMING.*

During a lucid dream, the dreamer may gain some amount of control over the dream characters, narrative, and environment; however, this is not actually necessary for a dream to be described as lucid.

Lucid dreaming is when you're conscious during a dream. This typically happens during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, the dream-stage of sleep.

An estimated 55 percent of people have had one or more lucid dreams in their lifetime.

During a lucid dream, you're aware of your consciousness. It's a form of metacognition, or awareness of your awareness. Often, lucid dreaming also lets you control what happens in your dream.



CONTROLLING THE STORIES OF SLEEP

Have you ever started dreaming and suddenly realized that you were in a dream? Have you ever managed to gain control over your dream narrative? If your answer to these is “yes,” you’ve experienced what is called lucid dreaming.

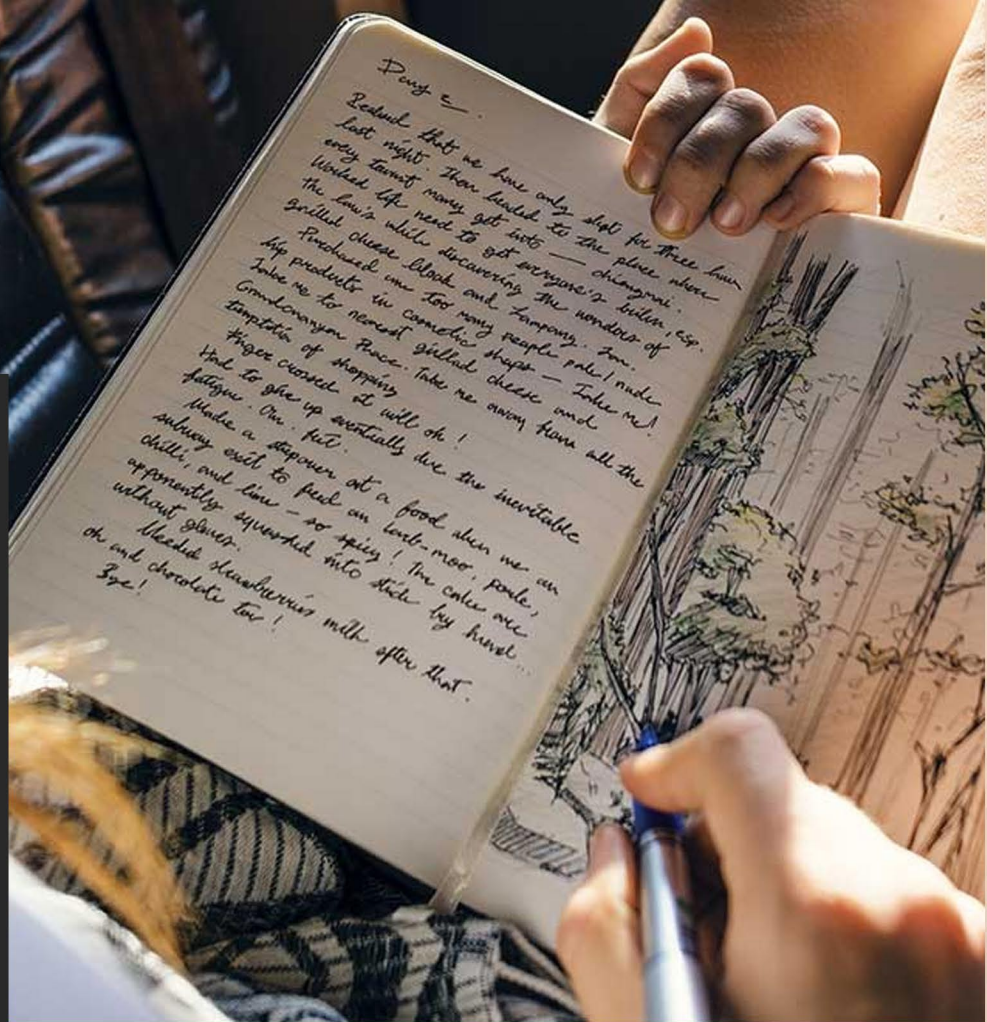
Typically, when we dream, we are not conscious that the dream is not real. As a character from the movie *Inception* quite aptly puts it, “Well, dreams, they feel real while we’re in them right? It’s only when we wake up then we realize that something was actually strange.” However, some of us are able to enter a dream and be fully aware of the fact that we are actually dreaming.

“A lucid dream is defined as a dream during which dreamers, while dreaming, are aware they are dreaming,” specialists explain.

Dreams are the playground of the mind. Anything can happen when one is dreaming. The only limitation is that we only rarely realize the freedoms granted to us in our dreams while we have them. Lucid dreaming is the ability to know when one is dreaming, and be able to influence what will be dreamt. A normal dream is much like passively watching a movie take place in your skull. In a lucid dream, the dreamer is the writer, director, and star of the movie. Lucid dreams are exceptionally interesting. Lucid dreaming is defined as dreaming when the dreamer knows that they are dreaming. The term was coined during the 1910’s by Frederik van Eeden who used the word “lucid” in the sense of mental clarity (Green, 1968). Lucidity usually begins in the midst of a dream, when the dreamer realizes that the experience is not occurring in physical reality, but is a dream. Often this realization is triggered by the dreamer noticing some impossible or unlikely occurrence in the dream, such as meeting a person who is dead, or flying with or without wings. Sometimes people become lucid without noticing any particular clue in the dream; they just suddenly realize that they are in a dream. A minority of lucid dreams (about 10 percent) are the result of returning to REM sleep directly from an awakening with unbroken reflective consciousness (LaBerge, 1985). These types of lucid dreams occur most often during daytime napping. If the napper has been REM deprived from a previous night of little sleep their chances of having a REM period at sleep onset are increased. If the napper is able to continue his or her train of thought up to the point of sleep, a lucid dream may develop due to an immediate REM period.



DREAM LIFE JOURNAL



Learning how to wake up in your dreams doesn't matter until you can develop your dream memory. You must learn how to stand before you can walk. In fact, you may have had a lucid dream already, but don't know it because you don't remember that it occurred.

Your brain usually tries to forget your dreams automatically. It knows that those experiences aren't real and, as you wake up, tries to push them to the back of your mind to make room for immediate memories from the waking world. But there's an easy way to disrupt this: a dream journal. Keep a pen and pad next to your bed at all times. It should be easy to grab and use immediately. Don't put it in your nightstand drawer, don't toss it under your bed, and don't use a writing tool that takes a lot of effort to use (fancy pens, quills, etc.). You need to be able to reach over, grab, and write. Also, don't use your phone for this. The act of writing it down, like taking notes in class, will only help you commit the dream to memory. Or if you have artistic skills and can draw them out, that's even better.



Getting a good night's sleep—at least seven hours' worth—is also a big help during this exercise, as well as throughout your foray into lucid dreaming. Without consistent, restful sleep, lucid dreaming will be almost impossible. You don't get stronger by spending less time in the gym.

Additionally, don't keep your alarm clock too far away from your bed. You only have a few precious moments to commit your dream to memory when you wake up, and chasing down an alarm will waste that time window. If possible, go to bed early and try to wake up without an alarm. When you awaken, take a few seconds to go over what you just experienced, then grab your journal and write it all down as fast as possible. Do this as often as you can and your brain will gradually reconfigure its normal wakeup protocol to match your newly declared memory needs.

"Oh, did you want to hold onto this?" Your brain will say as you awaken from a wonderful dream, and you'll grab your dream journal with a resounding "Hell yeah!"

Okay, oneironauts: sleep tight and dream on.

*Does Lucid
Dreaming
Affect Your
Sleep
Quality?*



THE SACRED RIANA

BEGINNING

MARIE ANTOINETTE RIANA GRAHARANI, WHO WON ASIA'S GOT TALENT IN 2017, IS 27-YEAR-OLD A MENTALIST AND MAGICIAN FROM INDONESIA WHO SPECIALISES IN CREEPY AND THEATRICAL SLEIGHT OF HAND.

RIANA IS THE DAUGHTER OF A MAGICIAN, AND SHE INITIALLY FOUND FAME AS A CONTESTANT IN THE INDONESIAN TALENT SHOW THE NEXT MENTALIST. HER TIME ON ASIA'S GOT TALENT EARNED HER EVEN MORE ATTENTION, AND HER AUDITION HAS AMASSED OVER 650 MILLION VIEWS ON YOUTUBE.



The Sacred Riana is an Indonesian magician and illusionist.

She was born as Marie Antoinette Riana Graharani on July 13, 1992, in Jakarta.

The artist went to St Ursula Catholic School and the University of Buna Mulia before dedicating herself to her art. Riana's look is based on The Ring, while her doll that she carries is similar to that of Annabelle from The Conjuring. Within her act, the illusionist is defined by her distinctive appearance and head and hand twitches.

She also always keeps a static facial expression and stands with one of her legs bent, as well as her long hair obscuring the majority of her face. The sacred part of her name was added by her and her manager to reflect their belief that magic is a sacred thing.

Very - The Sacred Riana has scared people on all sides of the globe.

The performer truly commits to her creepy act - always leaving the audience with the hairs' pricked up on the back of their necks.

America's Got Talent judge Mel B was left terrified when she was singled out to participate in her act.

The Indonesian magician, who made a name for herself on 'America's Got Talent,' will feature in the Fremantle Media and Wahana Kreator Nusantara collaboration.

The artist creeped out audiences with her plays on a character who leans heavily on the influence of the Japanese horror classic The Ring (1998), with a matching doll that's a nod to the Hollywood hit The Conjuring (2013). The series in development will also feature her magic and illusions, according to the statement. "The fact that we are developing an international drama for the world stage, led by an Indonesian superstar such as the Sacred Riana, just shows us all how our industry is changing and great content can come from all corners of the world," said Chris Oliver-Taylor, Fremantle's CEO for Asia Pacific.

The partnership is also developing Ex Addicts, a romantic comedy series centered around the lives of people who can't get over their exes.

Magic can often be a bit creepy. However, you will hardly find a creepier magician than the amazing female illusionist who goes by the artistic name The Scary Riana. Riana is like a character from a horror movie, except she also performs amazing magic!

Her full real name is Marie Antoinette Riana Graharani and she started practicing magic when she was still a child. With the help of her father, who is himself a magician, she became a highly skilled magician and developed a unique stage persona. In real life, Riana is just a normal girl. But when she steps on the stage as The Sacred Riana, she turns into a scary figure with weird tics who almost never speaks and mostly communicates through weird gestures.

Riana reached wide fame and recognition when she appeared on Asia's Got Talent, where she achieved second place. In 2018, she appeared on Season 13 of America's Got Talent.

Here, we will reveal some of the best magic tricks performed by The Sacred Riana. Want to know how she does it? You've come to the right place. Maybe after you understand the secrets behind Riana's tricks, you will find her a bit less scary!

The Scary Riana



THE SACRED RIANA

BEGINNING





HOW TO MAKE AN ELEPHANT APPEAR?

It looks impossible because it's an elephant of almost five tons, not a pencil or any other small thing. The magician performs this illusion among the spectators which are obviously surprising. For performing this trick, the magician has needed a lot of people. But it is still confusing that how is it possible.

Welcome friends. Today we will see how to make an elephant appear from somewhere. It looks impossible because it's an elephant of almost five tons, not a pencil or any other small thing. The magician performs this illusion among the spectators which are obviously surprising. For performing this trick, the magician has needed a lot of people. But it is still confusing that how is it possible. To get its secret, you have to see step by step. So let's have a look for this so called a miracle.

Material to be needed

- An open ground
- An elephant
- Two large sheets
- A huge crowd of public



For performing this trick, the magician selects a wide and bright place so that people can easily watch that there is no any truck or any other secret box where there are chances of having an elephant. Everything is cut and clear.

First of all, magician gathers the volunteers to witness the magic.

And arrange them in a circle around two large sheets and leaves only the space for camera man and his other team workers. Then he asks his assistances to pick up the sheets and form a box that is close from three sides especially tfrom the front.And after sometime when he orders to lower the sheets the audience gets surprised to watch the elephant.

Wow, but how is it done? What is the secret behind it?

The secrets in this trick are;

The spectators standing there are all part of this trick.

The purpose of standing them in a circle is only to pretend that the ground is free from elephants.

There is an area in the ground where there are plants and trees and is a dense area. But you will be surprised to hear that it is created to distract the audience and to prevent their attention from going there.This all is created to hide an elephant. Because if there is standing a truck or some kind of box, then it becomes easy for the audience to judge that there is an elephant in it., While performing at the camera shows the only front side of the sheet.As the spectators are involved in it, so it is easy to perform.

As the camera focuses only front side, so assistances of the magician brings out the elephant from the secret place and make it stand in the middle of sheets and completely close them.Finally, magician gives instructions to drop the sheets and audience can see the elephant.

Tips

Hide the elephant completely so that the audience can't see it.

Hiding place should look natural to misguide the people.

The camera should make the view from the front only.

Hold the sheets firmly otherwise your trick will be failed.



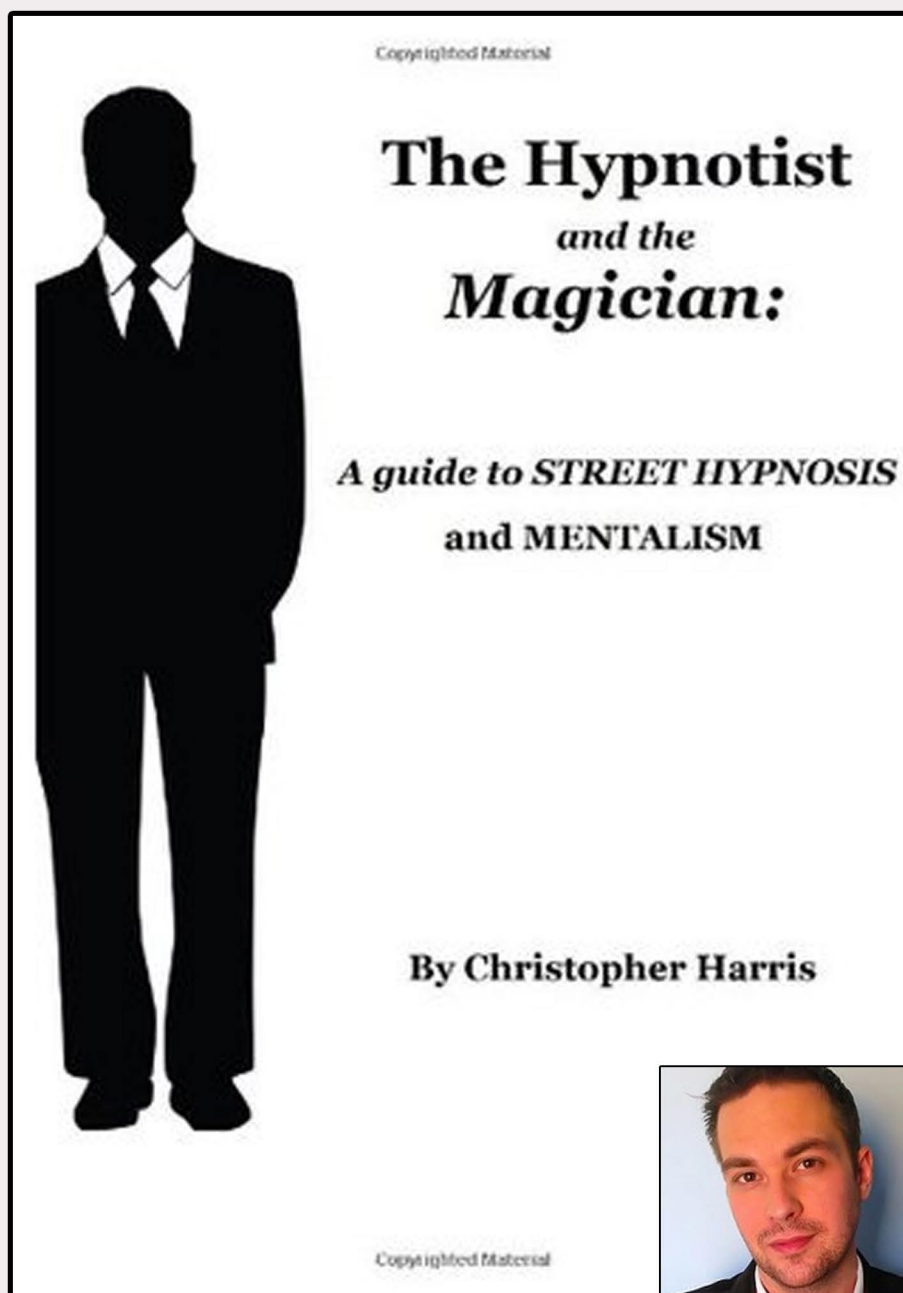
Happy Merry Christmas



THE
Magic
OF
Christmas
NEVER ENDS



THE HYPNOTIST AND THE MAGICIAN: A GUIDE TO STREET HYPNOSIS AND MENTALISM



Master Hypnotist Chris Harris has created a one-of-a-kind guide for the aspiring "street hypnotist" and mental magician. Learn how to hypnotize anybody quick and effortlessly and how to blend your mentalism to make your performances better than you ever thought they could be. Finally a book with hypnosis techniques that work!

