

**"UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE LIVE" PERFORMING AT LEGACY BANQUET
BOOK SIGNING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**

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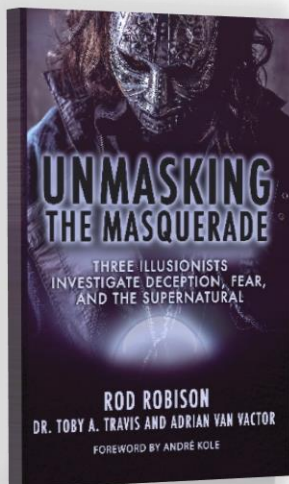
Professional illusionists debunk psychics, challenge false "gods" and demonstrate the power of deception

Rod Robison and Adrian Van Vactor
Authors of the surprise release of the year
UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE
Appearing (and perhaps disappearing) at UNITE 2017

Available for interview

Book signing immediately after their performance at the Legacy Banquet

UNITE 2017 - Thursday evening, June 29, 2017



"... eye-opening, entertaining, and liberating ..." -Dr. Kevin Leman, New York Times best-selling author

ROBISON AND VAN VACTOR (Tucson, AZ) Internationally known Christian illusionists and co-authors (along with Dr. Toby A. Travis), are currently on tour with *Unmasking the Masquerade On Stage!*, a very entertaining and unforgettable Christ-centered presentation that gives the audience an informative and liberating look at the power of deception, the root of fear, and the life-transforming grace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. The event will cap Thursday night's Legacy Banquet and keynote address and be followed by a book signing event.

Unmasking boldly reveals the powerful secrets behind the supernatural, psychic ability and the limits of Satan:

- Do some humans have supernatural powers?
- Is it possible to read minds?
- How do psychics get their secret information?
- Could the miracles of Jesus have been an illusion?
- Should we be afraid of Satan?

Unmasking brings critical perspective to the exploding entertainment field of magic and illusion, and to the millions of people around the world being deceived and frightened by seemingly supernatural activity they have witnessed or heard about.

Foreword by André Kole, Founder and Director, André Kole Outreach and world-renowned master illusionist



UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE

Three Illusionists
Investigate Deception,
Fear, and the Supernatural
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ENDORSEMENTS, REVIEWS, SUGGESTED QUESTIONS AND EXCERPTS FOLLOW



MORE ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF **UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE**

Each author is a highly skilled illusionist with international reach who writes with a unique voice, from a different background and perspective. Meet a historian and radio executive, a scholar and educator, and a Christian apologist and entertainer, each an expert in their field, each illuminating a different aspect, and each with many stories and eyewitness accounts that make *Unmasking* a surprising and fascinating read. Each author currently resides in Tucson, Arizona. Learn more: www.unmaskingthemasquerade.com

ROD ROBISON is a mentalist, illusionist, author, speaker, and broadcast professional. His comedy mind reading show, *Mentallusions*, has been a popular feature at corporate and organizational events as well as aboard Holland America cruise lines and at London's Magic Circle Theater. He is the author of *Unmasking the Masquerade: Three Illusionists Investigate Deception, Fear, and the Supernatural* (Encourage Publishing, 2017).

A graduate of Cedarville University, after college Rod toured and recorded with pioneer contemporary Christian music band Selah in the 1970s. During those years he sang and penned lyrics for the band's songs, one of which, *Fat Baby*, was later recorded by Amy Grant on her million-seller Grammy award-winning album, *Age to Age*. Following his years with Selah he helped found two Christian television stations in Ohio and Michigan before moving on to Christian radio in the late 1980s. Today he serves as Chief Advancement Officer at Family Life Radio, headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, where he and his wife Jeannie raised their five children in the beautiful Desert Southwest.

Rod's interest in magic was ignited nearly three decades ago when he saw a magician at Dollywood amusement park in Tennessee perform a trick where a copper coin transformed into a silver coin in Rod's own hand. Deeply perplexed by the trick, he lay awake that night obsessively attempting to devise a method by which the "miracle" might be accomplished. The next day he found a magic shop, bought the trick, and learned that none of his proposed methods explained the real secret. That was the genesis of what years later became his popular *Mentallusions* show, during which he demonstrates what he calls "sleight of mind," popularly known as mind reading. Rod has been performing professionally for over twenty years and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians and the Society of American Magicians. Audience members often ask Robison if he has psychic powers. His response: "It may look that way, but looks can be deceiving."

ADRIAN VAN VACTOR is an internationally known award-winning illusionist and Christian apologist, currently regional director with FaithSearch International. As a teenager, Adrian was honored by many of the world's greatest magicians when they awarded him the Milbourn Christopher Newcomer Award, voting him the "most promising young magician of the future." Earlier that year, he was awarded the coveted Lance Burton Award, competing in Las Vegas against some of the most talented young illusionists from around the world. Adrian has been working professionally in the field of illusion since 1992.

Van Vactor toured for many years with "The André Kole Magical Spectacular," and has conducted over fifty international tours in twenty-seven countries on six continents, sharing the Gospel with hundreds of thousands of high school and college youth through the art of illusion. He has headlined at the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California and was invited to speak and perform for over 11,000 people at the World's Fair in Hanover, Germany. Adrian has been humbled to present the gospel and see tens of thousands of men, women, and children commit their lives to Christ through his illusion performances. His travels have also given him the opportunity to debunk psychic surgeons in South Asia, witch doctors in Africa, and self-proclaimed psychics in just about every corner of the Earth.

Van Vactor worked for many years with Youth for Christ and Campus Crusade for Christ International, through which he received extensive evangelism training as a graduate of CRU's Communication Center. Adrian also studied at the Billy Graham School of Evangelism.

Adrian launched Adrian Van Vactor International Ministries in 2003, whose mission is "to utilize the art of illusion as a tool to bridge cultural and generational gaps and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with evidence to all peoples everywhere." In 2016 he was a contributing author to *Unmasking the Masquerade: Three Illusionists Investigate Deception, Fear, and the Supernatural* with Rod Robison and Dr. Toby A. Travis, published by Encourage Publishing, LLC, New Albany, Indiana. Currently he is on tour with *Unmasking the Masquerade On Stage!*, a very entertaining and unforgettable Christ-centered presentation that gives the audience an informative and liberating look at the power of deception, the root of fear, and the life-transforming grace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ.



UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE

ENDORSEMENT AND REVIEWS

THIS TITLE HAS BEEN THEOLOGICALLY VETTED BY THE [CHRISTIAN MEDIA CLEARINGHOUSE](http://www.christianmediaclearinghouse.com). Content that clears vetting contains no material that would contradict the indisputable tenets of the Christian faith. A complete transcript of this review available by request: info@encouragebooks.com.



"...exposes deception and fear for what they are-paralyzing traps that require a supernatural solution. It's eye-opening, entertaining, and liberating."

Dr. Kevin Leman

New York Times Best-Selling Author

"...uses seasoned Christian illusionists armed with the scriptures to expose deception in ways I never dreamed possible. I recommend it highly for anyone with a curiosity for the paranormal, psychic, or miraculous."

Kenneth E. Dewey, M. Ed

"...both delightfully entertaining and determinedly educational..."

Dr. Ron R. Rickards

Physicist and author of Eternal Harmony

"This book is truly a revelation. I cannot say enough about how compelling I found it to be...superb."

Joseph Lamm

Recording artist, poet

"*Unmasking* has really opened my eyes,,, I had been more influenced by movies, books, TV...than the Bible, facts, and research!"

Tom Worcester

Aerospace engineer

"...a valuable resource to any who might be curious about the crossover between illusion and their faith."

Dr. James Phipps

Professor

"...filled with good stories. "*Unmasking the Masquerade*" will make you think about what you believe about the paranormal and why..."

Brian Frank

Minister of Education

5 stars... "I love the way this book expertly lays bare the psychology and deception behind all the masquerades and expertly dismantles the ploys of more than a few charlatans. It is a very rich resource – filled with intriguing history, authoritative, enlightening, and best of all, highly engaging."

Jim Ray

Amazon reader

5 stars... "I read this book to learn what is behind the smoke and mirrors of magic and illusions, and came away with an even deeper belief in what is real – my faith in God. Bravo to the authors!"

Harriet Keith

Journalist, Business Consultant



UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Christians find themselves so easily thrown when they encounter claims of the supernatural or see an entertainer performing illusions?
2. Isn't it a conflict being a Christian who performs magic?
3. Your subtitle talks about fear; how does this book put our fears into perspective?
4. You address the powers of Satan in this book; are you saying we shouldn't be afraid of Satan?
5. You talk about deception and warn about being taken advantage of, particularly financially, by people using illusion or trickery to demonstrate supernatural ability. How big of a problem is this in the world today? What have you witnessed?
6. What drew you to learn magic, and how long does it take you to learn and perfect an illusion?
7. Rod: You have worked in broadcasting for a long time and know the industry; can you comment on the seemingly sharp increase in the glorification of illusion, magic and the supernatural across every form of entertainment over the past few years?
8. Adrian: Talk to us about your work debunking psychic surgeons and "godmen" overseas.
9. Rod: What drew you to study the history of Spiritualism and to visit places like Lily Dale, New York and Chesterfield, Indiana-were you searching for something?
10. Adrian: Talk to us about your work overseas using illusion as an evangelistic tool. Why is illusion such an effective evangelistic tool in other countries? How do audiences in the U.S. respond?

INTERVIEW REQUESTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA COPIES AVAILABLE THROUGH ENCOURAGE PUBLISHING: **812-987-6148** **leslie@encouragebooks.com**

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<http://www.encouragebooks.com/media.html>

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EXCERPTS FROM UNMASKING THE MASQUERADE

EXCERPT 1 – Chapter 6: Psychic Deception in the New Millenium (Robison)

Even though countless mediums and channelers have been soundly exposed as frauds and objective evidence of psychic phenomena is so often found lacking, the question that still haunts many is, “Could *some* of it be real?” Before we get too far into a discussion of what is really behind the manifestations claimed by practitioners of the paranormal, one very important point must be emphasized. The deceptive practices of mediums, channelers, psychics, and others of their persuasion have led millions astray. Whether those practices involve clever trickery, psychological delusions, or direct demonic intervention is not as important a consideration as is the fact that people are being deluded.

Deception is deception, whatever form it takes. Jesus said that Satan is the “father of lies” and that when he speaks he lies, because deception is his native tongue (John 8:44). Although it is important that we be aware of how deceptions are perpetrated so that we can discern truth, we should not lose sight of the fact that people are being led into a lie, regardless of the path that lie takes. If people are being persuaded away from truth—and they are—we can be assured that “the father of lies” is behind it, one way or another.

EXCERPT 2 – Chapter 16: Unmasking Satan’s Powers (Travis)

The story he told was compelling and amazing. He disclosed how he was an eye-witness to his neighbor being able to accurately predict the future, to cause a wound from a serious cut to heal, and to command a candle to levitate and float across the room. As he told his tale, it was obvious that others were quick to acknowledge and accept his story as legitimate, as I saw their eyes intensely fixed upon him and their faces showing expressions of amazement. As he went on and on, it occurred to me exactly why Steven King makes such a good living. People love a scary story.

But then, I interrupted. I said, “Excuse me. But I’m fascinated with your story. If your neighbor lady, the witch, truly possesses these divine attributes, it would certainly be strong evidence to the contrary of a Christian worldview.”

He responded, “Exactly. That’s my point!” And he grinned.

“So,” I said, “I would love to meet her.” It was only about 8 pm in the evening. “May I follow you home now, and would you please introduce me to her?”

EXCERPT 3 – Chapter 19: Myth, Magician, or Messiah? (Van Vactor)

In that same country I performed many times, with the goal of bringing both Baba’s trickery and the hope and truth of Christianity into the light. One such event I performed in a sort of community center where Baba would hold some of his meetings to bless his followers with his supposed miracles. I was required to stand on the opposite side of the room from where Baba would stand, with all of the audiences chairs turned around. Surprisingly, though, I was permitted to present my entire program, including my subtle debunking of Baba!

I performed some of Baba’s tricks and shared that there were many people throughout the world who could perform these same effects. In contrast to my program, I explained, these other performers would claim that their effects were real miracles. I then upstaged my imitation of Baba’s tricks with a more impressive illusion and explained again that these were just special effects anyone can learn. I dared not ever mention Baba’s name specifically, for I would certainly have been mobbed. But, my reference to him was clear enough that I could always hear whispers in the audience, “Sai Baba... Sai Baba.” My presentation managed to keep my audience at peace, even though nearly every audience member in every performance in that country would have had tremendous reverence for the man.

After this particular performance, a woman in the Brahmin caste of the Hindu faith approached me. She obviously was a very highly respected woman for, as soon as she began to speak, the surrounding crowd went somewhat silent in anticipation of what she was about to say. “You’re talking about Sai Baba, aren’t you,” she exclaimed.