

## Living a Magical Life

I am truly blessed to live a magical life. Every day I am in a state of wonder. My mom fell in love with my dad at the Magic Castle in Hollywood in 1963; the year that it opened! They had such a wonderful time that my dad joined so they could visit any time they wanted. A few years later



they got married and a few years after that...magic! Here I come into this world! My dad would take friends and clients to the Magic Castle often and they would get dressed up and have a wonderful time while we had a great time with our fun babysitters.

There was always this special mystique about the Magic Castle for me and my sisters. Once a year my parents would take us to the Magic Castle for a magical Sunday brunch as the Castle is a 21 and over club but children can visit at Sunday brunch. We always had an amazing time and have life-long memories of the early days. When all us kids were over 21, we would hold family get-togethers and birthdays at the Magic Castle.

My parents saw all the greats and knew many of them. Dai Vernon (The Professor) would love to make matchsticks go through each other for my mom as she was cute and had an infectious giggle. After a few times he would ask "Do you want to see that again? Closer and slower?" I heard my mom tell about the matchsticks that would melt through each other for 50 years. This is why I do magic.

People have told me about some magical experience they had at one of my shows 20 years after it happened. Oftentimes, when people find out I'm a magician and perform at the Magic Castle, the conversation goes two ways: "I've always wanted to go" or "I remember I went to the Magic Castle years ago and I'll never forget the magician did \_\_\_\_\_" (fill in the blank with any of numerous impossibilities). These great memories are what make life special.

I remember when my daughters were very young and I would pick them up, look into their loving eyes and tickle them. The look on their faces was pure glee. This pure joy gets confused when logic is learned. Logic has a way of minimizing pure joy and love. Magic has the unique ability to bring back pure joy and wonderment.

In addition to being a magician, I am also a classical pianist and abstract painter. I have performed on the piano many times and painted numerous paintings, but nothing can move a person like magic because magic is illogical. I have performed at many parties all over the United States and many rooms at the Magic Castle, but my favorite is the Close-Up Gallery. This is the most intimate room at the Castle, and it is here where magicians can truly connect with the audience as people are there to see magic. When I see the audience react to the impossible it fills my heart with joy.

I have performed magic all around the world including Japan, China, Italy, Germany, and many other countries. One thing I've found in all my travels and performances is that people are all the same, no matter where they live. They all have the same stunned reactions to the impossible as it is not logical...that shouldn't happen.

I think I enjoy seeing the reactions more than they enjoy the show! This is a very special gift that very few people have--the ability to give. I have seen many amazing musical performances, and some have brought me to tears but nothing like what I see audiences moved to in a great magic show. It doesn't matter what bad things happened that day or week, for 20 minutes I can take audiences out of the existential to witness the impossible and create lifelong memories. Wonderful memories are requisite to a life well-lived.

Magic, done well, can strike a unique chord and resonate with us in a way no other discipline can. Magic can tickle us with childlike delight. Magic truly makes the world a better place.

Too often we are unaware of the many miracles that are happening all around us, all the time. Many won't see these miracles. Logic has a way of stifling the joy in miracles. This is why, when logic is thrown out and the impossible is made manifest, childlike wonder can thrive.

I heard it said that life is not measured by how many breaths we take but by how many moments take our breath away. I see magic as a way of giving back for the incredible life I have. Spreading this joy brings me joy. It is a true addiction to see people happy and amazed!

Magical blessings!  
Bill Bentz