

Brain Building, Better Thinking Programs

"Working with William is a
programmer's dream!"

-Itasca Public Library

"William exceeded my expectations. His dynamic
program was a hit with our patrons. I would
recommend Mind Games to anyone looking for
someone who can not only educate, but entertain."

-St. Charles Public Library

"William, thank you so much for the wonderful job you did
presenting Mind Games for our patrons last night! It was a
very informative hour that I'm sure the attendees enjoyed
just as much as I did. I look forward to working with you in
the future! "

-Algonquin Area Public Library District

"My wife and I attended your Mind Games
presentation at the Warrenville Library. It was very
good. Thank you. I have a BS in psychology from
1974 and I have kept up with what is happening in
psychology and so I knew many of the things you
talked about and showed. But I did see some stuff
I hadn't seen and learned some new things. We
really enjoyed it.

"I heard from many of the other
libraries that audience members
were gushing to them about your
Mind Games program."

-Palos Park Library

Adult Educational Programming

William Pack

Professional Entertaining
Memorable Fun





Are you ready for a truly mind-blowing experience? William Pack returns with an all new program designed to mess with your mind and reveal the inner-workings of your brain. Using memorable stories and relatable examples, you'll learn the subtle tactics that advertisers, marketers, sales people and con artists use to get you to do what they want, without you noticing.

After reading the
the sentence twice,
you now become
aware that the
the human brain
often does not
inform you that the
the word "the" has
been repeated .

Mind Games - The Science of Perception Deception

In this engaging interactive program, William explores the real science of how our brains trick us into seeing and believing things that don't exist. You'll experience how optical illusions work, the way our brains use information, and why many of our daily choices aren't our own choice. You'll also get proven, scientific, actionable techniques to preserve brain health.

Mind Games 2 - The Science of Curious Thinking

Continuing William's popular interactive Mind Games Series, Mind Games 2 reinforces the concepts of his original program and adds even more ways our brains are wired to believe things that defy logic and facts. He'll dive deeper into our pattern seeking abilities and show how they connected to belief in superstitions and conspiracy theories.

Don't Forget! - The Science of Memory

Using his signature storytelling and interactive games, William explores how our brain remembers and forgets. You'll learn how we know what we know about the different types of memory, why we can't trust everything we recall, and how we can remember better. As always, you'll get practical real-world strategies to keep your brain healthier.

**Avoid disappointment.
Reserve your date
today!**

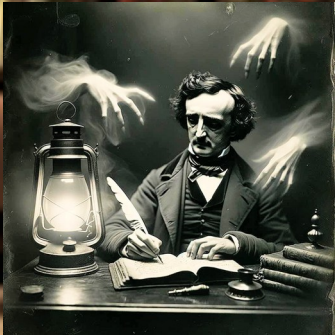
**Cognitive Science
Critical Thinking
Brain Health Programs**

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Biography

The Essential P. T. Barnum

The true story of "The Greatest Showman." Years before he revolutionized the circus, P.T. Barnum was the most famous man in the world. William reveals the amazing life of P.T. Barnum through storytelling and recreations of historical sideshow performance. HEAR the life lessons that shaped this great American showman, MEET the extraordinary people that changed his life, and EXPERIENCE the wonders of his American Museum.



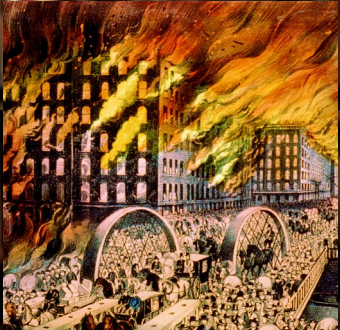
The Essential Edgar Allan Poe

In The Essential Edgar Allan Poe, William Pack exhumes the tragic life and remarkable writings of this American genius. You'll hear the story of his life and William will reveal Poe's place at the center of American literature. This program is a biography lecture and relies heavily on dramatic story readings to bring Poe's disturbing writing (Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, M. Valdemar) to life.

History

The Essential Great Chicago Fire

It started in a barn and, two days of flaming hell later, nearly destroyed a city. In "The Essential Great Chicago Fire", William weaves together technical details of the fire with vivid firsthand accounts from those who lived through the conflagration of 1871, bringing alive all the excitement and terror in a multi-media storytelling event that will not soon be forgotten.



It Happened in Chicago

We all know the big Chicago stories: the world's fairs, the fires, the crime. It's time to see the city anew. A city is made up of 1000s of stories. Stories of the people. Stories of the neighborhoods. Small stories of often forgotten men, women, and places. Storyteller William Pack returns with a program like no other, a collection of unusual short stories that add texture and depth to the everyday life and history of Chicago and celebrates the surprising people who lived and died in the city of big shoulders.



The Essential 1920s

We think of the 1960s as a revolutionary time, socially and culturally in America. The 1920s was the 60s before the 60s. The spirit of the era was characterized by a feeling of novelty and modernity, something that resulted in a break with many traditions. It may be the dividing point between the Victorian and Modern world. Hear the story of how the culture and everyday life changed radically for our recent ancestors.

American Entertainment History

Death Defying Acts -The History of the Circus

Barnum may be the biggest name, but he was only a small part of the story of the circus. William Pack takes you on a fantastical journey through the history of the Circus, from Phil Astley's creation of the modern circus in 1768 to Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of" to the incredible feud between Barnum and the Ringling Brothers. You'll hear stories of triumph, disaster, and the grand adventure of the travelling.



Behind the Canvas -An Anthology of Circus Stories

Some amazing tales that were left out of the "Death Defying Acts" program. Through a collection of captivating stories, this program explores the history and culture of the circus, uncovering the behind-the-scenes tales. In depth stories about some of the circus' greatest performers and worst tragedies. Whether you have a lifelong love for the circus or are simply curious about its magic, behind the canvas is sure to leave you amazed and entertained.



A Tough Act to Follow, The History of Vaudeville

From the late 1800s to 1930, vaudeville was a cultural phenomenon. Discover how vaudeville transformed entertainment, bringing together a diverse array of performances, from comedians, singers, dancers, magicians, acrobats. Through engaging anecdotes, captivating stories, and rare archival footage, William will explore how vaudeville emerged as the ultimate melting pot. Learn about the trailblazers and legends who graced these boards, leaving audiences spellbound and craving more.

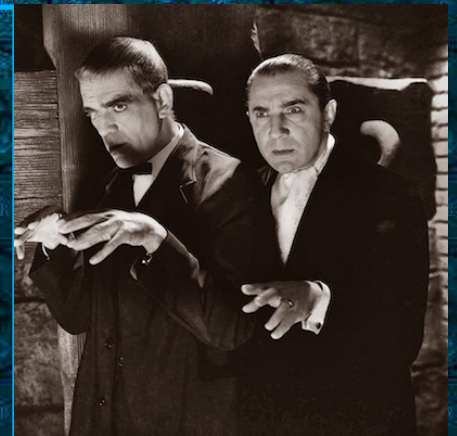


Backstage - An Anthology of Vaudeville Stories

Vaudeville is too big for just one program. This is an anthology of stories about some of Vaudeville's greatest stars and not-so-great performers and their sometimes seedy backstage lives. William Pack takes you to the other side of the curtain to reveal the triumphs and tragedies, laughter and tears, and the everyday life of these traveling performers.

It's Alive! The Birth of the Universal Monsters

Universal Pictures released a series of horror films between 1913-1956. Founded by Carl Laemmle, Universal was not a big player during Hollywood's early years. But when Universal discovered audiences wanted thrills, the studio turned its energies into the horror genre. What connected most of Universal's classic monsters was their roles as outsiders, earning sympathy and terrors. Universal's first step in defining horror was collaborating with Lon Chaney, "The Man of a Thousand Faces." Anchored by some of the most iconic movie monsters, the classic Universal Monster films have continued to resonate with horror fans for nearly a hundred years.



Most popular for October!

Tricks & Treats - A Cultural History of Hallowe'en

Despite what some histories say, Halloween, as we know it, is a surprisingly modern holiday. You'll hear about the true origins of the spookiest night of the year, some of the wildest ways people have celebrated the night, and the legends that surround it. In this engaging and immersive program, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the fascinating historical and cultural significance of Hallowe'en. From ancient traditions rooted in folklore to modern-day practices, this program is designed to enlighten and entertain, ensuring that every participant leaves with a newfound appreciation for the magic and mystery behind Hallowe'en. So join us and embark on a bewitching journey through time, uncovering the tricks and treats that have shaped this enchanting holiday.



A Holiday Classic



The Essential Christmas Carol

In this annotated storytelling lecture, William, using a script derived from Dickens' 1867 abridged reading copy, will perform a reading of A Christmas Carol (About 60 minutes) enhanced with a modern recreation of a magic lantern slide show popular during Dickens' lifetime. Then, in a Q&A, he will answer questions the curious origins and motivations behind the story.

Performance Programs



The Discovery of Magic

William Pack, "The Chicago Magic Expert," cracks open his magic history scrapbooks to reveal a secret world of colorful characters, amusing adventures, and arcane knowledge.

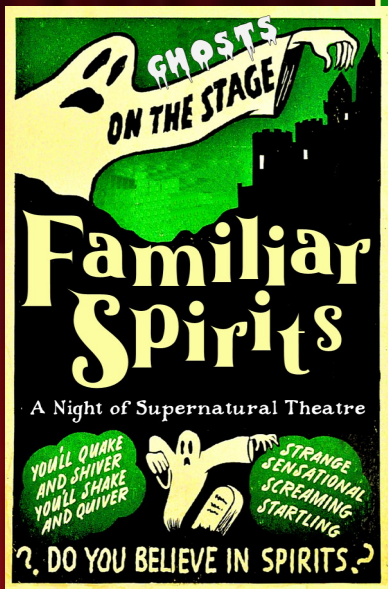
MEET astonishing magicians who made the impossible possible.
EXPLORE incredible behind-the-scenes stories that most never hear and your audiences will never forget. WONDER at recreations of the baffling magic tricks behind the stories.

The Haunted Page, Tricks & Tales for October Eves

Edgar Allan Poe, Ray Bradbury, M.R. James, and Shirley Jackson provide the inspiration for 60 minutes of spine-tingling bizarre magic, spell-binding stories, and macabre humor. For 60 minutes, William takes your patrons into their own private Twilight Zone. They will participate in the thrilling action that will leave them amazed and, maybe a little disturbed by the odd and unusual occurrences.



Limited Availability



Familiar Spirits or "Do You Believe in Ghosts?"

Remember the experience of turning off the lights, huddling under a blanket, and watching an old black and white monster movie?

Ever tell ghost stories by candlelight? Or around a campfire?

That skin crawling experience is what Familiar Spirits recreates for teens and adults. With a little something extra.

Experience an evening of supernatural theatre where the stories are so frighteningly real, the only relief is to scream, that is, after you stop laughing...

(Highly interactive performance, Special requirements needed, in-person only, Special Fee)

The Essential Houdini - Returning in 2026 for the 100th Anniversary of Houdini's Death

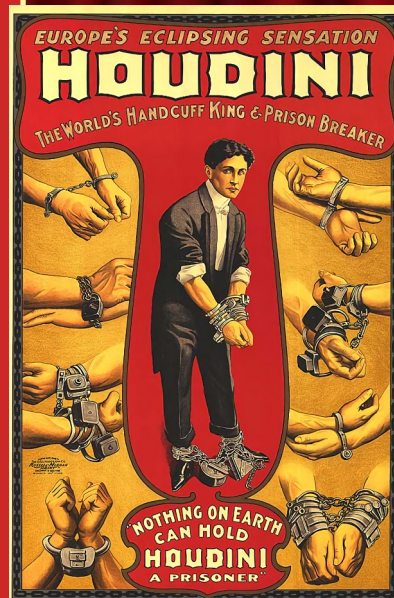
The true stories of Houdini - the American self-liberator, Europe's eclipsing sensation, World's handcuff king, Exposer of fraud, Original prison breaker, and Master magician. He is an inspiration to generations of children who dare to dream of the impossible. William goes beyond the myth and bring to life the true story of this American icon.

GASP at the story of his remarkable death.

RELIVE his baffling magic and escapes.

HEAR the only known recording of his voice

(Special Fee)



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