

How Magic Led Me to Storytelling

By Obaidullah Mohammadi

When I first discovered magic, I thought I was learning how to fool people. Like many beginners, I was fascinated by secrets. I wanted to know how the impossible could appear real. Every new trick felt like unlocking a mystery that only a few people were allowed to understand. Looking back, I realize that I wasn't simply learning magic—I was beginning a journey that would eventually lead me to storytelling.

As the years passed, I collected books, practiced sleight of hand, watched great performers, and performed whenever I had the opportunity. I focused on technique because I believed flawless execution was everything. Yet I noticed something interesting. Two magicians could perform the exact same trick, using the exact same method, and one performance would be unforgettable while the other would quickly fade from memory. The difference was rarely the secret. It was the story.

The greatest magicians never perform tricks in silence. They invite audiences into a world where ordinary objects become extraordinary. A simple deck of cards can represent chance, destiny, or memories. A borrowed coin can become a lesson about value, luck, or childhood. A rope can symbolize friendship, life, or impossible connections. The magic becomes stronger because the audience is emotionally invested before the climax ever arrives.

Without realizing it, I began studying storytelling every time I studied magic. I learned how to capture attention in the opening seconds. I learned how to create suspense, when to slow down, when to pause, and when silence could be more powerful than words. I learned that the ending should leave people with a feeling, not merely an explanation they could never receive.

Eventually those lessons extended beyond performance. I found myself writing articles, books, and podcast episodes. Instead of hiding secrets behind sleight of hand, I started sharing the history of magic, the lives of legendary performers, and the lessons that wonder can teach us about curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. The skills I had developed as a magician naturally became the skills of a storyteller.

Today, when I host *The Art of Wonder with D-R'TisT-O*, I don't simply want listeners to hear facts. I want them to experience moments. I want them to imagine standing in an old magic shop, watching a legendary performer on stage, or feeling the excitement of discovering their very first trick. Those images stay with people far longer than a list of dates or names ever could.

Magic also taught me that every person carries stories worth telling. Every magician remembers the first trick that inspired them, the first audience that applauded, the first mistake that became a lesson, and the mentor who encouraged them to continue. Those memories become part of who we are. Sharing them allows others to see that behind every performance is a very human journey.

Perhaps that is the greatest gift magic has given me. It didn't simply teach me how to create illusions. It taught me how to communicate wonder. It showed me that stories have the power to inspire curiosity, preserve history, and connect people across generations. Magic opened the door, but storytelling gave me a reason to keep walking through it.

If someone were to ask whether I am a magician or a storyteller, I would honestly answer that I am both. Magic taught me how to capture attention. Storytelling taught me how to give that attention meaning. Together they have shaped not only my performances, but also my writing, my podcast, and the way I hope to leave a small legacy for those who continue to believe that the world is still full of wonder.