

20-31 DEC 2023



MAGICFEST.CO.UK

www.magicfest.co.uk

PHONE

0131 226 0006

Booking lines are open till 20th December

Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm

During the holidays, please email boxoffice@magicfest.co.uk

IN PERSON

Tickets can be purchased on the day from the Festival venues, subject to availability.

Booking Fees

A booking fee of £1 per ticket is applied to all bookings, up to a maximum of £3 per transaction

Electronic Tickets

MagicFest is an e-ticketed event so you will need to present the barcode at the top of your confirmation email on entry. This can either be on a smartphone or tablet or in printed form. If you book multiple events, the same barcode will allow entry to all the events in one transaction.

If you do not have a smartphone or access to a printer, please call us to make your booking on 0131 226 0006 and we can send out the printed confirmation email in the post for a £1.50 charge.

Concessions are available for:

Full-time students Senior citizens (65 and over) Under 16s (unless a child ticket is available) Disabled patrons (companions go free)

If you require wheelchair access or a complimentary companion ticket, please call our box office to book over the phone on 0131 226 0006.

Group Discounts:

Group discounts are available for groups of ten or more people. Please phone 0131 226 0006 for more information.

Festival Team

Svetlana McMahon Creative Director and Producer

Kevin Quantum Programming Director

Ida Casilli Administrator & Volunteer Coordinator

Jack Harris Lighting Designer and Production Manager

Scottish Festivals PR Press Office and PR

Corner Shop PR Digital Marketing

Notes:

Please note the Festival has a no refund or exchange policy, other than in the event of a cancellation. Latecomers may only be admitted at the discretion of staff and only during a suitable break in the performance. ALL SEATING IS UNRESERVED except for the events at the Church Hill Theatre

WELCOMETO GICEST 202

WELCOME TO THE 14TH YEAR OF MAGICFEST!

I find that there are two types of people that come to magic shows. The first are the believers! Those that are happy to suspend their disbelief and go along with the magical ride. Then there are the sceptics – those that see magic as a puzzle that must be broken down and solved. They want to know how everything works. Then there are those that are "brought" along by family and friends.

Regardless of where you sit – this year we want you to share the magic! If that means sharing the wonder of a show or your theories on how the tricks are done we don't mind. Everyone enjoys magic in their own way. And we have lots of great opportunities for believers and sceptics alike!

The Christmas Special is our full evening show, with myself, contemporary conjuror Oliver Tabor and, in keeping with our goals of fostering local talent, the fantastic Fraser Stokes. A riotously fun and magical night out for the whole family. Or perhaps a couple magical surprises along the way! you want to do a magic workshop with your kids? Then come visit Edinburgh's newest magic shop Wonder & Co near Haymarket for our hands-on workshops.

After the success of Future Magicians last year, and the wonderful stories that the 2022 participants have shared with me over the last 9 months, we've decided to bring it back again for 2023. Five young magicians, paired with five

mentors – sharing their skills and experience – with the goal to build an act ready for performance at the 2023 Magic Festival. I'm really looking forward to seeing what this year's cohort will achieve!

We will very shortly be presenting our digital Magic & Theatre workshop resource for those who want to learn how to turn a 'trick' into 'magic'. In partnership with Lyceum Theatre and Creative Informatics at the University of Edinburgh, we've built a 'choose your own adventure' style workshop which will very soon be available to use from the MagicFest website. This will complement our existing free to use resource 'Virtual Magic School' for children aged 7-11 years old — learning magic simultaneously with science and maths – all linked up to the Scottish and English

Finally, we were delighted to consult on the magic-&-mystery themed "Castle of Light" at Edinburgh Castle this year. Expect a dazzling tapestry of illuminations with

Whether you are a believer or a sceptic, whether you spectate or participate – we encourage you to 'share the magic' and bring a bit of wonder into your life and that of those around you this Christmas.

> See you soon Kevin Quantum, Programming Director



CASTLE of LIGHT

castleoflight.scot

I A I With Guests OUT TO THE STATE OF THE S

CRACK OPEN A FESTIVE PERFORMANCE OF STUNNING MAGIC!

Straight from sell-out shows around the globe, magician Kevin Quantum and special guests Oliver Tabor and Fraser Stokes are back with NEW astonishing illusions and big laughs in a riotously fun and magical full-evening Christmas show for the whole family!

Trained by Penn & Teller, and having reached the final stages of Britain's Got Talent, Kevin's shows are a mix of amazement, laughter, audience participation and derring-do!

After sell-out shows last Christmas, we're so excited to be back to unwrap the Christmas Special with an all new show to fry your brains once again!

"A slick intriguing slice of magic." brilliantly different" - The Stage

★★★★ "Astonishing" - Evening News'Master

***** "Master Illusionist" - Adelaide Advertiser

CHURCH HILL THEATRE

24 DEC 3pm | 27, 28, 29, 30 DEC 2pm & 7pm 31 DEC 2pm | £20/£18 CONC/£15 CHILD 105MIN | AGES 5+

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VINCENT GAMBINI "THIS IS NOT A MAGIC SHOW"

What makes magic magic?

And is there really a Magic Circle Emergency Hotline for magicians to call in distress?

'This is not a magic show' is a critically acclaimed performance of and about sleight-of-hand magic: its invisible mechanics, its clichés, and what it tells us about live theatre and make-believe. In a conversational yet crafted approach, Vincent Gambini presents astonishing close-up magic that invites us to question how enchantment and wonder are made within a theatrical situation.

Possibly the first of its kind, Vincent Gambini's 'This is not a magic show' is part performance-lecture, part deconstructed showbiz, and part magic tricks that leave you, like, omg.

*** ** ** "This thoughtful, playful and multi-layered piece will make you question how we watch and what we see." - The Guardian

"A gentle, cerebral show in which Gambini unpicks both his tricks and the expectations of his audience..." – The Stage

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 27, 28, 29, 30 DEC | 4pm £14/£12 CONC 70MIN | AGES 14+



ELLIOT BIBBY"THE BEST OF BIBBY"

After a COMPLETE SELL OUT at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the Insane Magic boys, Elliot is back with a solo hour of magic. Bringing the best he has to offer, from 10 years of professional shows.

Elliot has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe for 10 years running, created viral videos for the BBC and won the Australian Fringe World Weekly Comedy Award.

He will be showcasing why he was awarded both the International Brotherhood of Magicians British Ring Magician of the Year and the 'WINNER of the Sonny Day Edinburgh Magician of the Year', in this comedy magic extravaganza.

"cheeky, charming magician" - Edinburgh Spotlight

"Bibby is the master of creating crowd warmth. His humour's quick and punchy, but it is his magic that is truly impressive" – The Fourth Wall

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 27, 28, 29, 30 DEC | 6pm £14/£12 CONC 55MIN | AGES 10+

STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS

Spend a morning with professional magician Cameron Gibson (Illusionarium, Toronto & Magic Immersive, Chicago) where you'll gain hands-on experience in simple yet mind-blowing magic that you can do! By the end of this masterclass, you'll have mastered tricks with everyday objects that you can use to entertain and amaze your friends and family!

28 Dec - under 18s session (suitable for ages 12+, all participants must be registered in advance)

29 Dec - over 18s session

30 Dec - open session (suitable for ages 10+, family groups welcome, participants under 18s must be accompanied by paid adult)

The class is suitable for beginners and those with some knowledge of magic. All the props will be provided.

WONDER & CO 28, 29, 30 DEC | 9,30am 90MIN | AGES 10+

About your teacher:

Cameron Gibson is a world-class magician and mind-reader originally from Edinburgh, Scotland. He was most recently based in North America where he was the creative lead, consultant and head magician on Illusionarium, Toronto - The world's first immersive magic experience; and Magic Immersive, Chicago - A magic show in 360 degrees! Cameron is also founder and proprietor of Wonder & Co.





VINCENT GAMBINI "OUT OF THIN AIR"

'Out of thin air' brings together new poetic illusions by Vincent Gambini. Sitting at a table with a deck of cards, the magician takes us backstage into how shows are made, what magic might be, and what holds the universe together (maybe).

There are stories about magicians at magic conventions, an attempt at presenting a show in which nothing happens, and magic poems about none other than you, the spectator.

Expect deft sleight of hand, strange poetry, and low-key spectacle.

"There's something deeply satisfying in the chill, philosophical style of Vincent Gambini" - Exeunt Magazine

"Truly the Stewart Lee of magic" - Mumble Cirque

WONDER & CO 28, 29, 30 DEC | 12pm £8/£7 CONC 30MIN | AGES 14+



RICHARD WISEMAN "THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD TRICK AND OTHER MYSTERIES"

The world's greatest card trick was invented in 1942. Over the years it has been performed by many famous magicians, amazed and astounded millions of people, and made Winston Churchill late for Parliament. In this intimate show, a small group of people join magician Professor Richard Wiseman as he reveals the unknown genius behind the trick, demonstrates other jaw dropping mysteries from the mind of this master magician, and celebrates the invention of the impossible. Expect erudite entertainment, a peek into the secret world of magic, and, of course, a performance of the world's greatest card trick.

Psychologist and magician Professor Richard Wiseman has published over 100 academic papers, written several popular psychology books (including The Luck Factor and 59 Seconds) that have sold over 3 million copies worldwide, and created YouTube videos that have attracted over 800 million views. He is one of the most followed psychologists on Twitter, and has worked with David Copperfield, Penn and Teller and Derren Brown

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 28 DEC 4pm | 29 DEC 1pm & 4pm £7/6 CONC 40MIN | AGES 12+

MAGICFEST 2023

At a glance...

VENUE

Church Hill Theatre

33 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DR www.churchhilltheatre.co.uk

Scottish Storytelling Centre 43-45 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1SR www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com

The Joker & the Thief

71 Elm Row, Edinburgh EH7 4AQ www.jokerandthief.co.uk

Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh -The Caledonian

Princes St, Edinburgh EH1 2AB www.hilton.com

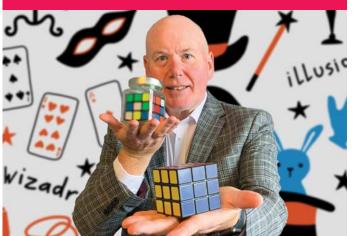
Wonder & Co

14 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5JZ www.wonderco.uk

DATE	START	DUR.	SHOW	AGE	VENUE
Wednesday	6.00 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	Waldorf Astoria - Caledonian
20 December	8.30 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	Waldorf Astoria - Caledonian
Thursday 21 December	8.00 PM	2:00	TIM LICATA 'CLOSE-UP MAGIC AT THE JOKER & THE THIEF'	18+	The Joker & The Thief
Sunday 24 December	3.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
24 December					
Wednesday	10.45 AM	0:50	GARY JAMES 'WONDERLAND'	7+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
27 December	12.15 PM	0:50	GARY JAMES 'WONDERLAND'	7+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:10	VINCENT GAMBINI 'THIS IS NOT A MAGIC SHOW'	14+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	6.00 PM	0:55	ELLIOT BIBBY 'THE BEST OF BIBBY'	10+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
Thursday	9.30 AM	1:30	STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS WITH CAMERON GIBSON - UNDER 18		Wonder & Co
28 December	10.45 AM	0:50	GARY DUNN 'JOKES & TRICKS'	5+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	12.00 PM		VINCENT GAMBINI 'OUT OF THIN AIR'	14+	Wonder & Co
	12.15 PM	0:50	GARY DUNN 'JOKES & TRICKS'	5+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	0:55	RICHARD WISEMAN 'MIND MAGIC'	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:10	VINCENT GAMBINI 'THIS IS NOT A MAGIC SHOW'	14+ 12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre Scottish Storytelling Centre
	4.00 PM	0:40	RICHARD WISEMAN 'THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD TRICK AND OTHER MYSTERIES'	12+	Scottish Storytening Centre
	6.00 PM	0:55	ELLIOT BIBBY 'THE BEST OF BIBBY'	10+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.45 PM	0:60	CAMERON GIBSON & FRIENDS	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre

DATE	START	DUR.	SHOW	AGE	VENUE
Friday 29 December	9.30 AM	1:30	STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS WITH CAMERON GIBSON - OVER 18	18+	Wonder & Co
	10.45 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'FESTIVE FUNTIME'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	12.00 PM	0:30	VINCENT GAMBINI 'OUT OF THIN AIR'	14+	Wonder & Co
	12.15 PM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'FESTIVE FUNTIME'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	1.00 PM	0:40	RICHARD WISEMAN 'THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD TRICK AND OTHER MYSTERIES'	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	0:50	FUTURE MAGICIANS	7+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:10	VINCENT GAMBINI 'THIS IS NOT A MAGIC SHOW'	14+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	4.00 PM	0:40	RICHARD WISEMAN 'THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD TRICK AND OTHER MYSTERIES'	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	6.00 PM	0:55	ELLIOT BIBBY 'THE BEST OF BIBBY'	10+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.45 PM	0:60	CAMERON GIBSON & FRIENDS	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
Saturday 30 December	9.30 AM	1:30	STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS WITH CAMERON GIBSON - OPEN	10+	Wonder & Co
	10.45 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'FESTIVE FUNTIME'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
		0:30	VINCENT GAMBINI 'OUT OF THIN AIR'	14+	Wonder & Co
	12.15 PM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'FESTIVE FUNTIME'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	0:50	FUTURE MAGICIANS	7+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:10	VINCENT GAMBINI 'THIS IS NOT A MAGIC SHOW'	14+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	6.00 PM	0:55	ELLIOT BIBBY 'THE BEST OF BIBBY'	10+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.45 PM	0:60	CAMERON GIBSON & FRIENDS	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
Sunday 31 December	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre

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GARY JAMES "WONDERLAND"

Enjoy a fast-paced family-friendly show with jaw-dropping magic inspired by wideeved childhood memories and a career in entertainment.

In WONDERLAND Gary captures the excitement and mystery from his childhood visits to the legendary Lothian Road store by the same name. Who'd have thought that family trips to this shop as a child would have inspired a life in entertainment?

With countless TV appearances under his belt, Gary even made JK Rowling 'appear' by magic at Edinburgh Castle for the launch of the first Harry Potter book!

- Two times past president of the Edinburgh Magic Circle EMC
- Twice awarded EMC 'magician of the year'
- Awarded the Murray wand for showmanship by Scottish Association of Magic Societies
- Awarded inner Magic Circle Membership with Silver Star

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 27 DEC | 10.45am & 12.15pm £12/£10 CONC 50MIN | AGES 7+



GARY DUNN "JOKES & TRICKS"

Gary Dunn, one of Scotland's favourite family entertainers, returns to MagicFest for another show filled with mad magic and stupid jokes!

After the sell-out success of his show at the Glasgow Comedy Festival, Gary is coming to Edinburgh this December to amaze, astound and perhaps make you wee a little too! (Please bring spare pants - just in case!)

★★★★ My Mum

"This magic ROCKS!" - Glasgow Herald

"Gary is professional, friendly, funny and his magic keeps everyone guessing. Recommended!!" - Stephen Leckie, Chief Executive, Crieff Hydro Resort

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 28 DEC | 10.45am & 12.15pm £12/£10 CONC 50MIN | AGES 5+

Entertainer of the Year", always a sell-out at MagicFest.





KEVIN QUANTUM"EDINBURGH MAGIC"

An Intimate and astonishing performance of magic in enchanting surrounds.

Unlock hidden Edinburgh and enjoy magic that's fooled the greatest minds associated with the city, from Harry Houdini to King Charles. Amazing moments tied to the secret stories hidden in the cobbles and closes of the capital.

Objects float before your eyes, money multiplies, time stands still...

There are just 30 tickets available for each performance, you'll only ever be a few metres from the action.

"Quantum's execution of his craft is as smooth as can be.

The unfathomable levitation trick is a stunning routine, sheer entertainment, proving that in an era of 'fake news' even the smartest can be fooled." – The Scotsman

WALDORF ASTORIA EDINBURGH - THE CALEDONIAN 20 DEC | 6pm & 8.30pm £30-55 70MIN | AGES 12+



RICHARD WISEMAN "MIND MAGIC"

Enter the strange world of illusion, magic, and mystery. How do magicians produce objects from thin air and defy gravity? Does the paranormal really exist? Can you achieve the impossible?

Join psychologist, best-selling author, and member of the Inner Magic Circle Professor Richard Wiseman as he explores the limits of the human mind, proves that we can all achieve more than we think, and demonstrates how to transform a tea towel into a chicken. A fun hour for all the family.

Psychologist and magician Richard Wiseman has published over 100 academic papers, written several popular psychology books (including The Luck Factor and 59 Seconds) that have sold over 3 million copies worldwide, and created YouTube videos that have attracted over 800 million views. He is one of the most followed psychologists on Twitter, and has worked with David Copperfield, Penn and Teller, and Derren Brown

Elizabeth Loftus (Past President, Association for Psychological Science) recently described Richard as 'one of the world's most creative psychologists.' In 2023, his On Your Mind Podcast reached No.1 in Apple Podcast's Science charts, and he was given the Royal Society's prestigious David Attenborough Award for his work.

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 28 DEC | 2pm £12/£10 CONC 55MIN | AGES 12+



CAMERON GIBSON & FRIENDS

Join Edinburgh magician Cameron Gibson as he presents a fast-paced magic & variety show that will knock your proverbial socks off. From classic sleight-of-hand to mind-reading and comedy, this show truly has something for everyone!

Star of "Illusionarium, Toronto", "Magic Immersive, Chicago" and Edinburgh Fringe sell-out sensation "Insane Magic".

Every show features special guests from the world of magic & variety - so you never quite know what wonders might await...



TIM LICATA "CLOSE-UP MAGIC AT THE JOKER & THE THIEF"

Enjoy astonishing close-up magic at The Joker & The Thief pub with resident magician Tim Licata, one of Scotland's most entertaining sleight-of-hand artists.

Tim brings his brand of Chicago style bar magic to the Joker & Thief EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 8pm.

Join him for a MagicFest Special for evening drinks and delightful deception at this hidden gem of a pub at the top of Leith Walk. Magic at your table anytime from 8pm

FREE (tips appreciated!) 18+. No tickets, limited capacity.

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 28, 29, 30 DEC | 7.45pm £14/£12 CONC 60MIN | AGES 12+ THE JOKER & THE THIEF 21 DEC | 8pm FREE 120MIN | AGES 18+

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MAGICFEST BEYOND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

MAGIC AND THEATRE

Improve your Magic and Theatre skills with a new online course!

In collaboration with the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Creative Informatics Resident Entrepreneur Programme and Edinburgh International Magic Festival, Kevin Quantum is developing a new digital course, using cutting edge "choose your own adventure" technology, focusing on the areas of theatre considered most valid for many magicians — presence, character and direction.

We now need your help. Sign up https://magicfest.co.uk/magicandtheatre/ to be first to trial the new course for free when it launches later this year! Recommended for Ages 12+.

VIRTUAL MAGIC SCHOOL

Learn to read minds, make objects appear and disappear, and other mysterious skills!

Join BGT semi-finalist Kevin Quantum, your new magic teacher, for an 8-lesson virtual magic course, using cutting edge 'choose your own adventure' technology, allowing participants to have as close to a live workshop experience as modern technology allows.

As well as cool magic tricks, children will learn presentation and craft skills, numeracy and literacy skills and much more. Elements are tied to the Scottish and English curricula making it as easy as possible for teachers to integrate this resource into their year and is ready to use "straight out of the box"!

What's more - the course is FREE to any and all schools that want it. Sign up at magicfest.co.uk/vms for more info and to make sure that your school gets access!

Supported by Baillie Gifford, Kiran's Trust and through CreativeScotland as part of the Creative Digital Initiative, funded by the Scottish Government.



FUTURE Come see the magic stars of the future! MAGICIANS

Future Magicians returns for a second year; a new MagicFest programme designed to assist young magicians with their performance development.

Over the course of eight weeks, up to six student magicians will receive mentorship, guiding them to create a high-quality act lasting around 8 minutes that will eventually be presented as part of the MagicFest programme at the end of December!

Magicians often work in isolation, with knowledge passed down in 1-on-1 mentorship models. There are no further education courses in Scotland for students wishing to develop their art and interact, face to face, with other student practitioners.

This is another step in our attempts to create high-quality in-person and virtual resources for student magicians who wish to

- 1) be part of a larger learning community,
- 2) understand and benefit from the wider theatrical arts, and
- 3) progress to a more proficient level of performance.

If you are interested in being part of this programme



SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE
29, 30 DEC | 2pm
£10/£7 CONC
50MIN | AGES 7+

SHARE THE MAGIC! ♥♥

BOOK TICKETS:

WWW.MAGICFEST.CO.UK 0131 226 0006

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