

EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
MAGIC
FESTIVAL

17-30 DEC 2025

UNLEASH YOUR
INNER MAGIC!



MAGICFEST.CO.UK

HOW TO BOOK!

ONLINE

www.magicfest.co.uk

PHONE

0131 226 0006

Booking lines are open till 17th 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.**

Notes:

Please note the Festival has a no refund or exchange policy, other than in the event of a cancellation. Booking fees are a cost incurred for processing the tickets and are non-refundable. 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.

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

Scottish Festivals PR Press Office and PR

WELCOME TO MAGICFEST 2025

WELCOME TO THE 16TH EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL MAGIC FESTIVAL!

Sixteen is a curious age. Old enough to drive, almost old enough to vote... and for us, it feels like MagicFest has stepped into its own adulthood. The city is buzzing again, and we're proud to bring magic right into the heart of it—sharing wonder, championing new talent, and opening doors for wider audiences to experience the arts in unexpected ways. Like any sixteen-year-old on the cusp of adulthood, the festival is full of energy, restless creativity, and the confidence to try bold new things. These are not just highlights of our programme, they're the very values at the core of MagicFest.

This year's programme is our boldest yet:

Discover *Shape Shifters*, a magical children's theatre premiere blending dance, costume and illusion, created with input from world champion quick-change artist Lea Kyle. Step into the *Magic Awareness Society*, a playful, subversive show exploring the strange power of secrets. Then join Kevin Quantum and international stars for the unmissable *Christmas Special*, a full-scale festive spectacular of stage magic. Plus, don't miss *Insane Christmas Magic* and *Wonderboy*, platforming the next generation of astonishing our up-and-coming magicians. And much more.

So dive in. Explore. Laugh. Wonder. Question. Celebrate. Whether this is your first MagicFest or your sixteenth, thank you for being part of this incredible journey with us.

Let's Keep Edinburgh Curious, One Astonishment at a Time!



See you soon,
Kevin Quantum, Programming Director

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS:

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TRUST

KEVIN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

with Guests

QUANTUM

STRAIGHT FROM SELL-OUT SHOWS
AROUND THE GLOBE...

International magician **Kevin Quantum** — star of Britain's Got Talent and one of the UK's leading illusionists — brings you a brand-NEW Christmas spectacular, packed with astonishing magic and breathtaking stage illusions for the whole family.

Joining **Kevin** are **Taylor Morgan** and **Rebecca Foyle**, fresh from the World Championships of Magic (FISM). See the act that stunned a theatre full of seasoned magicians (who thought they'd seen it all), as Taylor delivers his award-winning performance alongside Rebecca's spellbinding artistry.

Expect drama, vanishes, levitations, and gasp-worthy illusions — with all the glamour and glitz of a West End spectacular.

Treat yourself, your family, or your team to a Christmas night out that will truly blow your mind!

★★★★★ "Astonishing" - Evening News
★★★★★ "Master Illusionist" - Adelaide Advertiser
★★★★★ "Brilliant. . . Delightful, funny, and surrounded by wonder and intrigue" - This is Radelaide

CHURCH HILL THEATRE

22, 23 DEC 2pm & 7pm
24, 28, 29, 30 DEC 12pm & 4pm
£17-23 | 105MIN
AGES 5+

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TAYLOR MORGAN

REBECCA FOYLE

MAGIC AWARENESS SOCIETY

AN EXCLUSIVE CLOSE-UP MAGIC EXPERIENCE.
PASSWORD REQUIRED.

Imagine a not-so-distant dystopian world where magic is forbidden and wonder is prosecuted... Expect an atmosphere shrouded in mystery — masked magicians, a radio that cannot be turned off, and rules that begin to bend as the evening unfolds.

Behind the polished doors of Edinburgh's Royal Scots Club, a select few will gather for an extraordinary evening where nothing is quite as it seems.

Blending elegance and enigma, *Magic Awareness Society* offers a rare chance to witness world-class magicians in an intimate, theatrical atmosphere charged with suspense and surprise.

What happens inside the Society... stays inside the Society.

Featuring **Tim Licata**, **Lewis Barlow**, **Dan Bastianelli** and **Elliot Bibby**.

ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

PREVIEW 29 DEC | 7.30pm | £18/£16 CONC
30 DEC | 1.30pm, 4.30pm & 7.30pm | £24/£22 CONC
90MIN | AGES 12+



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THE SECRET ROOM AT LAURISTON CASTLE

DISCOVER UNSOLVED MYSTERIES WITHIN ONE OF EDINBURGH'S HIDDEN GEMS.

Hidden away at the end of a winding driveway, Lauriston Castle remains one of the city's most enchanting secrets — a treasure trove of timeless tapestries, rich décor, and whispered tales of secret chambers, strange experiments, and the extraordinary lives of its former residents.

This Christmas, three master magicians breathe new life into those stories through spellbinding illusion, mind-bending sleight-of-hand, and a touch of mischief. Discover the castle's hidden corners as each performer reveals a chapter of its mysterious past — from noble tricksters to doomed inventors and fortune-seekers who gambled everything on a dream.

Set against the castle's breathtaking Edwardian interiors and panoramic views over the River Forth, *The Secret Room* is an unforgettable journey into history, wonder, and imagination.

Featuring world-class card magician **Lewis Barlow**, astounding sleight-of-hand artist **Tim Licata**, and phenomenal mind-reader **Drew McAdam**.

★★★★★ "A unique and top rate experience at a gorgeous Scottish treasure" – Edinburgh Guide

LAURISTON CASTLE

20, 21 DEC | 12.30pm & 2.30pm

£22/£20 CONC/£16 CHILD

75MIN | AGES 8+

6 | magicfest.co.uk | Box office: 0131 226 0006



KEVIN QUANTUM EDINBURGH MAGIC

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.

An intimate and astonishing performance of magic in enchanting surrounds.

★★★★★ "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

★★★★★ "inexplicable, unfathomable, defying physical reality.. has the select audience literally gasping and perplexed, shaking their heads, and looking around the room for mirrors, smoke, anything? But finding no clues." – North West End

THE CALEDONIAN HOTEL

17, 18, 19 DEC | 6pm & 8.30pm

£30-55

70MIN | AGES 12+



RICHARD WISEMAN THE WORLD'S MOST BORING CARD TRICK

Witness the most uninteresting card trick and experience the psychology of boredom first-hand.

Have you got what it takes to sit through the most tedious show ever and receive a certificate verifying your extraordinary willpower? You can leave anytime, and success is an empty auditorium. Will you find being bored surprisingly interesting? Come along and discover how our need for constant stimulation is destroying the world. An unusual, one-off, show that is unsuitable for those with a short attention span.

About Richard Wiseman

Psychologist and magician Richard Wiseman has published more than 100 academic papers and written several bestselling psychology books — including *The Luck Factor* and *59 Seconds* — which have sold over three million copies worldwide. His YouTube videos have attracted over 800 million views, and he is among the most followed psychologists on X (formerly Twitter). Richard has also worked with David Copperfield, Penn & Teller, and Derren Brown.

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

27 DEC | 5pm

£7/£5 CONC

50MIN | AGES 16+

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MAGICFEST 2025

At a glance...

VENUE INFORMATION

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

The Royal Scots Club
29-31 Abercromby Pl, Edinburgh EH3 6QE
www.royalscotsclub.com

Lauriston Castle
2 Cramond Rd S, Edinburgh EH4 6AD
www.cultureedinburgh.com

North Edinburgh Arts
12C Macmillan Cres, Edinburgh EH4 4AB
www.northedinburgharts.co.uk

DATE	START	DUR.	SHOW	AGE	VENUE
Wednesday 17 December	6.00 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
	8.30 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
Thursday 18 December	6.00 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
	8.30 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
Friday 19 December	6.00 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
	8.30 PM	1:10	EDINBURGH MAGIC	12+	The Caledonian Hotel
Saturday 20 December	11.00 AM	0:45	SHAPE SHIFTERS	3+	North Edinburgh Arts
	12.30 PM	1:15	THE SECRET ROOM	8+	Lauriston Castle
	3.00 PM	0:45	SHAPE SHIFTERS	3+	North Edinburgh Arts
	2.30 PM	1:15	THE SECRET ROOM	8+	Lauriston Castle
Sunday 21 December	12.30 PM	1:15	THE SECRET ROOM	8+	Lauriston Castle
	2.30 PM	1:15	THE SECRET ROOM	8+	Lauriston Castle
Monday 22 December	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
Tuesday 23 December	2.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
Wednesday 24 December	12.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre

DATE	START	DUR.	SHOW	AGE	VENUE
Saturday 27 December	10.00 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'JINGLES ALL THE WAY'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	11.30 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'JINGLES ALL THE WAY'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	11.30 AM	1:30	MAGIC WORKSHOP WITH TIM LICATA	12-18	Scottish Storytelling Centre/Library
	1.30 PM	0:60	INSANE CHRISTMAS MAGIC	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	3.15 PM	0:60	INSANE CHRISTMAS MAGIC	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	5.00 PM	0:60	RICHARD WISEMAN 'THE WORLD'S MOST BORING CARD TRICK'	16+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:20	FOUR MAGICIANS	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
Sunday 28 December	10.00 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'JINGLES ALL THE WAY'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	11.30 AM	0:50	TRICKY RICKY 'JINGLES ALL THE WAY'	4+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	12.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	1.30 PM	0:60	INSANE CHRISTMAS MAGIC	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	3:00 PM	1:30	MAGIC WORKSHOP WITH TIM LICATA	12-18	Scottish Storytelling Centre/Library
	3.15 PM	0:60	INSANE CHRISTMAS MAGIC	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	4.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	5.00 PM	0:50	JAMIE LEONARD 'WONDERBOY'	8+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
	7.00 PM	1:20	FOUR MAGICIANS	12+	Scottish Storytelling Centre
Monday 29 December	12.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	7.30 PM	1:30	MAGIC AWARENESS SOCIETY - PREVIEW	12+	Royal Scots Club
Tuesday 30 December	12.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	13.30 PM	1:30	MAGIC AWARENESS SOCIETY	12+	Royal Scots Club
	4.00 PM	1:45	KEVIN QUANTUM 'CHRISTMAS SPECIAL' WITH GUESTS	5+	Church Hill Theatre
	4.30 PM	1:30	MAGIC AWARENESS SOCIETY	12+	Royal Scots Club
	7.30 PM	1:30	MAGIC AWARENESS SOCIETY	12+	Royal Scots Club

SHAPE SHIFTERS

Work-in-progress performance

A joyful magical dance adventure for children aged 3+ and their grown-ups.

What do you become when you don't quite fit in?

In a world full of colours, textures, and surprises, *Shape Shifters* invites young audiences on a joyful journey of play, transformation, and finding your own sparkle.

We meet two inseparable friends — synchronised, confident, and always in step. But when a bright, curious Newcomer arrives, everything changes...

Through dance, illusion, and a touch of comedy, *Shape Shifters* celebrates identity, difference, and the friendships we build when we find the courage to be ourselves.

Join us for a work-in-progress performance and be part of the creative journey!

Creative Team:

Performers — Malcolm Sutherland, Tsoi Huen, Emily Briggs

Producer/Director — Svetlana McMahon

Choreographer — Eszter Marsalkó

Costume Designer — Alison Brown

Composer — Nik Paget-Tomlinson

Quick change magic consultant — Léa Kyle

Early Years consultant — Charlotte Allan

Stage Manager — Sarah Adair

Technical and Lighting support — Corinne Bills

Project development supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, Diversity and Inclusion Fund, by the National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations through Creative Scotland and by Kiran's Trust. Special thanks to our venue and community partner: North Edinburgh Arts.

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NORTH EDINBURGH ARTS

20 DEC | 11am & 3pm | £5

45MIN | AGES 3+

10 | magicfest.co.uk | Box office: 0131 226 0006

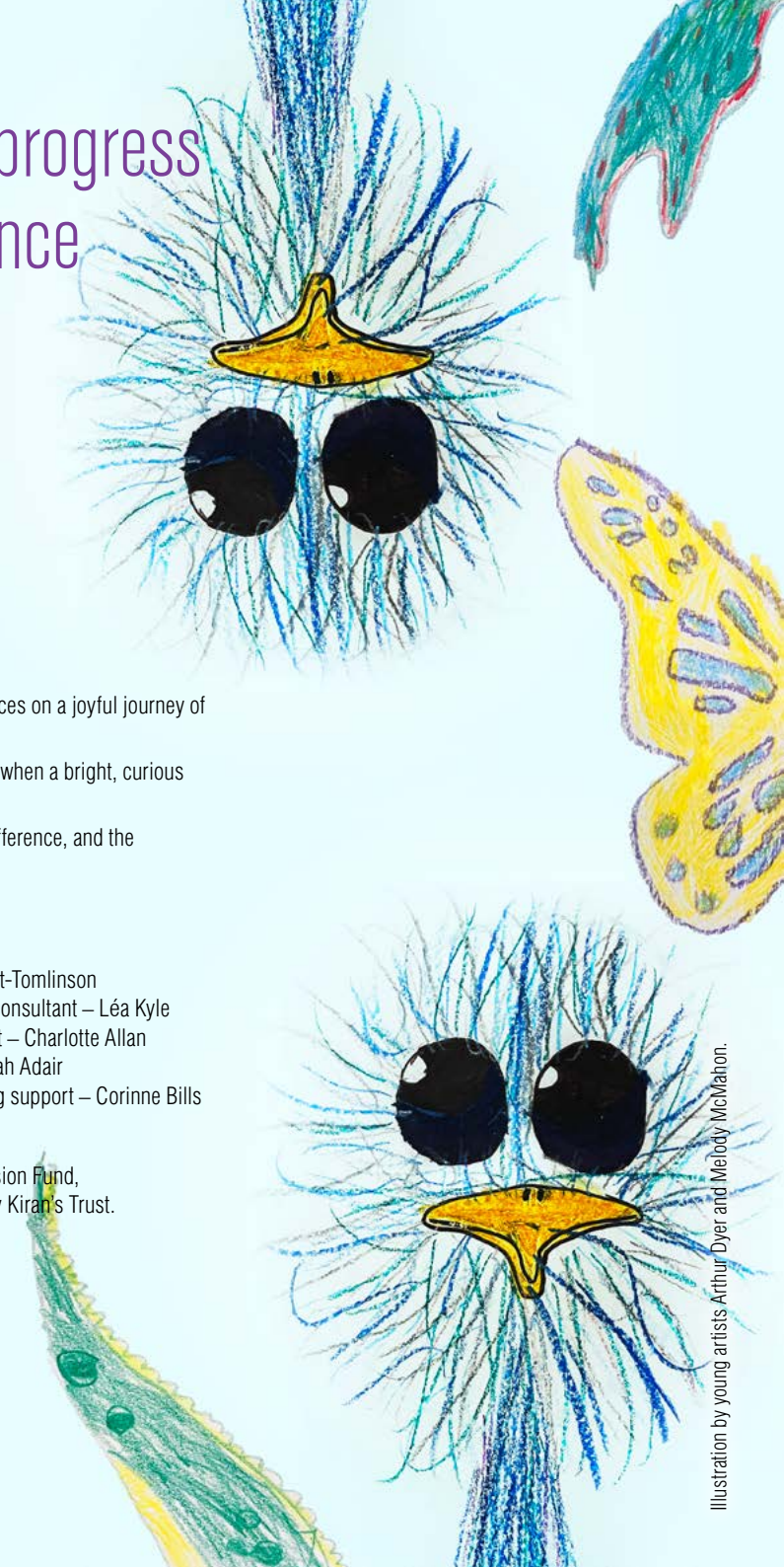


Illustration by young artists Arthur Dyer and Melody McMahon.



TRICKY RICKY JINGLES ALL THE WAY

Back by popular demand!

Scotland's favourite trickster is jingling all the way into the festive season with a brand-new magic and comedy spectacular. Jingles All the Way brings back the star of the season, Jingles the Reindeer, alongside Sonny the Bunny — the cheeky sidekick whose chaos and mayhem always steal the show.

Packed with dazzling tricks, groan-worthy puns, and riotous audience participation, this fast-paced festive show will amuse and amaze kids and childish grown-ups alike.

Crowned four-time Scottish Children's Entertainer of the Year and always a sell-out at MagicFest, Tricky Ricky guarantees cabaret-style magic like no other. In recognition of his showmanship, Ricky was awarded the Murray Wand for the third time this year by the Scottish Association of Magical Societies.

★★★★ "A polished performance" – Edinburgh Evening News

★★★★ "The legendary Tricky Ricky" – Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

27, 28 DEC | 10am & 11.30am

£12.50/£10 CONC

50MIN | AGES 4+



JAMIE LEONARD WONDER BOY

After a hugely successful 2025 Edinburgh Fringe run — with five-star reviews, multiple sell-outs, and a nomination for Best Show of the Fringe — Jamie Leonard returns with his most exciting hour yet: Wonder Boy.

This high-energy, laugh-out-loud show combines razor-sharp comedy, jaw-dropping sleight of hand, and moments of pure wonder that leave audiences questioning the impossible. From dazzling crowds at the Fringe to a private performance for the Saudi Royal Family, Jamie's mix of charm, wit, and world-class magic has cemented him as one of the UK's most exciting rising stars.

"One of magic's rising stars" – Colin Cloud

"Charming" – WorldMagicReview.com

Nominated for Best Show of the Fringe 2025

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

28 DEC | 5pm

£12/£10 CONC

50MIN | AGES 8+

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INSANE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Insane Magic finally make their MagicFest debut!

Cameron Gibson, Elliot Bibby, and Luke Osey — “three of the country’s best magicians” (Edinburgh Live) — have had a rollercoaster year: taking Insane Magic to the Adelaide Fringe in Australia, becoming one of the biggest-selling magic shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, and even performing on stage at Glastonbury Festival!

Described as “truly a global phenomenon” (worldmagicreview.com), they’re ending the year with a bang in a Christmas special packed with festive wonder, jaw-dropping illusions, and a sprinkle of fan-favourite classics.

A festive magic spectacular not to be missed!

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

27, 28 DEC | 1.30pm & 3.15pm

£14/£12 CONC

60MIN | AGES 12+

12 | magicfest.co.uk | Box office: 0131 226 0006



FOUR MAGICIANS

Four of Scotland’s leading magicians come together for an evening like no other — minds will be read, laws of nature will be defied, and dad jokes will be told.

Magicians Smith & Burns, Eoin Smith, and James Dickson take to the stage in an award-winning ensemble magic show packed with jaw-dropping sleight of hand, incredible feats of illusion, and a generous helping of comedy.

Experience the impossible with magicians who have performed in Las Vegas and for celebrities and VIPs at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

“enthral[ling] . . . the magic tricks themselves feel very intimate and that was very special.” – Theatregram UK

“Sensational sleight of hand, jaw-dropping feats of illusion and also a touch of comedy” – Press & Journal

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

27, 28 DEC | 7pm

£14/£12 CONC

80MIN | AGES 12+

MAKING MAGIC WORKSHOP WITH TIM LICATA

A workshop where magic meets performance

Step into the spotlight and learn the secrets behind both the trick and the performance. In this exciting hands-on workshop, young people aged 12+ will explore the world of card magic — not just the techniques, but the theatre behind it.

Working with professional magician and theatre-maker Tim Licata, participants will:

- Master impressive card tricks, with and without sleight-of-hand
- Build confidence in stage presence and character
- Discover how to tell a story and create magical moments for an audience

Whether you’re a budding magician or a natural performer, this workshop is your chance to develop new skills, meet like-minded creatives, and express your creativity through the art of card magic.

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

About your teacher

Originally from Chicago and now based in Edinburgh, Tim Licata is an award-winning magician and actor known for blending close-up magic with theatrical storytelling. His acclaimed show *Close-Up and Personal: A Tale of Magic*, the *Mafia* and *Delightful Deception* captivated audiences at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe and MagicFest. Tim is a long-standing member of the Edinburgh Magic Circle and winner of its 2025 Sonny Day Close-Up Competition.



SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE (LIBRARY)

27 DEC 11.30am, 28 DEC 3pm | £20

90MIN | AGES 12-18

MAGICFEST BEYOND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

VIRTUAL MAGIC SCHOOL

Learn to read minds, make objects vanish, and amaze your friends!

Join Britain's Got Talent star Kevin Quantum for an eight-lesson online magic course using cutting-edge "choose-your-own-adventure" technology — bringing the thrill of a live magic workshop straight to the classroom.

Aimed at pupils aged 7–10, this fun, curriculum-linked resource helps boost creativity, confidence, and communication skills while teaching real magic tricks, presentation, and craft. It's ready to use straight out of the box — and completely free for schools across Scotland and beyond.

"The children felt very special, they felt they had been chosen. They are still excited and enthusiastic about the experience. So many things happen in the world that they cannot 'get to' but this feels like they somehow were special. It has been a huge confidence boost for them, this is so important. "

- Primary Teacher

Supported by Baillie Gifford, Kiran's Trust, and Creative Scotland through the Creative Digital Initiative, funded by the Scottish Government.

Sign up at magicfest.co.uk/vms



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



FUTURE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME MAGICIANS

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MAGIC

Building on the success of our pilot years in 2022 and 2023, Future Magicians is now evolving to its next stage — expanding mentorship, resources, and opportunities for young magicians aged 12–18.

This pioneering programme supports Scotland's emerging magic talent through professional guidance, creative collaboration, and performance experience at MagicFest. Our vision is to build a thriving learning community for young magicians — connecting them with the wider theatrical arts, developing both their craft and confidence, and helping them reach new levels of performance.

Featured on BBC Scotland, ITV, and The Guardian, Future Magicians has already shown the power of mentorship to inspire and empower.

We're now seeking partners, mentors, and funders to help us grow the next generation of magicians — and notes of interest from young people eager to take part.

Find out more or register your interest at
magicfest.co.uk/whats-on/future-magicians





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