

Chastain Criswell  
-Magician-  
Press Kit  
2012





# Chastain C. Criswell

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## Professional Profile

- Professional Actor, Magician, and Comedian for over 2 decades
- Studied his craft under some of the industry's most respected and prolific artists.

Stage Magic • Comedy • Side Show • Juggling • Restaurant Entertainment •  
Cabaret Magic • Trade Show Booth Traffic Booster • Sales Marketing •  
Life Skill Development

## Professional Accomplishments

### Magical Entertainment

- 1st Place award for excellence in Close Up Magic - Gatlinburg, TN
- 1st Pace Award for excellence in Close Up Magic - Columbia, SC
- Showcased and Headlined performer - Wizardz Magic Theater - Kissimmee, FL
- Showcase Performer - MATB Annual Conference - Myrtle Beach, SC
- Accepted to Perform - Monday Night Magic - NY, NY
- Creator Magic Magic Effects
- Marketing to a Global Community of Magicians

### Published in Multiple Trade Publication

Featured contributor in SACT Volume 4 - Steve Beam  
Featured in Linking ring and Magic Magazine - Global Publication  
Spotlight Feature in Juggle Magazine - Global Publication  
Feature Contributor to annual Conference Publication - Sleight Club

## Client History

- First Union • Wachovia • BB&T • Best Western Intl.  
• Community Culinary School of Charlotte  
• Mecklenburg County Schools • Monday Night Magic - NY  
• RDM Electronics • Charlotte Arts Council • NASCAR  
• Upward Organization • Trick Zone - Philadelphia, PA  
• Paramount Parks • Cedar Fair Entertainment  
• International Brotherhood of Magicians  
• Society of American Magicians • United Association of Magicians  
• City of Savannah, GA • Kinsley Mansion Hotel

## Professional And Personal References

Available upon Request



Since becoming fascinated with tricks and illusions as a child, Chastain Criswell of Bessemer City has strived to become an innovator in the industry.

“You have to strive to be an individual in what you do,” said Criswell. “You have to make the performance, the presentation of the magic, different from anyone else’s.”

In the magic community, Criswell, whose stage show is Magic by Enigma, is known for the “tag” card trick he developed and sold in the late 1990s. The premise of tag, which became one of the hottest selling tricks in the magic industry, is that a person selects a card from a deck and signs his name to it, while the magician takes a different card, punches a hole in it and puts a tag on it. After placing the cards back in the deck, and after a shuffle and a shake, the volunteer pulls the tagged card from the deck to discover his card with his signature.

Criswell, 34, said he developed the trick through reverse engineering.

“I realized this would be a great ending for a card trick and thought, ‘How do I do this?’” he said. “I had to go from the end of the trick to the beginning of the trick to develop it.”

It’s a far cry from where he started.

He landed his first professional gig when he was 20 years old – a birthday party for a coworker’s daughter. Like most performers, his first time out of the gate didn’t go smoothly.

“I was definitely an imitator back then. Everything I did was straight out of the box,” he said.

He accidentally gave away the secret to a disappearing clown hat trick and fell flat with a cake-in-a-hat routine. Worse, while enjoying punch and ice cream after finishing his set, one of the kids at the party unpacked his magic kit and revealed how his other tricks were done.

Undeterred, Criswell continued to push and grow as a magician and a performer.

“It’s the only thing I’ve ever excelled in,” he said. “Some people excel in academics or sports. I excel in card tricks.”

Prior to that first performance, Criswell, who grew up in Dallas, had been an amateur hobbyist since the age of 5. He’d stay up late to watch David Copperfield and other magicians on television and whenever his family passed through Charlotte, they’d always stop at La Rock’s Fun & Magic Outlet, which has since relocated to Lincolnton.

He still remembers the Harry Blackstone Jr. magic set he got when he was six years old. He was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, or ADD, and he said magic helped him with his focus and concentration.

“We all space out sometimes, we all lose focus,” said Criswell, who will lead a twice-a-week, month-long magic course at Gaston College beginning Oct. 12. “But as long as you enjoy what’s going on, you’re absolutely going to focus. With magic, you’re learning but you’re focusing. I still space out, but it’s a lot less than I would normally and what that is discipline. You learn discipline through things you enjoy.”

by: **Bernie Petite**



Photos by: John Clark/The Gazette