

**QPAC in Association with The Works Entertainment Presents**

***The Illusionists: Direct From Broadway* - QPAC from 9 January 2019**

**Biographies:**

***The Trickster, Paul Dabek***

Paul Dabek is one of the UK's top entertainers, he has performed across 6 continents, on the stages of London's West End, and headlined his own show in Las Vegas. As well as appearing on BBC TV. An accomplished magician, comedian and actor, Paul's skills have won him critical acclaim, Time Out magazine named him 'a superb showman!' Both the Magic Circle and the International Brotherhood of Magicians have recognized Paul's talent naming him Young Magician of the Year and awarding him the British Shield. Fast-paced, dynamic magic, quick-witted humor, and a theatrical flair combined with a personality that reaches to the very back of the theatre. Join Paul as he reveals exactly what's up his sleeve and delves into his box of tricks while cheekily enchanting the audience with jaw-dropping hilarity.

***The Mentalist, Chris Cox***

As star of BBC Three's *Killer Magic*, and the hit West End magic show *Impossible*, Chris Cox is the multi-award-winning mind reader who can't read minds. Dubbed by The Guardian Newspaper as "one of the most exciting entertainers in Britain", Chris' side-splitting, confident, silly, charismatic and mischievous sense of magic and wonder has been seen by over 300,000 people worldwide. Using a mongrel hybrid mix of witty chit chat, magic, psychology, body language, influencing, devilish good looks... and lying, Chris will make you think that he knows what you're thinking.

As well as starring in *Killer Magic*, Chris has recently been seen on your television screens with One Direction reading their minds at the *BBC Music Awards*. He's also appeared with Heston Blumenthal in *Heston's Recipe For Romance*, *Now You See It*, *How Magic Changed TV*, and *The Mentalist Revealed*. Chris was also a key member of the BAFTA nominated team as the man who brought magic to [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)'s *Merlin*.

Chris' celebrity fans include Ricky Gervais, Jonathan Ross, Richard Branson, Nick Grimshaw, David Walliams, Tim Minchin and Simon Cowell.

### ***The Alchemist, Leonardo Bruno***

Leonardo Bruno was born into magic. You could say it is in his blood. His grandfather Leonardo Trébole is one of the most important magicians in Mexico and Latin America. He was his teacher and mentor in the beginning of his career. As a child, Leonardo Bruno competed in magic festivals within the United States. He was the first seven-year-old magician to win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the history of The Texas Association of Magicians (TAOM).

After that, he performed for TV shows, private shows and magic conventions. In Mexico City he collaborated for a special section in one of the most important newspapers “Monitor”, where he showed kids how to do magic tricks, his way to influence the new generation to love the magic so much like him. His career took a turn after joining the team of American magician Kevin James, The Inventor, considered one of the most creative magicians in our times. Kevin not only opened the doors to a new concept of magic, that secret passage that allows magicians to take to the hand to the spectator and take them on a journey where feelings and emotions rise and fall vertiginously, but helped him to create a new concept of reality and fantasy as artistic, as daring and unique.

Bruno worked with Kevin in the “White House” for Obama, his family and friends for a Halloween party in 2010 and important stages like Magic Castle in Hollywood. Dubai, Germany, Greece, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Singapore, Mexico, France and China, are part of a long list of performances.

He lives and performs in Las Vegas, but he considers himself “Citizen of the world”. “Every country that I have visited makes me feel at home. Magic connects me with the feelings of the people. Magic is a universal language”.

Since 2015 Leonardo Bruno is part of the cast of “The Illusionists”, the best-selling magic show in history, where seven of the top talented magicians from different countries combined their talents to create a spectacular show. In Hong Kong during the Asia Tour, he was baptized by the press, “Prince Charming”.

“Magic can influence people regardless of age, language or culture, it transcends all barriers. I want to use the magic as an inspiration for new generations”, says Bruno who in addition to fulfilling this, it leaves the audience with a different flavor, thanks to his style and charisma. They are surprised, but above all they are captivated.

### ***The Showman, Mark Kalin***

Mark Kalin has been one of the most influential magicians of the last decade, bringing his amazing illusions to casino stages, performing arts centers, television shows, and his own experimental theatre in Reno, Nevada, "Magic Underground." As a young man Mark's specialty was sleight-of-hand magic, but he later enlarged his act, with Jinger Leigh, to include tigers, panthers, and sensational, split-second marvels. They even presented the largest stage illusion of all time, vanishing an American Airlines Jumbo Jet at the Reno Hilton. They've been featured on numerous television shows, including NBC's "World's Greatest Magic," Fox TV's "Magic on the Edge," and "Entertainment Tonight." Working together as Kalin and Jinger, the duo has developed a reputation for their mix of innovative illusions and their distinctive, modern style. They were awarded Magicians of the Year from The Academy of Magical Arts (The Magic Castle), the highest honor in magic, recognizing their unique achievements and charismatic performances.

### ***The Conjureess, Jinger Leigh***

Jinger Leigh's unique blend of elegance and theatricality have redefined the role of the magician. A modern sorceress in a very ancient art, Jinger has earned fans around the world and was recently featured in the touring show, "Masters of Illusion." She began her professional career as a dancer when she was just fourteen years old; She was one of the "Young Americans," toured for companies like Disney and Fuji Television, and starred in Southern California dinner theater productions. It was while working as a dancer in Guam that Jinger first met magician Mark Kalin. The results were magical, in every sense of the word.

### ***Sam Powers aka 'The Enigma' – bio***

Sam Powers will be attempting a world first, death defying escape that would make Houdini turn in his grave. In a nail biting, edge-of-your-seat spectacle, Sam will be suspended 30 feet in the air in a straight jacket under a flaming set of steel jaws, ready to be devoured once a thin rope burns through and the jaws come crashing shut with half a tonne of brute force.

"The danger is real, and it's a history making world first for the escape to be presented like this. Once I escape, I must jump from a 30 foot height to avoid being crushed inside the human bear trap when it slams shut after the rope burns through. I don't want to end up as a human shish-kebab", says Powers.

Described by critics as a dare devil performer, Sam Powers has appeared on television before 50 million viewers with live performances in 21 countries across the globe, leaving Hollywood stars like Jamie Foxx gasping in amazement. In addition to his magical pedigree Sam has shared the front cover of Cleo Magazine with Paris Hilton as a finalist for Australia's 'Bachelor of the Year'.

After completing a record breaking 2000 shows at the Reef Hotel Casino, Sam shot to fame reaching the Grand Final of the hit TV show 'Australia's Got Talent', seen by millions around the world. He now stars alongside six of the industry's greatest illusionists onstage in the biggest magic show on the planet, 'The Illusionists' world tour.

A fearless pursuit of extreme danger combined with a smouldering presence forges the path of a new breed escape artist. The deadly nature of Sam's stunt work requires razor sharp mental focus and peak physical condition at all times, a state only achieved with ketosis. Powers utilises multi-million dollar NASA technology to achieve this fully optimised state incorporating the same training protocols as US Navy Seals to maximise his chances of survival.

"Daring, deceptive & the best in the biz" - Nine News

"How on EARTH does he do it?" - Herald Sun

"OMG that was amazing!" - Geri Halliwell

### ***The Manipulator, Florian Sainvet***

Born in Bordeaux, France, Florian Sainvet began his career in magic at the age of sixteen, but it was while devouring his favorite science fiction films and universes at his beloved neighborhood cinema that he discovered his true calling as a futuristic manipulator and illusionist.

After three years of diligently honing his craft, Florian participated in the television series *France's Got Talent* and wowed the judges and audience with his half man, half robot persona and act. After finishing third in *France's Got Talent*, Florian's career sky-rocketed, bringing his cutting edge-style to the world's stage at The World Championship of Magic where the leading Champion of France received a rousing standing ovation. Most recently, Florian won the World Championship of Magic in Manipulation at FISM 2018 in Busan, South Korea.

Florian's unbridled passion and hard work coupled with his vanguard approach to manipulation and magic will leave you wondering... which universe is he really from?

Official site: <https://www.floriansainvet.com/>