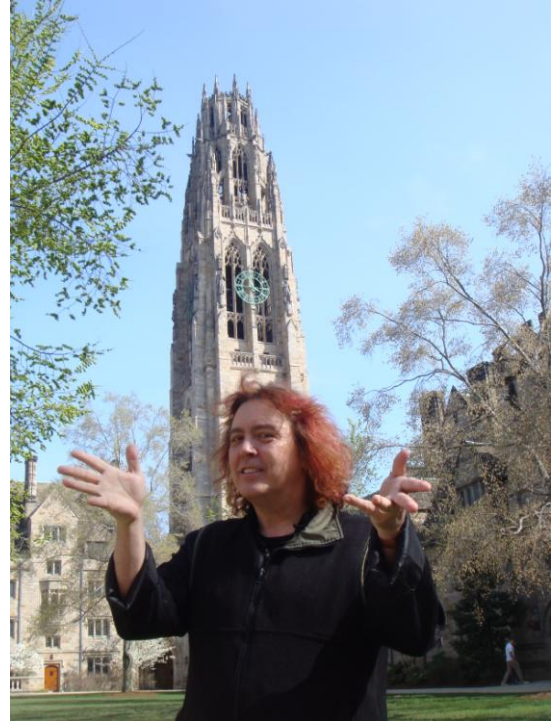


The Wizard Comes to Hogwarts

IBM Ring 59 and the Magic Society at Yale host The Jeff McBride Experience at the real-life Hogwarts

When Ring President CJ May, aka “Cyril the Sorcerer” learned that his teacher Jeff McBride would be available following an Easter Sunday performance at the Mohegan Sun Casino gears started spinning.

CJ worked with Jeff and his manager, Tobias Beckwith, to bring The Jeff McBride Experience to New Haven and Yale University. Ring 59 organized the event and Jen Kramer, president of the Magic Society at Yale, hosted the activities. Yale magicians arranged for theater space, Jeff’s residence in a guest suite and his invitation as guest at a very traditional “Master’s Tea.” All this teamwork brought the wizard to a gothic and gargoyled Ivy League campus...a real-life Hogwarts.



The Show

Jeff began the show as he often does....days before he even sees the stage. He “metted and greeted” members of the community, inviting them to the show and putting everyone in the magical frame of mind.

The April 27th show featured Jeff doing his full 90 minutes before a packed yet intimate house of 100 in Yale’s Underbrook Theater. Faculty, staff, students and magicians from NY, RI and MA combined for a great audience. Old and new beauty was shared...Jeff’s career-making masks were joined on stage by a later performance of Water Bowls. Perhaps a surprise to many who know him mostly from clips of his silent or music-accompanied acts is that Jeff interacts verbally and very personally with the audience. He led them on a tour of magic through out the show.

Behind the scenes CJ, Jen, Zach Ivins, Seth Thompson and others who helped got a chance to work directly with Jeff. There were no roadies, techies or stage hands. Jeff oversaw lights, sound, seating and all by directing the locals before and during the show. Everyone was busy but learning....a great experience for magicians young and old.

The Teaching

The “Jeff McBride Experience” is not just a show. The show is followed almost immediately by a lecture for magicians. Jeff changed gears and launched right in. While he did share some effects he did so within the context of his perspective on magic and performance in general. Magicians learned while enjoying some close up attention from Jeff.

The following day Jeff was Master Goldblatt’s guest at the Pierson College Master’s Tea (Pierson College is a residence hall within Yale as Gryffindor etc are houses within Hogwarts). After fielding questions about magic, its history and his thoughts on its role in modern society,



Jeff shared some enchantment. Ironically, one of the strongest effects for Master G. and non-magicians was a “simple” identification of a randomly chosen and lost card. Jeff was able to determine the card through a splendid use of “tells” and “body language.” Magicians were hooting as they knew the method to be elementary. Jeff’s dramatization of the effect, building up the tension and interaction with the Master and audience during 10 minutes, however, was anything but mundane or elementary. The Master was stunned, amazed and impressed. Good magic.

The finale of the second day commenced with 15 magicians from several states assembling in the depths of Yale’s hallowed halls to learn. Jeff toured magicians through his philosophy on the stages of growth and styles of magic magicians pass through in life and, at times, within even a single performance. He shared some personal thoughts on modern magic and magicians and how they have their own role and stages. He also got attendees out of their seats to try out techniques, interact and get bodies as well as minds flowing. Yale is known as a great center of learning. It was only fitting that this Hogwarts should get its own wizard and expand the learning to include the art of magic.

Magicians interested in hosting the Jeff McBride Experience should contact manager Tobias Beckwith at tobias@yourmagic.com.