

Eye On Campus

He's Not Just Incredible - He's Justin Kredible

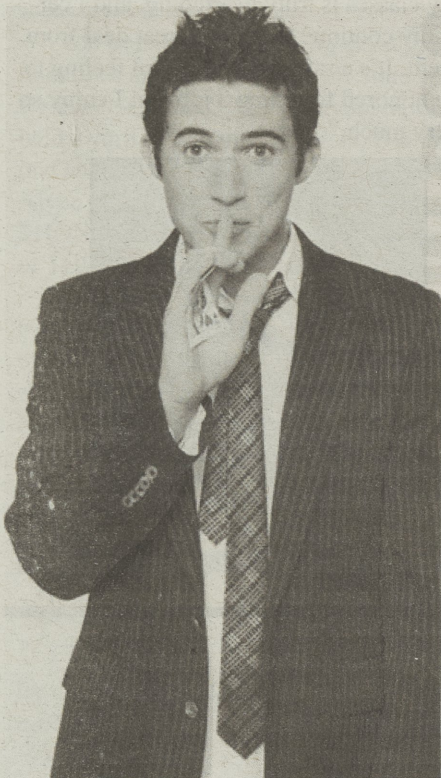


Photo courtesy of www.justinkredible.com

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With a name like Justin Kredible and having a slogan of "Like a Magician, but Cooler", there was a lot to be expected from this comedic magic-man when he visited our campus this past October 10. Performing in the Tomezko Building seemed a bit unorthodox at first, but after having a full audience in attendance, holding the performance there was compulsory. Immediately, Kredible's showmanship was apparent through a variety of items positioned around his makeshift stage. These odd props, such as a ball of yarn incased in a jar, titillated the audiences' curiosity and attention.

To put it simply, the show started off with a bang. Kredible's eccentric personality lit up the stage as he took something ordinary and made it extraordinary. He grabbed a giant sketchpad off the stage, opened it to a random page and drew a bowling ball on it. Immediately thereafter, he closed the pad, turned it horizontally, squeezed, and out fell a bowling ball. Keep in mind that all of this was done to the invigorating sounds of Wolfmother's "The Joker & the Thief."

However, having a magical sketchpad and a profound iTunes playlist (also played: "Brainstorm" by The Arctic Monkeys, "Ping Island Lightning Strike Theme" from The Life Aquatic Soundtrack) for the performance were

not the only tricks that Kredible had up his fashionably dressed sleeves.

Aside from his magical talents and pretty-boy looks, Kredible had an inventory of witty one-liners, satirical humor and a plethora of brilliant references to the college student life, such as pictures of him from the show ending up on Facebook.

"I love it when a magician's act works and meshes with the audience," said Kredible, "like Lance Burton's dove act [in his Las Vegas show]...it's really beautiful." So how did this sardonic, yet passionate, magician get his start into the realm of magic? It's an interesting story, to say the least.

"I was twelve and I broke both my arms while trying to impress some girls," he explained, "and while both my arms were in casts, my doctor suggested I try to do card tricks to get my dexterity back."

After that, Kredible started picking up magic wherever he could in his native city of St. Louis and through watching his idols on television.

"Penn and Teller were a big influence. The Amazing Jonathan, Lance Burton, David Copperfield and Steve Martin are some others." What about the current fad of "Street Magic" and the "Street Magicians", Criss Angel and David Blaine? "I like Angel and Blaine and street magic. They help make the whole craft more popular and familiar with the world," said Kredible.

More popular, yes, but not more revealing. Kredible admits that there are some tricks of the trade that not even he knows how to do.

"Penn and Teller's 'Bullet Catching Act'...I have no idea how they do that. And I have heard some theories on how David Copperfield flies, but I don't know which, if any, are true." Only time or a mistake on stage will reveal those secrets it seems.

Speaking of mistakes, Kredible claims that he has yet to have one on stage that is so severe, the audience noticed, "I have had some errors on stage, but nothing that I couldn't recover from without notice." So it seems that Justin Kredible is just that...incredible. Hopefully he'll return next year with even bigger tricks than before, "I always wanted to do a flying act...that seems really fun to perform." Truly, he's like a magician, but so much cooler.

TRAVEL ABROAD WITH ISP

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Put away your books and pack your bags; it's that time of the year again. No, not summer vacation, but rather time to start seriously considering taking advantage of Penn State's International Studies Program. Through the International Studies Program (ISP), students have the opportunity to spend a week in different cities around the globe while earning credits. This year, the ISP is offering trips to Florence, London, Guatemala and Paris.

These trips are added to a student's schedule by signing up for one of the available classes that meet the requirements for a desired trip. For example, a student wishing to go on the Paris trip would most likely add FR 139-France and the French Speaking World course to their schedule for Spring 2008, or to receive the maximum 6 credits add both courses available for the Paris trip. The maximum number of credits each student is allowed to receive for each trip is a total of 6 credits which can be received by adding any two of the eligible course to the course-load for that semester. However, if by adding either or both of the courses causes the student to exceed the 18 credit limit set forth by the university, the student can simply talk to the advisor and be simply allowed to take the course.

Unfortunately, the trip is not simply checking out the country's sites and coming home. Since the trip is considered an equivalent of taking a Penn State course, there are required courses which must be completed both before departure as well as afterwards including a journal to be kept during the trip. Also, students are of course reminded that while they are in other countries they are still representing Penn State, and are therefore still subject to Penn State rule and regulations.

For those interested in taking the International Studies minor, it's important to note that at least 2 trips are required to receive credit for the minor. For additional information regarding the costs, itinerary or general questions regarding the trips, please send questions to Dr. Alita Kelly <kak7@psu.edu>.

For those interested in the trip Florence or London, it is recommended exercising expediency due to the fact that these trips will be taking place during the winter and spring breaks respectively. In the end the most important thing to remember is to have fun seeing the world and broadening one's horizons.

Halloween Dance!

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Lions and tigers and bears, oh my... and many more were present at THON's Halloween Dance on October 26, 2007. A night of spooky proportions and breakout dancing went on between the hours of 7:00 - 11:00PM. It was \$5 for a single ticket and \$8 for a couple. The graveyard groove was held in the upper level of the Common's building in the LCR (large conference room). There was lots of food and drink present, hip music, and a projector screen displaying all your worst nightmares from the scariest movies you could imagine. The turnout of students and others were pretty good, filling a majority of the room. All the money went to THON's fundraising program, which was an amazing \$385! Despite the heat of the room, everyone was movin' to the groovin' throughout the whole night and all seemed to be having a blast. According to Pat Knowles, "The dance kicked butt," and John Kennedy said, "It was a blast!" The best part of the dance was all of the wonderful costumes. "I immensely enjoyed seeing my friend in a dress," exclaimed Egor Muravyer. From dresses to pirates to giant foxes to nurses and superheroes, the dance had it

all. In the DJ booth was Matt Kelly, who impressed us all with ability to drop a good beat. Prizes were even awarded to the best dressed couple, Dana Colosimo and Jason Reichle, and best dressed individual, Joey DiCamillo. The prize was a gift card to the pottery place "Color Me Mine." The night was very successful and extremely fun. If you missed it this year, start counting down to the one next year because it is a night you will experience like no other.



Photo courtesy of Brittany Neimeth