

# 'Super' magician awes crowd with act, tricks

By Courtney Warner  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Skeptics and believers of magic alike filled HUB-Alumni Hall on Friday night for illusionist Mike Super's show — sponsored by the Student Programming Association's LateNight.

Super, winner of NBC's TV show "Phenomenon," also performed at Penn State during the summer.

Super used several audience members in his tricks because he said they're the "Wii of magicians."

"Your interaction is what makes my show," Super said.

In one trick, a student volunteer was helped into a box, where Super made her disappear as he folded the box into a 13-inch by 13-inch cube. He then made her reappear.

This was audience member Corey Kaye's favorite trick.

"Her disappearing blew my mind," Kaye (senior-human development and family studies) said. "Where'd she go? There was nothing around her. It's like she entered another dimension."

Kaye came in skeptical, though he said the show was spectacular.

"It was lavenous," he said.

Lavenous — a nonexistent word — was created by Super to use when he couldn't find the right word to describe something.

"People always act like they have heard 'lavenous' before, and it's not even a real word," Super said during the event.

Amy Lau (sophomore-biotechnology) said she was amazed by a trick where Super made an origami rose and set it ablaze only to reveal an actual flower.

At the end of the performance, Super performed a trick he does at every show — he made it snow out of his hands. The trick was dedicated to his deceased mother, he said.

Super also performed a voodoo doll trick he did on "Phenomenon" to a volunteer from the audience. Whatever happened to the doll happened to the volunteer. Super tapped the doll on the back, burnt its hands and poked it in the waist.



Bryan Wade Heritage/Collegian

Illusionist Mike Super creates snow from a napkin by rubbing his hands together in the HUB on Friday night.

The volunteer said he felt a brush on his shoulder, jumped up in surprise after feeling a poke in his hip and showed his ash-covered palms to the audience.

Jacklyn Reid (junior-broadcast journalism) was another volunteer used in the show.

Super had Reid call her friend from Brooklyn by telephone and ask her to select a card's number and suit. Via Reid her selection was revealed to the audience — a three of hearts.

When Reid announced this, Super's deck of cards in Reid's hands began to move.

Super took the deck and revealed that only one card was upside down — the three of hearts.

"I don't know how he did it. I was up there looking for any machines or tools he was using and couldn't find any," Reid said.

She said she could hear her friend scream when Super revealed the card. Then, when Super told Reid's friend he was going to make her disappear, she believed it.

And he did, by hanging up the phone.



Dana Heiler/Collegian

Orchesis Dance Company performs during their Fall Choreographer's Showcase on Saturday afternoon in the White Building. The program contained 11 original pieces.

# Orchesis performance evokes strong emotions

By Courtney Warner  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Flashes of color and contorting bodies swept across the dance floor this weekend as the Orchesis Dance Company performed its Fall Choreographer's Showcase in the White Building.

The hour-long program contained two acts for a total of 11 original pieces set to modern music, like Coldplay's "Fix You" and Imogen Heap's "Shine."

What the audience heard wasn't necessarily the music, but the sound of feet and bodies hitting the wooden floor as the performers danced.

Each piece began in total darkness. The only thing the audience could see was the silhouette of dancers positioning themselves for the beginning of the next piece.

But each piece was different, whether it featured dancers entering the stage from the audience, dancing on the backs of other dancers or the use of props.

Orchesis co-adviser Amy Dupain Vashaw said what distinguishes Orchesis is the intention and meaning behind its choreography.

During "Fix You," a piece about family and togetherness, dancers left the stage holding each other's hands as one couple remained on stage embracing until the lights went out.

In Imogen Heap's "Shine," members

danced in white and black tutus, stealing a candle from each other's hand to symbolize the dominance of darkness.

The piece ended with dancers sitting behind candles, all wearing white tutus.

Mcaghan Herbieck (senior-biology) said the second act was more appealing because the music and dancing was more upbeat.

"It was cool hearing the different songs the dancers were dancing to and seeing how they moved to the pieces," she said.

Emily Cartwright (senior-special education) said she liked the last piece set to David Guetta's "Getting Over You" — which was performed at Homecoming — because it was a song everybody knew, and it was cool to see every member dance together at once, she said.

"It gave me goosebumps," Cartwright said.

Cartwright said she liked the costumes because she liked seeing what different elements each dancer had in mind when they designed them.

Vashaw said their conflicting time schedules made it hard to schedule practices and that the dance company didn't get to see everything come together until tech week.

"It's unbelievable that the ladies put on a show let alone a performance of such high artistic quality," she said.

She added that the showcase was comprised of "tons of work, ripped feet, extreme dedication and a strong family dynamic."

# Theology professor discusses sustainable farming, religion

By Katie Sullivan  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Ellen Davis reads the Bible she is more than just a scholar or a faithful believer — she reads as an agrarian.

A group of about 30 people gathered in the Multicultural Lounge in the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center to hear a professor of Bible and practical theology from Duke University speak about how analysis of the Torah and the Bible can help modern-day farmers fix a flawed agricultural system.

"We eat from an industrial system that itself is hungry for oil," Davis said in her lecture Sunday evening.

Davis is the fourth speaker in a year-long series "Tend and Sustain It Forever," a project sponsored by the Penn State Jewish Studies Program.

Margaret Cohen, a graduate student in Jewish studies, said the program is meant to highlight how Jewish culture, text and traditions can be used to change issues surrounding food, food movement and industrial issues.

Davis agreed and said a change could happen by using biblical analysis based on Jewish thought and text with information extracted from the very first book of the Old Testament, Genesis. Comparisons can be seen throughout the rest of the Torah.

During the lecture Davis noted how important eating was to culture and how people interact with each other.

But Davis said with a fuel-inefficient, industrialized agricultural economy and chemicals being pumped into the soil and water, and therefore the food, a change

"We eat from an industrial system that itself is hungry for oil."

Ellen Davis  
professor of Bible and practical theology

needs to take place in order for farming to survive as a sustainable business.

Through her analysis, Davis has drawn conclusions about what is important to sustain healthy agriculture today, including farmers markets, community supported agriculture farms (CSAs) and community-planted gardens. Davis also noted the importance of supporting trust arrangements that protect family farms.

This message resonated with Roy Brubaker, an organic farmer who runs Village Acres in Mifflintown.

"A lot of things she said re-enforced what we believe and what we try to practice," he said.

Brubaker and his son, also named Roy, were the only two farmers in attendance. The two agreed farming is a family business. Brubaker said his father was also an organic farmer and all three generations, along with small farmers throughout Pennsylvania, rely on the local markets and CSA programs to thrive.

Davis closed her lecture by emphasizing her view that the Earth should be treated as a living creature, something that needs to be respected.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for people of faith," she said.

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