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SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

THE ILLUSIONISTS

CONCERT HALL, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
FRIDAY 13 - SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2012

Headlining this year's sizzling 'Summer at the House' season, will be the world premiere of *The Illusionists* – a grand and spectacular celebration of the art of magic by the most innovative illusionists working today.

Sydney Opera House's Concert Hall will be transformed into a magician's playground for a family-friendly show which will see seven of the world's most-respected performers in the field enact large scale, mind-bending acts of optical illusion, many of which have never been seen before.

The hand-picked cast of international illusionists - [Dan Sperry](#), [Kevin James](#), [Brett Daniels](#), [James Dimmare](#) and [Jeff Hobson](#) (with more acts to be announced) - will transform any outdated notion of what a magic show is. Shrugging off the idea of magic as a solo pursuit these artists will come together for the first time, with their assembled cast of 20 sidekicks, to perform a powerful and heady mix of their most outrageous and unbelievable acts.

This group of world-class performers take their cue from the showmanship of the great illusionists of the past - such as Harry Houdini – and pair it with a new and updated contemporary aesthetic, whose set and costume design will lend the genre a theatricality and artistry that has rarely been seen before.

Illusion Director Brett Daniels said, *'It is a privilege to be involved in The Illusionists – a show that will unite these performers from around the world for the first time. They are at the very top of their game and the audience are going to be left speechless when they see some of the things these artists are able to achieve.'*

Audiences will witness a nail-biting Russian roulette, jaw droppings acts of levitation, mind-reading, disappearance and escapes for Sydney Opera House's first comprehensive exploration of the genre of magic.

From The Magic Circle and Hollywood's Magic Castle to Harry Potter and the rising inclusion of magicians on prime time TV such as *Australia's Got Talent*, the world of illusion and intrigue has long captured the public imagination. This production will present a rare opportunity for audiences of all ages to see the grand masters of illusion at work in one spell-binding production.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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MEET THE CHARACTERS

DAN SPERRY: THE ANTI-CONJUROR



Magic no longer sucks

Presenting the new face of magic, Dan Sperry shot to fame on *America's Got Talent* in 2010. Described as David Copperfield meets Marilyn Manson, Sperry's show flaunts his bizarre and macabre humour. This is non-stop mayhem set to an industrial musical score with razor blades, buzz saws, voodoo and more. He's the youngest magician to headline Hollywood's fabled Magic Castle and has even performed his shock illusions and sleight of hand trickery privately for Johnny Depp's family and his childhood hero David Copperfield.

KEVIN JAMES: THE INVENTOR



Inventor, comedian and collector of the strange and unusual

French-born American performer Kevin James' 'operation' is one of the most ground-breaking optical illusions in history. As well as performing himself – and taking on the responsibility of inspiring in his audiences the sense of wonder and (dis)belief they had in childhood – James is known for inventing many of the tricks performed by other magicians today. Most notably, James was the creative brains behind David Copperfield's [Floating Rose](#) as well as [Perrier with a Twist](#) and his [Animated Card Thru Balloon](#).

BRETT DANIELS: THE GRAND ILLUSIONIST



The Magician's Magician

Specialising in jaw-dropping illusions on a mega scale – think death-defying levitations, appearances and disappearances – Brett Daniels has a habit of making audiences question the most basic laws of physics and gravity. He's had multi-million dollar bespoke stadiums designed and built to house his shows which have been broadcast to up to 1.3 billion people at a time. As well as taking to the stage for *The Illusionists*, Daniels has been the creative driving force behind the production, casting the show and directing the illusions of his fellow performers.

JAMES DIMMARE: THE GENTLEMAN



The style of Fred Astaire, the cool of Frank Sinatra

Straight out of Hollywood, James Dimmare – the self-styled 'Fred Astaire of the magic world' - will bring a touch of glamour and sophistication to the Concert Hall stage. Having performed magic since the age of 14, Dimmare's award-winning style has won him spots in Vogue fashion campaigns as well as stints performing his well-crafted illusions everywhere from Vegas concert halls to intimate jazz clubs.

JEFF HOBSON: THE TRICKSTER



The host of Las Vegas

Described by Time Magazine as 'a hilarious, chameleon-esque master of entertainment', Hobson brings a touch of comedy to his shows which epitomise the glamour, grandeur and showmanship of Vegas magic.

NOTES TO EDITORS

More world class acts will be announced in November.

The Illusionists is produced by Sydney Opera House with Simon Painter and Tim Lawson.

Tickets go on sale from 31 October 2011.

SEASON INFORMATION:

Dates: 13 – 21 January 2012

Venue: Concert Hall

Prices: Children's tickets from \$47.25 (under 18); adults from \$75; group discounts and family tickets available

Bookings: www.sydneyoperahouse.com or (02) 9250 7777

Age guideline: 5+

Keep up to date with *The Illusionists* by joining us on our [Facebook](#) page and online at [Sydney Opera House](#).