

Revollusionists wow capacity crowds at Branson's Music City Center

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The Revollusionists (from top left): Brett Daniels performs an act of levitation; Daniels puts an audience member in the guillotine; Kid Kadabra and Luka captivate the crowd with intricate restoration tricks and sleight of hand; Reza stuns the room by predicting the thoughts of audiences members.

(Photos by Michael J. Frost)

By Michael J. Frost

Everyone gave a collective gasp when the guillotine dropped on an audience member who was secured in the frame of the apparatus — with his neck directly below the weighted blade.

No one was condemned to die, of course, but the illusion was absolutely thrilling as just seconds earlier, the blade had made salad out of a head of lettuce.

The guillotine act was just one of several memorable, exciting illusions presented by the team known as “The Revollusionists” in a new show at Music City Centre that is creating quite a buzz in Branson.



Lots of gasps, followed by even more applause, were heard throughout the evening as an ensemble of illusionists took the stage to create seemingly impossible feats. The team staged several large-scale illusions featuring the effects of levitation, escape, transformation, mind reading, vanishing and more. At one point, an illusionist rode a motorcycle onto a platform which was lifted high above the stage, when suddenly the bottom dropped out — and a second later the same rider came racing down the aisle from the back of the house. The audience was amazed.

The fast-paced production features a few familiar tricks along with several new, original illusions as well, all showcased within a modern, edgy presentation that sets it apart from standard magic shows.

The show was much more than smoke and mirrors. While the large-scale effects were certainly crowd-pleasers, the talents of The Revollusionists really shined with slick, ‘sleight-of-hand’ manipulations with just paper, cloth or coins. A cameraman gave the audience live, close-up views of the performers at work, shown on a large center screen and two side screens. At one point, the illusionists gathered at a table and each presented their own spin on the “cups and balls” routine, using a combination of effects.

No doubt, these impressive tricks only come with years of practice and devotion to the art form of stage magic — and the crowd appreciated every minute of it.

Speaking of the audience, there were several times throughout the show where an audience member was asked to participate. Many were eager to take part in the act, and a few of the tricks especially catered to children who were delighted to join these cool creators of illusion on stage.

Since debuting May 14 at Music City Center in Branson, the show has welcomed capacity crowds and people of all ages as well.

“We’ve had a tremendous audience response so far with overwhelmingly positive feedback. The crowds have completely filled the main level, having to open the balcony on several occasions, as well as being completely sold out — all within the first week,” according the theater representative, Christa Kemnitz.

The show is billed as “the next generation of world-class ensemble illusionary theatrics,” and is produced by renowned magician Brett Daniels, along with Inderjit Grewal as co-producer, Kevin Bliss as associate producer, and ‘Starr’ as art director.



The show features internationally known magicians working as an ensemble, and includes Daniels, Reza, Luka and Kid Kadabra, in addition to a supporting cast of dancers, technicians, and a few exotic birds as well.

Daniels said he is very excited to be returning to Branson after 10 years. He had performed as a solo artist during the 2004 and 2005 seasons at The Grand Palace, presenting large-scale illusions to amazed audiences.

He gained worldwide notoriety as co-creator, co-producer, director, and onstage front-man for a touring show called “The Illusionists,” which premiered at the Sydney Opera House in January 2012. The show became an international

hit and enjoyed a widely successful tour around the world.

Daniels said the new show, “The Revollusionists,” goes beyond anything he’s done before.

“The Revollusionists will be what I had always hoped the ‘Illusionists’ could achieve, but this time we’re ramping it up, breaking all barriers, and presenting authentic theatrical illusionary art on a level never before seen on planet Earth,” he said.

“This show is an ensemble show, and I’m far more excited about it. This project is more clever, challenging, and a more theatrical performance,” he added.

Daniels said the “The Revollusionists” sets out to be more than the standard magic show, following its tagline of being hip, bold, edgy and family-friendly.

“We are five world-class magicians presenting our very best material, all within a cohesive ensemble presentation where we are interacting with each other throughout the show. We also have a cast of five dancers. It’s a multi-million dollar production, which has evolved out of shows I’ve done for 35 years. I think it will be the hottest thing here.”



Like Daniels, Reza is also returning to Branson after performing at venues all over the globe.

“I love Branson. I had my first ‘big break’ here at the age of 14, so it feels great to have the opportunity to return,” he said.

One particularly crowd-pleasing moment was when Reza lowered a locked box from the ceiling, that had been in view all evening, and opened it up to reveal a large sheet of paper that reproduced the thoughts of random audience members who had written them down while on stage.

“One of the things I enjoy most about the show is the diverse spectrum of audience members I get to meet on stage each

night. The prediction I do, for example, involves randomly selected volunteers chosen simply by throwing an object

into the crowd. There is absolutely no way for me to have any impact on who will be chosen, which always makes things interesting! It's a very powerful piece involving my prediction, which is hanging in full view the entire evening, perfectly matching people's thoughts later in the show. I love watching the audience react and sometimes literally lose their minds over the impossibility of what takes place."

It was a mind-blowing act, indeed. So many elements throughout the show left the audience amazed, whether it was Reza's mind reading, the razor-swallowing, restoration skills of the kooky Kid Kadabra, or the awe-inspiring spectacle of watching Luka pull objects out of thin air.

Reza said he is also very pleased with audience reactions and the response the show has received so far.

"The response to the show has been incredible! I think it's such a cool thing, especially in Branson, to draw in audiences of all ages and have the show equally entertain every demographic. We are planning new effects to introduce throughout the season, so this is definitely a show to come back to see again and again."

Daniels emphasizes that the show is family-friendly, despite its bold and edgy image.

"It's a perfect family show that is good for kids. It's charming, clever, and dramatic, yet a six-year-old child could enjoy it with their grandparents, whereas a 22-year-old couple could enjoy it as well. That's the thing about magic. We are trying to make it a cool magic show, but it's not so far out there that there's going to be anything that would put people off. It has a very edgy image because we're trying to differentiate ourselves, and we're doing that in the show as well — but I guarantee that families will love it," he added.

Music City Center is located at 1835 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson. Tickets for the show are now on sale. Call 417-544-9075 for more information. Visit <http://www.musiccitycenter.com> for ticket prices and showtimes.