

# Sheldon Casavant (Magician)



## About the Artist



[www.sheldoncasavant.com](http://www.sheldoncasavant.com)  
FACEBOOK: /sheldoncasavant  
TWITTER: @sheldoncasavant  
YOUTUBE: /sheldoncasavant

Sheldon Casavant's interest in magic began after seeing a magic show, when he was eight years old. He started by performing at private parties and community events, and quickly generated attention as a new talent on the rise. Sheldon has developed into one of Canada's most promising performers in the field of magic and illusion, and was nominated as *Entertainer of the Year* in 2009 and 2010 by the Canadian Events Industry. In 2010, Sheldon wrote the illustrated children's book, *Morton the Magician and His Magnificent Magic Show*, which was shortlisted for an Alberta Children's Literature Award. In 2014, Sheldon was named one of *Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40*, which honours exceptional young community leaders in the Edmonton Region.

From intimate gatherings to audiences in excess of 25,000 people, Sheldon's contemporary style of magic has been appreciated around the world. He has entertained across Canada, the United States, Mexico, Panama, China, and has performed over 630 shows in Japan.

Sheldon believes that magic is more than trickery and deception. Magic is an art, and nothing thrills him more than the reactions of his audience.

## About the Performance

### Show Details:

*Magic Show: Exploring the Impossible*

*Length: Approximately 45 minutes + Q&A*

Sheldon's magic show is light-hearted and highly interactive. It is appropriate for all ages. The show features a fast-paced display of sleight of hand magic that has taken Sheldon years to perfect. Throughout the performance, some students and teachers are invited on stage to experience the magic in their own hands and to become the stars of the show. Over the course of 45 minutes, objects appear, disappear, and even float in the air. Magic is traditionally passed on from magician to magician, so Sheldon even shares the secret of a magic trick with the students so that they can amaze their family at home.

During the show, Sheldon shares his personal story of how he discovered the secrets of magic tucked away in his local library. Growing up, magic gave Sheldon the special feeling of being able to do something that his family or friends could not do and this developed self-confidence along the way. Sheldon shares with the students that with a little bit of curiosity, some hard work, and a lot of imagination, anything is possible.

### Show Themes:

- Adversity, Creativity, Goals, Imagination, Perseverance, Practice, Problem-solving, Self-confidence, and Self-study

### Audience Expectations:

The audience will be expected to stay seated for the duration for the show (unless asked to assist on stage). They are encouraged to raise their hands when prompted and are free to applaud and laugh throughout the show.

### Technical Requirements:

#### Set-up time:

60 minutes prior to the audience arriving for show.

Students must not be in the gym during set-up and tear-down.

#### Tear-down time:

30 minutes following the audience leaving.

#### Stage requirements:

Gym floor with a performance space of 20' wide x 12' deep.

Students are to sit on the floor (no chairs).

#### Technical needs:

2 standard power outlets near performance space.

Access to staff washroom / change room.

**About the Art Form****Magic:**

- Magic is a performing art that uses tricks and illusions to entertain an audience.

**Harry Houdini:**

- Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was an American magician and escape artist. Houdini started his career by performing in dime museums and sideshows. He soon realized that the part of his act that people liked the best was the part where he would escape from any restraint. He captured the imaginations of the public with his incredible escapes.

**Sleight of Hand:**

- Sleight of hand is the use of secret techniques to manipulate objects such as playing cards and coins. By using sleight of hand, a magician can cause objects to appear, disappear and create amazing effects. Sleight of hand magic is considered to be the most difficult type of magic since it requires years of study and practice.

**Links to Curriculum****The Arts:**

- Experience integrated learning which will allow students to handle, explore, and experiment with familiar materials in a safe, secure, and inviting learning environment.
- Participate in arts activities that help develop the ability to listen and observe, and enable students to become more self-aware and self-confident.

**Character Education:**

- Overcome obstacles through initiative, perseverance, and self-discipline to achieve personal goals.
- Identify the character traits of successful people, and make links between these and their own experiences.

**Pre-Performance Discussion Questions**

- What is magic? / What is magic to you? / How would you define magic?
- Have you ever watched a magic show before? What are your memories of that show?
- If you were a magician and anything was possible, what amazing feats would you perform?

**Post-Performance Activities****All Grade Levels:**

- Visit Sheldon's website (<http://sheldonasavant.com/category/learn-magic/>) for performance advice and online magic lessons using everyday objects. Select and practice your favourite routine and perform it in front of the class.

**Primary:**

- Create a poster with you as the magician performing a specific magic trick. Be sure to write your 'stage name' on the picture. Explain the picture and the trick to the class.
- During the performance, Sheldon teaches the "Torn and Restored Napkin" trick. Practice this trick individually and then perform it for another student.

**Junior / Intermediate:**

- There have been many magicians, past and present, who have affected the magic of today. In groups, research famous magicians. Prepare a chart listing the following information for each magician:
  - Stage Name / Birth Name / When they Lived / Where they Lived / Famous Tricks / Impact on Magic
- Research individually (or as a class) other easy magic tricks using everyday objects, and then perform them for the class. Document the effect, materials, secret setup, and script.

**Post-Performance Discussion Questions****Primary:**

- During the show, Sheldon talks about how he learned most of his magic by reading books. Magic was his favourite topic to read about. Discuss what type of books and subjects you enjoy reading about.

**Junior / Intermediate:**

- Discuss the themes explored in the show. What character traits are needed to become a successful magician? How do these same traits apply to your life?
- Magicians do not reveal the secrets and methods of their magic tricks. Should the methods of magic be kept secret? Discuss and prepare a list of the pros and cons.
- Magic has a long history dating back thousands of years. As a class, discuss why the study of this history is important to magicians.
- During the magic performance, Sheldon shared that, by thinking like a magician, the impossible seems possible. What are some challenges that feel impossible to achieve? How can they become possible? How do you plan to overcome these challenges? After reflection, write the answers to these questions and share with the class, if appropriate.