



The Milbourne Christopher Foundation 2024 Awards Presentation: To Honor and To Be Honored

By Rick Heath

For the ninth consecutive year, on September 28, 2024, the annual Milbourne Christopher Foundation Awards Presentation was held at the Garde Arts Center in New London, Connecticut.

“The Garde” opened nearly a century ago on September 22, 1926, during the golden era of “photoplay houses” and vaudeville entertainment. Notably, this movie palace and theatre complex was the winner of the 2022 Outstanding Historic Theatre Award by the League of Historic American Theaters.

Said Steve Sigel, the Center’s Executive Director, “The Garde Arts Center continues its legacy of magic on both stage and screen by hosting this annual celebration of the practitioners and advocates of the art of magic. New London is happy to roll out the magic red carpet every year for the Milbourne Christopher Awards Presentation.”

As in previous years, every detail of the

2024 gala event was carefully planned by David Haversat, a member of the Christopher Foundation’s Board of Directors and Coordinator of the Awards Presentation. The evening began with a festive 6:15 p.m. reception in the theatre’s upper lobby. The attendees then adjourned to the adjacent Oasis Room where Master of Ceremonies Tom Ewing presented the awards. “Each year the recipients tell us how honored they are to be selected,” said Mr. Ewing. “Actually, we are as honored as they, because we get to acknowledge their commitment and dedication to elevating the art of magic.”

Milbourne Christopher was born on March 23, 1914, in Baltimore, Maryland, and died on June 17, 1984, in New York City at age seventy. He was an illusionist, historian, author, collector, columnist, tireless ambassador of magic, and the very model of the sophisticated, cosmopolitan, mid-twentieth-century magician.



Top, left to right: Milbourne and Maureen Christopher. • Publicity photo of Milbourne Christopher. Bottom, left to right: A young Milbourne Christopher entertains Howard Thurston. • Cardini, Sorcar, and Milbourne Christopher.

Mr. Christopher performed his first magic show at age twelve. By age twenty-one, he could add entertaining President Franklin D. and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to his resume. In addition to his full-evening show, he produced and performed in the first television magic special, *The Festival of Magic*, broadcast on May 27, 1957, on NBC-TV.

The Milbourne Christopher Foundation was established in 1991 by Mrs. Maurine Christopher to perpetuate her late husband's memory and to honor individuals who demonstrate dedication, excellence, originality, and leadership in the art of magic.

The 2024 honorees, who join more than 170 previous recipients, were selected by a committee of judges comprised of Chairperson Tom Ewing, David Haversat, Tony Clark, Paul Mayer, Kenneth Trombly, Rob Allen, Mike Miller, and the late William Rauscher, all of whom donate their services to the Foundation.

Literary Award: Margaret Steele



Margaret Steele, magician, magic historian, and author, hails from Peekskill, New York. Whether at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, or on a jungle path in Bali, Indonesia, she has performed at some of the world's most iconic, and at some of its most unusual, venues.

In 2000, Margaret was “introduced” to Adelaide Herrmann (1853-1932), a seminal event in her life and career. The first great female stage magician became an exemplar and the subject of her research. In 2012, Margaret published *Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic: Memoirs, Published Writings & Collected Ephemera*. This first-ever book on the remarkable international headliner, replete with rare photographs and images, includes her long-lost memoir, which surfaced in 2010. Margaret continues to give frequent lectures, interviews, and tribute shows based on Madame Herrmann’s illustrious life.

Said Kirkus Reviews, “It’s a fun story improved by Steele’s peppering the text with photographs to illustrate Herrmann’s text, giving the book the feeling of a well-loved scrapbook.”

Margaret’s most recent labor of love, *The Great Boomsy: The Many Lives of Magic’s First Black Superstar*, is a direct result of her research on Adelaide Herrmann, and was published in May 2024. For a succession of eight teenage African American performers in a racially divided nation, the role of Boomsy, the beloved-by-audiences sidekick of the legendary Alexander Herrmann, prepared them for adult careers as magicians, musicians, and comedians. Herrmann’s protégés entertained millions, but their achievements went unrecorded, condemning them to obscurity.

Praising *The Great Boomsy* as “an epic saga of adventure, resilience, and the enduring power of perseverance against adversity,” the May 2024 Prairie Books Review noted that “Steele’s meticulously researched biography sheds light on a neglected chapter of American entertainment history, unveiling the untold legacy of Boomsy and his comrades ... this book serves as a tribute to Steele’s unwavering commitment to dispelling misconceptions and revealing the real tales behind the golden age of magic.”

“Receiving this award is an incredible honor,” said Margaret. “Milbourne Christopher was a profoundly influential and prolific magic historian and writer, so being

chosen for the Literary Award is doubly special. Those of us who collect and record magic history know we are just stewards and caretakers, shepherding this precious material down through time. We are kindred spirits, passing the torch from one generation to the next, and I am deeply grateful for this recognition.”

Award of Excellence: Joan DuKore



Joan Dukore, who performs “glamorous, elegant magic – with a wry twist,” was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she trained as a ballet dancer. Perhaps her transition from dancer to magician was “in the cards,” as was her odyssey from Hawaii to Las Vegas.

Joan’s passion for dance began at age nine when her stepfather was appointed executive director of Ballet Hawaii. At age nineteen, and intent on forging a career as a dancer, Joan moved to Las Vegas. To her surprise, opportunities to perform magic emerged and began to outnumber those in dance. Perhaps this was not so “surprising” after all.

At age six, Joan developed a love of playing cards when her father taught her to shuffle and deal like a pro. She continued to study magic, chiefly card magic, and headed to Las Vegas, as she put it, “with a few effects ‘in my back pocket’ that I could do well.”

“In Las Vegas,” said Joan, “I learned a lot from Sophie Evans who got me my first gig. Jeff McBride and Eugene Burger helped with my performance, with choosing effects, and with sleight of hand techniques. Eugene then introduced me to Johnny Thompson, who took me under his wing.”

Joan landed a position at Caesar’s Magical Empire, then the city’s premier venue for magic. She also performed at Celine Dion’s vow renewal reception. She has appeared on TLC performing magic for their *Urban Legend* show, and on HGTV’s *House Hunters Las Vegas Week*. Today, Joan continues to perform at Las Vegas resort and corporate venues, at the Magic Castle, and at engagements from coast to coast.

A versatile performer, Joan is equally adept at close-up, strolling, and stage magic. She credits dance with enhancing her magic, and readily admits, “I don’t know if I would have had the courage to be a magician without the training in dance.”

Said Joan, “It is an incredible honor to receive this award. I have great respect for all the winners; I can’t believe that I am now in such company! Some are my mentors, some are people I look up to, and some are just plain legends. I never expected to win anything, as I have never entered any magic competitions. I was so surprised, not only to be included, but to have an award of my very own!”

Close-up Award: Laura London



Yes, Laura London *was* born and raised in London, and she is currently the magician of choice at many of the city’s most fashion-

able venues, exclusive corporate events, and private parties.

Her resume is beyond impressive, overflowing with television credits, swank club appearances, and performing residencies. Virgin Atlantic Airways flies her throughout the world to entertain at some of its most high-end presentations. One of her biggest honors was performing for the His Highness the Prince of Wales on several occasions, and also for Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Laura’s interest in magic began in childhood, when she was given her first magic trick by a family magician-friend. A decade later, one week after her eighteenth birthday, she became the youngest-ever female member of The Magic Circle, she is now a member of the Inner Magic Circle, and, as an avid magic historian, is its librarian. Recently, she was elected Chair of the prestigious organization.

Laura, an accomplished close-up magician with a large and varied repertoire, is one of the world’s best female sleight-of-hand artists specializing in cards. She is also a sought-after lecturer on the international magic lecture circuit.

Laura’s exceptional card skills and compelling story telling were amply demonstrated in *Cheat*, a show she created about a female cardsharp in the 1920s who made her living cheating at poker. It garnered standing ovations wherever it was performed.

Not only does Laura invent effects and design special playing cards to sell to the magic community, but she also hosts sold-out workshops for professional magicians.

“To say I’m thrilled and honored to receive the Milbourne Christopher Award for Close-up Magic is an understatement,” said Laura. “I have been performing magic since I was eight years old and have been a professional magician for twenty-three years. It is all I do. I eat, sleep, and breathe magic. To be recognized for my work means so much to me. Also, as an historian, receiving this award in the name of such a legend as Milbourne Christopher makes it all the more special.”

Ambassador of Magic Award: Jonathan Neal



As Jonathan Neal says, “Sometimes style is everything.” His performances are proof that it’s not only *what* you do, it’s also the *way* you do it. Jonathan just may be the answer to magic’s perennial question, “Is Magic an Art?” When Jonathan performs, it is an art, because he makes it so.

In nightclub, casino, and television appearances, Jonathan has demonstrated that audiences want “Illusion with Style.” He combines elegant music, superb choreography, a charismatic stage presence, and exciting mysteries performed with artistry and skill. His performances are not just shows, but memorable events.

Be not mistaken, there is a lot of substance behind that style. Jonathan has been entertaining audiences for nearly five decades. He began at age nine when his grandmother bought him a set of three-inch Linking Rings. Said Jonathan, “I learned to link the rings, which is still one of my favorite illusions. The best part was that I taught myself how to do it silently. I continued to be self-taught, and my interest was fueled by magic books and by watching *The Ed Sullivan Show* and other variety programs. Magicians such as Richiardi, Aubrey, John Mulholland, Dai Vernon, Cardini, and Charlie Miller were early influences, as were stage and film legends Fred Astaire and Sammy Davis, Jr.”

Jonathan sees magic as a technique to

serve a broader goal – not just to fool people, but rather to involve them on an emotional level. As he said, “This is probably because I was a ‘theatre geek’ as a kid and studied acting, dance, and all those skills that are necessary for a life in showbiz.”

Jonathan has begun publishing his routines in a series of forty to fifty-page booklets for magicians who wish to recreate his masterful presentations. Jonathan said, “I’ve completed booklets on the Linking Rings, Gypsy Thread, Multiplying Bottles, Egg Bag, and Demon Wonder Box. There are more to complete, and I’m contemplating compiling them as a book with a running narrative and interesting career anecdotes.”

The audience at the 2018 Christopher Award Presentations was treated to a dazzling medley of Jonathan’s unique versions of those classics when he and his wife and performing partner, Liane, were the evening’s featured entertainers.

A consummate professional, Jonathan has been twice voted Stage Magician of the Year at the Magic Castle. His numerous television appearances include CBS TV’s *The World’s Greatest Magicians*. Multiple visits to *The Tonight Show* have added to his reputation. He has touched thousands of lives by embodying the best magic has to offer during extended tours in Japan, South Africa, and Beijing, China, where he performed over five hundred shows – in Chinese!

Said Jonathan, who was accompanied by Liane, “I’m delighted to be recognized by my peers and to share the evening with these very worthy recipients. Thank you all. My life in magic has been a dream!”

Illusionist Award: Rick and Susan Wilcox

When Rick Wilcox and his wife and stage partner, Susan, visited the old, vacant, former Country Legends Theater in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, they could see past the threadbare carpets, the broken auditorium seats, and concession stands in shambles. They saw enormous potential in the 550-seat, 6,400-square foot space that had also

been a teen dance club in the late 1980s. They saw a theatre of their own.



They also saw enormous challenges. Moreover, the former businesses had been failures in a premier midwest vacation destination, not an especially good omen for a new entertainment venture, and a magic show at that. However, the two Wisconsin natives knew they had found the perfect venue to transition from a life on the road to performing in a theatre of their own.

Undaunted, they risked nearly everything they owned and got to work. After several months of intensive restoration, that included the help of family and friends, on May 19, 1999, nearly seven hundred guests attended the Grand Opening of the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater and marveled not only at the dramatic transformation, but at the marvelous performance that has made the Rick Wilcox Magic Theatre the *Reader's Digest* online pick as "The Best Family Travel Destination in Wisconsin."

Fast-forward twenty-five years. On June 1 and 2, 2024, the intrepid duo marked the longevity and success of the Rick Wilcox Magic Theatre with a festive Jubilee Celebration attended by family, well-wishers, and peers in magic. Rick and Susan characterized it as "the best, most magical party ever!" And rightfully so.

It might be said that Rick's fifty-year

magical venture began with his first magic set at age eleven, followed by sleight-of-hand restaurant gigs at age fifteen, and the purchase of his first illusion at age seventeen. He continued to pursue magic and performed on a part-time basis at corporate events and national conventions while engaged in a successful sales career for a leading medical equipment manufacturer. In 1988, at age twenty-seven, he decided to pursue his dream by making magic a full-time vocation.

Susan, on the other hand, had no intention of joining Rick on stage. Though she envisioned contributing to the business-side of Rick's productions, Rick recognized she would be his perfect stage partner. So, Rick and Susan, together, created her memorable role that is part sidekick, part audience liaison, part elegant ingénue. Their on-stage chemistry travels across the footlights, and audiences "get" that their joy and teamwork is for real.

Now, since that auspicious opening in 1999, Rick and Susan have created a true illusion show that has amazed packed houses year-round with a combination of magic, comedy, audience participation and grand, stage-spanning illusions. As the theatre critic for the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* said, "It's the ultimate family show. As good as anything you will see in Las Vegas." According to another reporter, "The show seems like it stepped right out of the Las Vegas strip, with all of the flash and style you come to expect from the finest magicians in the world." One need only go to the Rick Wilcox Magic Theatre to see a helicopter or Lamborghini appear before one's eyes.

Said Rick, "When we bought our theater in 1998, it was a risk in every way possible. Because we do what we love, we consider ourselves blessed, lucky, and rewarded every day. We are grateful for even the early years when we had no idea if the theater was going to be successful. It has always been our mission and our privilege to find new ways to make magic look like magic, and to share that with our audiences. We are glad that we can put a smile on people's faces along

the way. To be recognized with this award confirms that all of our hard work over the years has been noticed by our peers.”

Said Susan, “A stage career was not on my radar until Rick convinced me I could do it, and it’s been an exciting life, on and off stage. Magic turns adults into kids, and kids into ‘magic super fans.’ Watching the transformation from arm-crossed sceptic to wide-eyed believer is absolutely my favorite part! Thank you again for this incredible honor and award. It is such an encouragement to us. We will use the boost to continue our work to give our audiences the best possible experience so they can’t wait to see another live magic show!”

Mentalist Award: Jeff and Kimberly Bornstein



Jeff Bornstein and his wife and mind-reading partner, Kimberly, have mesmerized audiences with their mystifying, memorable, and “must-see” show featuring magic, comedy, and mind-boggling mind reading stunts. Thanks to the magic of Zoom videoconferencing, the Bornstein’s, who were unable to attend because of Hurricane Helene, were able to view the proceedings and share their heartfelt “thank you” remarks with the audience.

Stunts are not new to Jeff, a retired Hollywood stuntman and former Army intelligence communications specialist. Jeff began racing motorcycles at age ten. By his mid-twenties, he broke into the film industry by being strapped to the hood of a car in the

film *Heat Street*. His credits as a stuntman include Oliver Stone’s *JFK*, *Star Trek VI*, and *Lethal Weapon III*.

Jeff’s formidable SAG-AFTRA resume lists daredevil skills ranging from stage combat, to rappelling, to precision driving. He holds the distinction of actually being knocked out by Sylvester Stallone in a knife-fight scene in the movie *The Specialist*. Though the KO was an accident, the scene remained in the movie. What’s more, Jeff has also been a professional bull rider.

Early on, in his grade school years, Jeff learned that a clever magic trick could effectively prevent being bullied. At age thirteen, he landed his first gig at a Los Angeles pizza parlor. Jeff said, “When a stage was built for me, that’s when I realized I wanted to perform magic for the rest of my life.” Soon Jeff had tandem careers as a magician and as a stuntman.

Kimberly was born and raised on a farm in McAlester, Oklahoma. She forged a successful career as a highly valued administrative assistant to top executives of several major Midwest corporations. And, yes, this is the archetypal story of city boy meets country girl, of two people who complement each other perfectly, not only in life, but also on the stage.

The Bornstein’s met when Jeff was headlining at the Looney Bin Comedy Club (No kidding!) in Oklahoma City. Several years after their courtship, marriage, and subsequent move to Los Angeles, Kimberly, with no show-biz experience, enthusiastically suggested they create a duo act and become performing partners. Failing to dissuade her, Jeff later admitted, “With her beauty, talent, and innate gift for showmanship, she was a natural and became the star of the show!”

Three years ago, Jeff and Kimberly moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, about an hour from Nashville, where Jeff is a resident magician at the House of Cards. They have been featured on HIT-TV’s *Masters of Illusion* and at Hollywood’s Magic Castle.

Their corporate clients have included Costco, NBC, Motorola, Proctor and Gamble, Paramount, and Toyota. Hollywood A-listers

such as Nicolas Cage, Dan Aykroyd, Louis Gossett, Jr., Henry Winkler, Jason Alexander, Colin Farrell are among those who have enjoyed their captivating performances.

Together, Jeff and Kimberly produce “Operation-Bravo,” entertaining U.S. Armed Forces both stateside and abroad, as well as at Veteran’s hospitals.

“Wow, what an incredible honor,” said Jeff. “Kimberly and I are absolutely thrilled and grateful to receive the Mentalist Award. We’re proud to be part of this amazing community of magicians.” Kimberly said, “Winning this award feels like a dream come true! After all our hard work, it means the world to us. We’re excited to try new things and see what happens next!”

Masters Award: Bill Schmeelk



Bill Schmeelk knows a lot about the “tricks of the trade.” He’s been building them for nearly half a century.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, his passion for magic began as a third grader when he received a Remco Sneaky Pete’s Magic Show kit. That passion has never waned.

While studying Industrial Education at Newark State College, New Jersey, he worked at Tannen’s Magic Shop in New York City. “Lou Tannen knew I wanted to build magic,” said Bill. “He was always

helpful and encouraging. And, he was the best demonstrator I have ever seen.”

Bill then earned a master’s degree in industrial supervision at California State University in Los Angeles. After graduation, he worked for three years at Owen Magic Supreme with Les Smith and Alan Zagorsky, two of the best in the business. “Carl Owen was still alive,” said Bill, “but no longer working at the shop, I visited him often at his home. He died during the time I was there.”

After working with John Gaughan for about a year, in 1976 Bill returned to the East Coast, determined to build fine-quality magic apparatus. He founded Wellington Enterprises in Garnerville, New Jersey. Bill said, “David Copperfield was our first customer. We built most of the magic for his first television special, *The Magic of ABC*. We also worked on his next two specials.”

In 1980, Bill created his biggest illusion, the vanish of a five-ton Asian elephant for Harry Blackstone, Jr. Bill said, “That required a lot of developmental work. The illusion premiered in Cleveland, Ohio, and later it was featured in his Broadway show.”

Wellington’s quality craftsmanship attracted top names in the business. Bill said, “Early on, we built for Bob McAllister’s *Wonderama* television show. and for the *Wonderama* road show. We created illusions for Doug Henning’s New York television special as well as for his Broadway production, *Merlin*. We have also built for Penn and Teller, consulted on a David Blaine special, and created magical effects for Broadway shows.” Bill’s most unusual challenge may have been the creation of an underwater illusion show, performed by “mermaids,” at the world-famous Weeki Wachee Springs State Park in Florida.

At age seventy-four, though contemplating retirement, Bill is still ever inventive and works five days a week. “My latest creation is *The Architect’s Nightmare Perfected*,” said Bill. “And, after more than fifteen years of development, I’m anxious to complete my stage version of *Any Card At Any Number*.”

As Tom Tweed, he continues to perform an occasional stage, platform, or close-up show. Bill said, "I enjoy performing, especially anything that fools and gets a laugh. 'Magic With A Laugh' is my motto."

Lionel Trains are his second hobby. Bill is the Past-President of the Lionel Collectors Club of America, and a member of its board of directors. He has written over two hundred articles for club's magazine.

"I want to thank the Christopher Foundation for this honor," said Bill. "In 1977, at the Society of American Magicians annual convention in New York City, I presented my new company with a dealer display. Milbourne Christopher came by and complimented my work. He was a gentleman, and he was very kind to this nobody in magic manufacturing. It's a great honor to be recognized by those in this wonderful field of magic we all love so deeply."

Lifetime Achievement Award: Kohl & Company



It might seem paradoxical that Kohl & Company, a trio of performers whose signature act was a non-stop succession of unmitigated disasters that would be career-ending for most magicians, could be the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

In their magical comedy of errors, everything that could go *wrong* did go wrong. Yet, the progressive meltdown was absolutely *right*. The act has been described as "an artfully woven web of hilarious magical mishaps that has taken Kohl & Company around the world."

For over three decades, Kohl & Company was headed by Dick Kohlhafer as the swaggering Great Kohl, accompanied by his younger brother Al as assistant Farky Hollis, and Dick's daughter Karen as Farkamena.

Dick Kohlhafer was born in 1939 and raised in West Baltimore, Maryland. He was inspired by his uncle Clarence Baum who performed Fourth of July magic shows for the neighborhood on the Kohlhafer's front lawn. Dick continued his education in the art of conjuring at Phil Thomas' Yogi Magic Mart, and honed his craft while stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in the early 1960s.

Following his stint in the military, Dick held a "real job" as a project administrator for the Westinghouse Corporation. Al was a high school teacher. All the while, the trio traveled the world performing on stages from Guam to Germany, from Canada to Chile. Because family always came first, over a long weekend they would fly to their destination, perform, and then fly home to rejoin the workaday world.

Kohl & Company has opened for entertainers such as Jeff Foxworthy, Randy Travis, Mickey Rooney, and Rich Little. They made four appearances on the *Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy*, broadcast from Caesar's Palace, and were also spotlighted on *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. As headliners at magic conventions, Kohl & Company's when-things-go-wrong-it's-funny comedic style drew appreciative standing ovations from their peers.

In 1987, the talented trio received the Siegfried and Roy Golden Lion Award at the Desert Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. In 2008, Kohl & Company was voted one of "The Top Ten Funniest Acts in Magic" by *MAGIC Magazine*.

Kohl & Company last performed in 2019. At age eighty, Dick retired from the strenuous magic-gone-awry physical comedy that was the hallmark of their performances. He is now eighty-five years old and, on occasion, performs a more traditional solo show. Beaming with happiness as he regaled the audience with stories of the company's

many adventures, it was evident his love of magic hasn't slowed down in the least.

"Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor we will ever receive," said Dick. "Milbourne Christopher was a close friend of Phil Thomas who was a good friend of mine. Phil helped keep my passion for magic everlasting. We were lucky enough to receive the Siegfried and Roy Golden Lion Award and the Lifetime of Laughter Award from the Clown Hall of Fame, but this tops everything! My thanks to the Milbourne Christopher Foundation for this prestigious award!"

Award of Appreciation: Santos Molina and Lorraine Anderson

Periodically, the Selection Committee presents a special award after careful consideration and deliberation. This year, Santos Molina and Lorraine Anderson, two wonderful people who knew Maurine Christopher intimately and cared for her with a commitment that never wavered, were honored with a special Award of Appreciation.

Though Maurine had many friends and admirers, following the death of her husband, and confronted by the myriad challenges of aging that impacted her daily living, Santos and Lorraine were instrumental in enabling her to enjoy a comfortable and meaningful life.

In addition, Santos and Lorraine, as Chairman of the Board and its Secretary/Treasurer, respectively, have faithfully and steadfastly guided and served the foundation that Maurine created. The Selection Committee proudly, and with deep appreciation and respect, honored them with a well-deserved Award of Appreciation.

"Receiving this award was a total surprise," said Lorraine. "Little did we know when we began our friendship with Mrs. Christopher that she would become such an integral part of our family. Words cannot express our gratitude to everyone involved in the Christopher Foundation. We are truly fortunate to be surrounded by such an incredible group of people."

Featured Entertainer: David Corsaro



Volunteer Susan Wilcox assists David Corsaro.

After a brief intermission, the festivities continued with a performance by David Corsaro, a winner on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, a thirteen-time attendee of the legendary, by-invitation-only 4F Convention, and a performer on Monday Night Magic, New York City's longest running off-Broadway magic show.

Personable, articulate and a seasoned pro, David came well-armed with a well-honed, audience-tested presentation. For one spell-binding hour, David presented a variety of mentalism effects that were downright baffling. Many involved audience participation, and all were punctuated with intelligent and appropriate humor. From the time he entered the Oasis Room stage to his final mind-boggling effect, David "delivered the goods," and then some. The spontaneous standing ovation was sufficient testimony to the audience's thorough enjoyment.

"To perform at the Christopher Awards is an amazing honor," said David. "When magicians appreciate what you do so much that they ask you to entertain them during one of the most prestigious nights in our field, it is quite a privilege. I was delighted to bring my combination of unique effects and inside humor to the evening."

To Honor and To Be Honored

Because of Maureen Christopher's vision and magnanimity, once again magic's finest were honored by the Milbourne Christopher Foundation at the 2024 Awards Presentation. Mrs. Christopher, who passed away in 2013 at the age of ninety-two, would surely have been pleased with the judges selections.

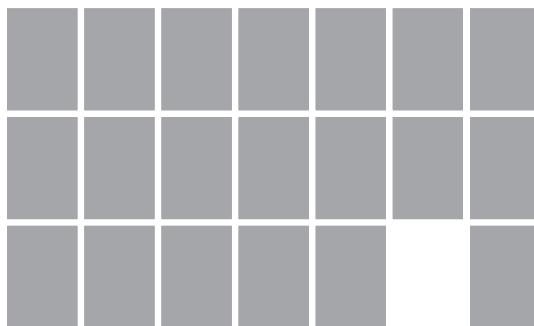
As the words of Master of Ceremonies Tom Ewing so rightly signified, the Christopher Foundation was truly honored to honor them for their efforts and contributions in their chosen fields, and for bringing joy to countless people through their magic.

Tom Ewing.



Rick Heath is the recipient of the Milbourne Christopher Foundation's 2014 Award for Visual Magic. He is a periodic contributor to The Linking Ring, and can be contacted at rick.heath@magicianwithapaintbrush.com.

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