

# Milbourne Christopher Foundation

**AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**



**GARDE ARTS CENTER**

**NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT**



**Milbourne Christopher**  
**1914-1984**

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The Milbourne Christopher Foundation



**The Milbourne Christopher Foundation**  
**1991-2023 \* 32 Years of Incorporation**

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**The Milbourne Christopher Foundation** was established by Maurine Christopher (1920 – 2013) to encourage excellence, originality and leadership in the magical arts and to help keep conjuring on a level with the other popular entertainment forms of dance, drama, comedy and music.

Incorporated in New York State in 1991 and federally approved as a charitable organization, the Foundation is supported by donations. The charter also authorizes the use of the Foundation's resources to keep classic books of magic such as Christopher's "Illustrated History of Magic" and his Houdini biographies in print. Mr. Santos Molina is the Chairman of the Foundation; Lorraine Anderson serves as Secretary. All officers of the corporation and the award judges donate their services to the Foundation.

Milbourne Christopher served with the United States Army in Europe during World War II as a Soldier-Sorcerer and died in 1984 at the age of seventy.

In 1951 Christopher revived The Society of American Magicians magazine, M-U-M, as a separate publication and edited it for five years. During this time he continued to write conjuring news columns regularly for other magic and show business journals and articles for general magazines in America and abroad.

Christopher, author or editor of more than twenty books on magic and extra sensory perception, was national President of The Society of American Magicians (1957 – 1958), after a term as head of the New York S.A.M. Parent Assembly No. 1. He created and starred in the first prime time network television magic special which aired on NBC in America and on European networks. In all his areas of interest Christopher became internationally known.

The Foundation is headquartered in Delhi, New York and sponsors the annual Milbourne Christopher Awards to spotlight the best magic has to offer contemporaneously in performing, writing, publishing and invention. The award categories reflect Christopher's diversified career: promising young magician, author and/or publisher, outstanding illusionist and/or illusion creator, mentalist, ambassador of magic, lifetime achievement and master's award. Winners in other areas may be added at the judge's discretion. Not all winner categories are awarded each year.

The Christopher Foundation award winners are selected by a panel of judges comprised of leaders from the magic community. The judges consist of Thomas A. Ewing, Chair; William V. Rauscher, David Haversat, Tony Clark, Paul Mayer, Kenneth Trombly, Rob Allen and Mike Miller. Judges who have served in the past include Edward Shuman, William Andrews, Robert L. Bluemle, J. Marberger Stuart, Richard Block and Raymond Goulet.

The Award winners' are presented plaques, handcrafted wands and commemorative coins at the annual Awards Presentation.



# **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

## **THE MILBOURNE CHRISTOPHER FOUNDATION**

**Opening Remarks and Introduction**

**-Thomas Ewing-**

**Recognizing Excellence in the Magical Arts**



**Mentalist Award – Brian Curry**



**Illusionist Award – Jason Bishop**



**Ambassador of Magic Award – John Cox**



**Close-Up Award – Bernardo Sedlacek**



**Literary Award – Jim Hagy**



**Masters Award – Paul Lembo**



**Lifetime Achievement Award – Craig Diamond**

## Milbourne Christopher Foundation Award Winners

Robert J. Albo — Literary Award for his famed Classic Magic Series (2003)  
Robert J. Albo & Phil Schwartz — Literary Award for Thayer Magic (2010)  
Rob and Carol Allen — Masters Award (2021)  
Michael Ammar—Close-up Award (2021)  
Michael Bailly — Lifetime Achievement Award (2004)  
Jason Bishop - Illusionist Award (2023)  
Banachek — Mentalist Award (2010)  
Larry Becker — Literary Award for Stunners (1993)  
Al Belmont — Masters Award (2017)  
Bev Bergeron — Lifetime Achievement Award (2010)  
Gay Blackstone - Ambassador of Magic Award (2009)  
Gay Blackstone — Lifetime Achievement Award (2015)  
Harry Blackstone, Jr. — Illusionist Award (posthumously) ) (1997)  
David Ben — Masters Award (2013)  
John Booth — Literary Award for his books and columns (1994)  
Greg Bordner — Lifetime Achievement Award (2022)  
Jimmy Brown— Ambassador of Magic Award (2018)  
David Bull — Illusionist Award (2000)  
John Bundy and Morgan — Illusionist Award (2016)  
Eugene Burger - Literary Award (2000)  
Lance Burton — Illusionist Award (1996)  
Nathan Burton -Illusionist Award (2012)  
Mirko Callaci - Newcomer Award (2004)  
John Calvert — Illusionist Award (1998)  
John and Tammy Calvert — Masters Award (2005)  
Chris Capehart— Lifetime Achievement Award (2021)  
Christopher Carter — Mentalist Award (2013)  
Mike Caveney — Literary award as author and publisher (1996)  
Tony Chapek — Illusionist Award (2007)  
David Charvet — Literary Award (2006)  
James Cielen - Newcomer Award (1992)  
Tony Clark - Newcomer Award (1990)  
Steve Cohen — Masters Award (2019)  
Danny Cole — Newcomer Award (2002)  
Tim Conover— Mentalist Award (2005)  
David Copperfield - Illusionist Award (1993)  
John Cox - Ambassador of Magic Award (2023)  
Joseph Curcillo - Mentalist Award (2014)  
Brian Curry - Mentalist Award (2023)  
Edwin Dawes — Literary Award for his body of work (1999)  
Enrico and Lisa de la Vega — Newcomer Award (1998)  
Eric DeCamps— Close-up Award (2013)  
Irving Desfor — Lifetime Achievement Award (1993)  
Marc DeSouza — Close-Up Award (2017)  
Joe Devlin — Illusionist Award (2021)  
Craig Diamond -Lifetime Achievement Award (2023)  
Dorothy Dietrich and Dick Brookz — Lifetime Achievement Award (2019)  
Lyn Dillies — Illusionist Award (1013)  
Jon Dorenbos — Close-Up Award (2018)  
Gil Eagles — Mentalist Award (2019)  
Terry Evanswood — Illusionist Award (2022)  
Jeff and Tessa Evason — Mentalists Award (2003)  
Thomas A. Ewing— Literary Award (2017) (2003)  
Joe Eddie and Betty Fairchild — Masters Award (2022)  
Fantasio — Masters Award (2013)  
Gary Frank — Literary Award (2015)  
Greg Frewin — Illusionist Award (2009)  
Karrell Fox — Lifetime Achievement Award (1997)  
Joseph Gabriel — Illusionist Award (2010)  
John Gaughn — Illusion Creator and Restorer Award (1989)  
Paul Gertner — Close-up Award (2012)  
David Ginn — Literary Award (2022)  
David Goodsell — Literary Award (2009)  
Peter Gossamer — Illusionist Award (2018)  
Raymond J. Goulet - Lifetime Achievement Award (2013)  
Lee Grabel - Lifetime Achievement Award (2006)  
Michael Grasso - Illusionist Award (2011)  
Dick and Joanne Gustafson - Lifetime Achievement Award (2009)  
Dennis Haney — Master Award (2011)  
John Harrison — Literary Award (2010)  
Franz Harary — Illusionist Award (2001)  
Jim Hagy - Literary Award (2023)  
Rich Heath —Visual Magic Art Award (2014)  
Bill Herz — Ambassador of Magic Award (2019)  
Chuck Hickok — Mentalist Award (2007)  
Doc Hilford — Mentalist Award (2016)  
Bradley A. Jacobs — Ambassador of Magic Award (2016)  
Ardan James -Newcomer Award (2000)  
Trent James — Promising Young magician Award (2015)  
Joshua Jay— Close-up Award (2011)  
Chuck Jones — Illusionist Award (2019)  
William Kalush — Literary Award (2016)  
Bruce Kalver - Ambassador of Magic Award (2002)  
Craig Karges — Mentalist Award (2015)  
Ted Karmilovichh — Mentalist Award (2017)  
Todd Karr— Literary Award (2004)  
Richard Kaufman — Literary Award for his body of work (1995)  
Andre Kole — Illusionist Award (1994)  
Stan Kramien — Lifetime Achievement Award (2014)  
Ryan Lally —Youth Award (2018)  
Krystyn Lambert — Newcomer Award (2009)  
Milt Larsen — Lifetime Achievement Award (2012)  
Jason Latimer — Newcomer Award (2003)  
Paul Lembo - Masters Award (2023)  
Levent — Masters Award (2015)  
Shin Lim — Most Promising Award (2013)  
Robert Little — Lifetime Achievement Award (2016)  
Losander — Illusionist Award (2006)  
Robert Lund — Lifetime Achievement Award (1995)  
Michael Giles and Stacy Jones (The Majestix)- Illusionists Award (2002)  
Bill Malone — Close-up Award (2015)  
James Mapes— Mentalist Award (2018)  
Frances Marshall — Lifetime Achievement Award (1999)  
Max Maven — Literary Award as a Prolific Author and Editor (2002)  
Jeff McBride — Illusionist Award (2003)  
Billy McComb — Lifetime Achievement Award (2000)  
Mike Miller — Ambassador of Magic Award (2010)  
Stephen Minch — Literary Award (1998)  
Hank Moorehouse — Lifetime Achievement Award (2011)  
Norm Nielsen - Lifetime Achievement (2001), Masters Award (2009)  
Ryan Oakes — Newcomer Award (3006)  
Daniel Ortiz — Close-up Award (2014)  
Darwin Ortiz — Literary Award (2021)  
Richard Osterlind — Mentalist Award (2006)  
Christian & Katrina Painter — Mentalist Award (2011)  
Johnny Ace Palmer — Close-up Award (2010)  
Cesareo Pelaez — Illusionist Award (1995)  
Channing Pollock — Lifetime Achievement Award (2003)  
Jon Racherbaumer — Literary Award (2005)  
James Rainho —Lifetime Achievement Award (2018)  
Alex Ramon — Illusionist Award (2014)  
William V. Rauscher — Literary Award (1991 and 2007)  
Charles Reynolds — Masters Award (2002)  
Adele Rhindress — Ambassador of Magic Award (2015)  
Lance Rich —Ambassador of Magic (2021)  
Barrie Richardson — Mentalist Award (2009)  
Ben Robinson — Literary Award (1990)  
Darren Romeo — Newcomer Award (1996)  
Daniel Roy — Close-Up Award (2019)  
Fergus Roy -Literary Award for The Davenport Story (2012)  
Marvyn Roy — Illusionist Award (1990)  
Marvyn & Carol Roy — Lifetime Achievement Award (2007)  
Melissa Russo — Promising Young Magician Award (2016)  
Marc Salem — Mentalist Award (2004)  
Dale Salwak — Masters Award (2014)  
David Sandy — Ambassador of Magic (2021)  
George Schindler — Lifetime Award (2005)  
William J. Schmeelk — Illusion Creator Award (1998)  
Bernardo Sedlacek - Close-Up Award (2023)  
David Seebach — Illusionist Award (2017)

## Milbourne Christopher Foundation Award Winners

S. H. Sharpe — Literary Award (1992)  
Sbimsbi — Newcomer Award (2005)  
Siegfried & Roy — Illusionist Award (1991)  
Kenneth Silverman — Literary Award (1997)  
Alan Slaight — Literary Award (2001)  
Bill Smith — Master's Award (2008)  
Samuel Patrick Smith — Literary Award (2018)  
Jim Steinmeyer — Illusion Creator Award (1996)  
Jim Steinmeyer — Literary Award (2014)  
Jon Stetson — Mentalist Award (2012)  
The Spencers — Illusionists Award (2015)  
Cyril Takayama — Newcomer Award (1993)  
Johnny & Pam Thompson — Masters Award (2010)  
Topas — Newcomer Award (1989)  
Topas and Roxanne — Illusionists Award (2004)  
Bob Torkova — Newcomer Award (1994)  
Ron Urban — Lifetime Achievement Award (2017)  
Adrian Van Vactor — Newcomer Award (1994)  
T. A. Waters — Literary Award (1989)  
Don Wayne — Illusion Creator Award (1999)  
Peter West — Newcomer Award (2007)  
Barry Wiley — Literary Award (2013)  
Frances Willard — Illusionist Award (1992)  
Greg Wilson — Newcomer Award (1991)  
Mark and Nani Wilson — Lifetime Achievement Award (2002)  
Meir Yedid — Close-Up Award (2016)  
Jeki Yoo — Close-up Award (2022)



*A magician is an actor playing the part of a wonder worker. He's a Superman, but everyone knows he's also Clark Kent.*

**Milbourne Christopher**  
**Wall Street Journal, April 4, 1973**



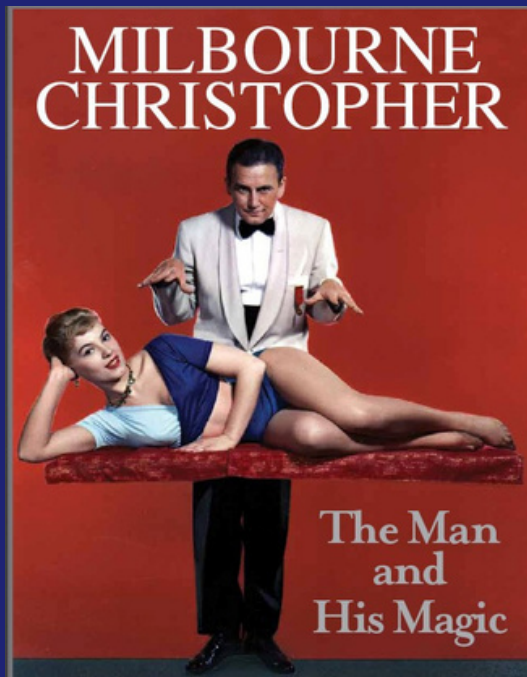
*I have collected magic since I was a boy. Wherever I performed my free hours where largely spent in antiquarian book shops, with print dealers and searching through libraries and museums. My home is filled with memorabilia and fortunately I have a wife who understands. - Milbourne Christopher*



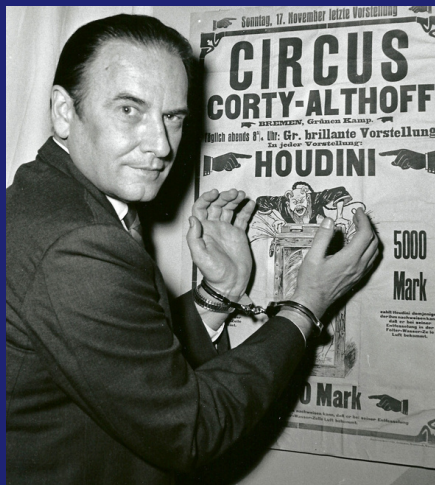
**Following the Award Presentation  
The Milbourne Christopher Foundation  
Proudly Presents...**

**Tim Wright**  
**as**  
**SKILLDINI**





THE SHOT: Christopher waits. Bullet will be caught, then dropped in plate so audience can hear how solid it is



## He'll Face Death On TV

This magician is going to catch a bullet in his teeth — he hopes

By LESLIE LIEBER  
This Week Television Editor

Some years ago, magician Milbourne Christopher published a treatise on the "melancholy history" of bullet-catching. "Easily the most dangerous of all specialties," he wrote, "it cost the lives of a dozen deceptionists and maimed twice as many more."

But on Monday night's NBC-TV Spectacular, "Festival of Magic," Christopher himself will risk death by catching in his teeth a bullet fired point-blank from a .22 rifle a scant 18 feet away. In preparation for the ordeal — which even the late Houdini wouldn't try — Christopher has applied for a \$100,000 policy with Lloyds of London.

"I'm doing this trick despite my wife's objections," Christopher told us. "As consultant and performer on the show, which is flying the world's best magicians to the U.S., I've got to top some pretty sensational magic. For example, Sorcar of India intends driving a buzz-saw through a girl lying in full view of the public. And Harbin of South Africa plans to take a cleaver, slice a girl's head off and move it three feet away from her body."

### Dangerous Stunt

Whether Christopher actually catches a bullet in his teeth or simply conceals a bullet in his mouth, we cannot say. But history does prove it to be a risky business, indeed.

On March 23, 1918, one of the all-time great bullet-catchers, Chung Ling Soo, was shot to death in full view of a packed theatre on the stage of London's Wood Green Empire. In 1889 Michael Hara died in New York's Bellevue Hospital after "catching" a bullet in his lungs. At the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris, Dr. Epstein was killed when his own magic wand, stuffed into the gun barrel by accident, was shot through his body. And so it goes — a dozen performers killed, and many others wounded. So, if all goes well and there are no rehearsal slip-ups, Chris-



THE TARGET: Christopher's wife is worried

