

*What makes a young boy determined to become a magician? Many boys dream the dream, but only a few follow their dreams and become magicians. That's what happened to Icelandic magician Einar Aron Fjalarrsson. He performed his one-hundredth paid magic show just over a year ago at only thirteen years of age. He turns fifteen this summer and joining I.B.M. has been his dream for a long time. Last year he became a youth member in the I.B.M., and because of his devotion to magic, Ring 371 in Iceland decided to offer him full membership.*

# Inspired in Iceland

*An Interview with*  
**Einar einstaki**

*By Gunnar Kr. Sigurjónsson*

## ***When did you become interested in magic?***

It was around Christmastime 2005; I was nine years old. I live up north in Iceland, and I saw a magician perform in a shopping mall – and I was captivated. When I went home I decided this was something I had to learn. My parents gave me the first magic book for Christmas, and I practiced until I was able to show tricks to my family and friends.

Then during the summer of 2006 I went to Denmark with my family, and we celebrated my tenth birthday at Legoland. In one of the tents, there was a magician showing all kinds of tricks, and that established my interest even more. I kept on practicing magic and got in touch with some magicians in The Magicians' Guild of Iceland, which is Ring 371. In the fall of 2008 I saw Ring 371's annual magic show, and since that day I have not stopped thinking about magic.

My family think it's great that I have a hobby I'm so passionate about, but on the other hand, it has taken over my life at



times because sometimes I am so busy performing. It has not affected my school or education in any way. I have also always been very keen on sports. I practice football (soccer), handball, and gymnastics, and I spend hours a week training different sports. I have been quite a successful athlete too and been on the podium numerous times.

Of course, magic also gets a good deal of my time. I have never neglected school or homework, but despite that I usually manage to get at least three to five hours of practicing magic each day and usually five to eight hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

*I have never neglected school or homework, but despite that I usually manage to get at least three to five hours of practicing magic each day and usually five to eight hours on Saturdays and Sundays.*

***But what do your parents think about your magic interest and success?***

They are actually quite happy that I have such a good hobby. They always know what I want for presents, and they are very glad I discovered there are boundaries in life that can be crossed. Even though you set yourself a goal that might seem far away, you can reach it if you work hard and keep focused.

The first magic show I got paid for performing was quite good if you compare the level I was on as a beginner. But if I view the video of the performance now, I get shivers down my spine. I performed magic from the books I had, nothing what I do now, but the audience liked it, and it inspired me to keep on and do better.

In the beginning, I felt I needed a stage name, so I asked my father to help me with finding one. But I definitely wanted Einar ... something. He suggested Einar einstaki, which would translate into English as The Unique Einar. I liked it a lot, and that's the stage name I always use. We put up a Web page, [www.einareinstaki.com](http://www.einareinstaki.com), printed some business cards, and gigs started rolling in.

As is the case with every magician, I have made mistakes while performing, but I have learned to make the best of it. Most of the time I manage to salvage it, so nobody knows I messed up; they just think that's the way it was supposed to be. Recently I asked a spectator to pick a card

from the deck. When I got the card back, I palmed the card, and made it disappear from the deck. But when I went through the deck to show it was gone, it turned out that I had an extra card in the deck for another trick – exactly the same card that had been picked. Well, I managed to make that one disappear also, in my hands, and nobody knew what had happened.



## *What about buying magic?*

I know that's a curse for magicians. They have to buy magic, and I'm no exception to that. Maybe I don't buy as much as some working professionals, but the downside of buying magic is that you usually don't use more than twenty-five percent of what you buy. The rest fills up closets and drawers.

On the other hand, I try to create some tricks, and I'm always thinking about how I can sway from common routines and adapt them to my stage persona. For example, the multiplying bottles. Well, there is something wrong with seeing a twelve-year-old kid handling martini bottles, so I removed the martini labels and put on a local soft drink label to be comfortable performing it. I think it's very important to adapt the magic trick to the magician, instead of changing who you are and who you want to be. I was recently asked to perform magic in church, and I took a well-known routine and changed it ever so slightly to be able to quote the Bible. It turned out great!

My main passion at the moment is sleight-of-hand magic because that means I have to practice a lot, and it's a wonderful feeling to be able to pull off something miraculous in front of people. On the other hand, I'm not too keen on magic with props or automatic, self-working magic as you don't have to learn anything to be able to perform it.

The most difficult trick I'm practicing at the moment is the muscle pass. I have been practicing that for over a year now, but I'm generally rather quick to learn new tricks. Sometimes, if a move is too tricky, I put it aside for a while and approach it again with open mind, and then I usually get it done.

### **Which magicians have inspired you the most?**

I have to say Harry Houdini, Lance Burton, and Baldur Brjánnson, the Icelandic magician who is the current president of Ring 371. He grew up in my hometown, and I have read his biography, which of course is mainly about magic. Soon after



he became president of Ring 371, my father got a phone call from one of the board members asking if my parents would allow me to become a full member of the guild. They agreed, and I got the official offer a few days later. It was fun joining the junior branch of I.B.M., but it was such an honor for me to join The Magicians' Guild of Iceland, Ring 371, as the age limit is eighteen – and I wasn't even fifteen. At first I was speechless.

## *What about the future?*

The future looks bright. I am sure I will keep on as a magician, but I also want to become a PE teacher, sports trainer, or a personal trainer. It's almost impossible to pursue a career as a professional magician in Iceland, as there are only about three hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants in the whole country. So it's wise to have a good job with steady income. But I definitely see myself in magic in the future.