

# MAGICIANS IN ACTION

1980-2015

I-O



CHRISTIAN SCHERER

**Olivier Maricoux** \*1972 (Belgium)

I have been practising magic since 1986, the year I gave my first performance. I am a member of 'Les 52', Liège's magical circle – in Belgium. I was the circle's youngest ever President and for a period of over 7 years. I am also a member of France's National Federation of artistic magicians, the Fédération Française des Artistes Prestidigitateurs (FFAP).

In my art, I focus on animal magic and comical magic. It's mostly through the latter that I seek to distinguish myself from other magicians. In 1994 (I was 22 at the time), I began searching for a humorous act that would be highly personal but also have an international potential (and therefore would need to be silent). I got the idea to associate the image of a midget to my magical creation. The "midget" would be a person hidden behind a spectator providing the hands while the feet would be the spectator's... This was the birth of my 'Magic Theater'!

The next challenge was to get it known! The most efficient way to achieve this was to take part in various international competitions: I was crowned Vice-champion in comical magic in Belgium, during the Magic convention of Brussels in 1996; I also took part in the FFAP convention (France), and in the first ever Magical Rings (Anneaux Magiques) in Lausanne (Switzerland)... I was also at the FISM convention in Dresden in 1997 (see photos).

The aim wasn't so much to win as to just become well known. Doors did open, which allowed me in turn to perform my act in various countries: France (in magic conventions and other society get-togethers), Italy (national convention of Domenico Dante), Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, England (including the 2000 New Year's Eve show at the Ritz in London).

The most recent high-visibility event has been my appearance on "Belgium's got Talent", performing a section of this act .... And there have been some very rewarding ripple effects!

I am not a professional magician... In my eyes, magic is a superb passion that allows me to travel both within Belgium and abroad. It allows me to meet other artists and to have a second life so to speak! I teach maths in high school to kids in the 12-15 range. My students obviously crave a little bit of magic and I reward them with a small performance every 15 days or so.

I am married and have three kids (Manon 15, Pauline 13 and Simon 11). They are always – together with my wife, Geneviève – my most enthusiastic audience... though they can also be my toughest critics!

I don't think I will ever set my passion aside. Long live magic!



FISM Dresden (Germany), 1997