



LOUDOUN MAGAZINE

HIS MAGIC TRANSFORMS

Dream into Reality

Through the centuries the word “magic” has conjured up images of a world where the impossible becomes possible and where dreams can become reality. In the back of a shopping center in Sterling there is a plain warehouse door with the number 66 emblazoned. To step through that door is to step into a world of magic and an introduction to a man whose dream has become a reality. This is Dean Alan Carnegie, escape artist, illusionist and magician.

Carnegie was born in Baltimore, MD in 1964, but he was raised on a Fauquier County horse and cattle farm. There, at the age of 10, the sparks that were to culminate in the flame of ambition were struck. Those sparks were the movie, *Houdini*, starring Tony Curtis and, a week later, a television magic special starring Doug Henning. Both shows concluded with the water torture cell illusion, intriguing the young boy as he never had been before. The desire to become an escape artist like Houdini was born.

Encouraged by his parents and educating himself through books, Carnegie performed throughout high school. After graduation he enrolled in the Chavez course in magic, but his dream of becoming a performer was soon set aside in favor of paying the bills.

Health Systems where he was the team leader in materials management. He still did magic shows on the side, but it wasn't until his dream to become a full time performer finally overcame the security of a steady paycheck that he launched into a full-time career as an escape artist and illusionist eight years ago.



Dean Alan Carnegie

This is the world behind door number 66. The walls are lined with colorful magic posters, set-

along the floor illuminates the illusions that are performed here. The soft cooing of doves is background music. At the rear of the warehouse are 50 theater seats and a stage for daily performances. Dean Alan Carnegie, himself, is dark-haired with a friendly smile. It is difficult to separate the man from his profession, since his profession is his life.

To Carnegie, magic is a theatrical art form to tell stories and touch people. The cynicism and sharp-edged performances of many of today's illusionists is in contrast to Carnegie's style. His audience, whether it is a handful of people or a theater full, is all that matters. His goal is to have every member of the audience feel the wonder of magic so that they may escape from the rigors of reality for just a short time.

The fact that Carnegie is highly successful in this goal is shown by his more than 300 shows in 2003 at corporations, shopping malls and schools. This past summer he performed daily in his warehouse studio for day camps.

His enjoyment in his profession is not sleight of hand—it's obvious to any onlooker. The room behind door number 66 is a place where magic and dreams become reality.

—Jane Smith