

PRESS RELEASE

From the desk of Stuart "Harrizon" Cassels
Member of The Order of The Magi

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Suggested Headlines:

Manchester's Oldest Society of Magicians Celebrates 112th Birthday with a Charity Show for The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Manchester Magicians to perform a unique show for Charity

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity to benefit from Magical Show

Watch a Live & Interactive Magic Show in your Living Room in aid of a Local Charity

It's not been a magical year but these Manchester magicians are bringing some magic to your living room - and raising funds for RMCH

Four Magicians from Manchester and Lancashire will be taking part in a unique, interactive, online magic show. Featuring comedy, mind reading, playing cards and manipulation, this "variety show of magic" has something for everyone, and will be raising money for a great local charity - Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity.

The magicians, who are donating their time for free, are all members of Manchester's "The Order of The Magi" - one of the world's oldest magic societies which will be celebrating its 112th Birthday later this month.

Magi Secretary, Mike Sharples from Oldham said "It's really exciting to be able to perform magic and entertain an audience again. Some of us have already performed virtual shows online during the pandemic, but this show is special for us. It will be the first time in 14 months that the society has presented a show, and more importantly, it is for an amazing cause."

Founded in 1909, The Order of The Magi has the distinction of meeting at least once a month without fail for the past 112 years. In February 2020, 8 magicians from the society performed a cabaret show in Manchester's Northern Quarter. For some of them it would be their last chance to entertain and mystify members of the public for more than a year. When the first lockdown occurred, and the magicians could no longer meet at their headquarters of The Irish World Heritage Centre in Cheetham Hill, it was time to turn to technology, and move their meetings online using video conferencing. These meetings have been a great success and have attracted famous guest magicians from around the world including Europe, the USA, Canada, and the Philippines.

Mentalist Stuart "Harrizon" Cassels who lives in Rochdale explains "The past year has hit entertainers particularly badly. The closure of venues across the country and social distancing has meant that we

haven't been able to perform as we used to. Thankfully the magic community is made up of some very clever and kind people, and there has been a lot of help and sharing of ideas. But performing magic online does have its challenges. You can't easily ask someone to pick a card, for instance, whilst they are watching on a computer screen, so we have all had to adapt."

President of the magic society, Colne entertainer Darren Lee has been performing magic at virtual birthday parties streamed from his living room, and has also started sharing his wizarding skills on TikTok, with one video being watched over 1 million times. He originally suggested the online show, and there was no doubt in his mind which charity should benefit from the ticket sales. "I was treated at RMCH as a child, and without them, I may not be performing today. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to give something back to such an important place".

The Society's newest member, Nate Cain has also volunteered to take part in the charity show. Nate, from Prestwich, only started practicing magic at the beginning of the pandemic, and is already a force to be reckoned with when handling playing cards; and several members of the magic society have already said that they won't be playing poker with him after the lockdown ends!

The charity magic show can be watched from anywhere in the world on a computer or tablet and takes place on Zoom on Friday 9th April at 8pm. Tickets are £10 per device, with all money raised (after the small third party booking fee is deducted) being donated to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity. To order a ticket visit www.orderofthemagi.co.uk/shows

Not for direct publication...

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Further information about The Order of The Magi can be found at www.orderofthemagi.co.uk

Resources including photographs can be found at <https://www.orderofthemagi.co.uk/shows/resources>