
David Ginn in Atlanta Journal-Constitution

WHY I LOVE MY JOB: David Ginn

Job: Magician, Loganville, Ga.

What I do: “I love Harry Potter,” said Loganville magician David Ginn. “When I read the first book, within five pages, I knew Harry Potter was me at age 11.”

Now Ginn is living the magic, performing with his live rabbit, Harry, at schools, libraries and churches as well as leading seminars, giving lectures and writing books about magic, comedy and entertaining children.

And he’s been doing it for 36 years. “I’ve never had a real full-time job other than two years in the Army,” he said. Now, he typically does more than 300 shows a year, in addition to traveling around the world for lectures and seminars.

The magic shows are educational, dealing with topics such as reading, American and world history, citizenship, inventions or dinosaurs.



He interlaces the tricks with corny jokes, puppets, fast-paced patter and audience participation. “I keep the show going – bam, bam, bam,” he said.

All the while, he sprinkles in information while encouraging reading and traveling.

For his grown-up audiences in books and at lectures, he teaches magicians and clowns the tricks of entertaining children. “These are people who already know tricks,” he said. “What they learn is how to do them for an audience of children.”

Two of his secrets are almost obvious: Keep it moving and keep it clean.

What got me interested in this: “As an 11-year-old kid, it was a hobby,” Ginn said. “I read about magic and began putting on shows with a friend. The hobby turned into an occupation.”

He helped pay his way through the University of Georgia doing magic shows, he said. “Other than being a writer, I never wanted to do anything else.”



Best part of my job: “Entertaining the children and seeing them smile and hearing them laugh,” Ginn said. He especially enjoys “seeing them amazed when something magical happens.”

Most challenging part: “It used to be coming up with new shows each year – completely new shows, tricks, jokes, publicity and research,” he said. “It’s just like teaching a class.” Now that he’s a regular on the education circuit, he has built up a large repertoire of shows and can reuse them as new children enter school.

Now, he said, he constantly tries to strike just the right balance between education and entertainment. And as for encouraging children to read, one of his biggest allies has been the Harry Potter books and their author, J.K. Rowling.

What people don’t know about my job: “What it takes to put on a show,” including the research of educational material; publicity; study of the material, jokes and tricks; and practicing it all, he said.

What keeps me going: “A good night’s sleep,” Ginn said. He added, “It’s fun to be on stage entertaining those children.”

There’s also the business side of his magic. Ginn is his own booking agent, publicist and travel planner. And when he says he’ll do a performance, often eight to 10 shows a week during the school year, he will be there, he said.

Preparation needed for this job: “To do what I do, you have to love children,” Ginn said. “I’m a big kid at heart.”



He learned the tricks of the trade by reading books on magic, attending conventions and professional club meetings and watching a lot of magic. He has been doing shows since he was 14.

Ginn has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism from UGA. He went into the Army after his college ROTC program and “plunged into this after the Army.” He said he did three shows his first month as a civilian and did 53 shows the same month a year later.

He built a customer base by visiting, calling and writing school principals or anyone else who might hire a magician. “It’s been a wonderful life so far, to quote Jimmy Stewart,” he said. “This is what God wants me to do.”

**Story by Karl W. Ritzler, for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 22, 2007.
Used by permission of the author.**