



The Magic In You

Name: Danielle Lamb **Age:** 16 **Location:** San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Years in Magic: 12 total, performing for 4 **Genre of Choice:** Stage

It was a snowy and frigid evening during the Holiday season. I was on the way home with my family and friends from a great dinner when my cell phone rang. I looked down and saw a number I didn't recognize but decided to answer anyway. The voice that greeted me on the other end of the line was none other than that of terrific magician Bob Sanders. He kindly introduced himself, congratulated me on my new post with *The Linking Ring*, and wished me the best of luck. If you've never talked to Bob before, I can assure you that when you talk to him you immediately become friends, and you can feel the brotherhood you have with him as a fellow magician.

So when Bob said he had a young lady to recommend for an article, he instantly had my full attention. He then proceeded to tell me about Danielle Lamb, a young magician from California. As he began to give me details about this young lady, it was clear Bob was convinced I needed to write about her. I could tell he felt there was something **special** about Danielle, something **different**...

After interviewing Danielle myself, I can tell you one thing for certain: **Bob was right**.

The most magical place on earth, Disneyland, was the beginning of it all for Danielle. As a child, she and her family frequented the park several times a year, and Danielle never missed a chance to see

Dana Daniels and Luigi perform their show at the Golden Horseshoe Saloon. One particular trip to the show would begin a love for the art that she has carried ever since.

She told me, "When it came time for Dana to pick a kid, I was up on top of the table with my hands waving in the air! I remember being up on that stage to this day. I was wearing my Princess Meg costume (from the Disney movie *Hercules*) and I was hamming it up for the audience. I tried to be the perfect little assistant. And when Dana Daniels told me to tap dance on stage, I did exactly that and had the whole place roaring with laughter. I remember all day people were asking me in the park whether I was really a volunteer. After that, I begged my parents to take me to the little magic shop on Main Street to buy the Spike through Coin or the Magic Drawer. From that point on, I had all the little magic kits and tricks I could get my hands on."

As her love for the art continued, Danielle became more and more fascinated by the theatrics of stage magic and illusion. Her favorite piece to perform was Dennis Loomis' Dollhouse Illusion. As she says now, "My mom is usually my box jumper. At the end of my show we wheel out the house and out pops my gorgeous assistant through the roof!"

Not only is performing this illusion a family affair, but building it was as well.

“A couple years back my dad bought the instruction DVD on how to build the Dollhouse. For the next six months he disappeared into the downstairs workshop, building the illusion. That was definitely a labor of love. The dollhouse turned out beautifully, and my dad added his own little touches to make it a little Tudor house. I remember watching as Dad sat for days, gluing the shingles on the roof one by one.

“Besides being a wonderful effect, my Dollhouse is a work of art. My dad did a gorgeous job, and all that hard work was worth it. Every show, I look forward to that one gasp I know I’ll receive at the end.”

As performers, it is very easy to forget that what we do is magic in the eyes of our audience. We forget that at one time we, too, were laymen, watching magic through starry eyes. As we learn the secrets of the art, or even as we simply get older, we begin to lose this feeling of astonishment as the magic in our lives begins to fade away. It is here that Danielle reminds us that the magic does not exist in our tricks or illusions – it exists within us.

“In my show I try to push ‘the magic in you.’ I support that with an audience participation storytelling routine that uses a change-bag or Lewis cone that produces a giant red silk with the words ‘The Magic In You.’ **Everyone has some magic in them.**

“It seems today, fewer and fewer children believe in magic. This is simply unacceptable. Magic is the most important thing children can have in their lives, and too many seem ready to just give it up. It is our role, as magicians, to continue to mystify them and fill them with wonder.”

Not only has her inner magic helped her



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share the art and entertain others, it has also helped Danielle conquer challenges in her own life. “I think the biggest challenge that I have had to deal with in my magical career is my own attitude. I had always been a shy, quiet person. Magic has brought out that inner performer and confidence that I have always known I had. Basically, I decided that when I’m on stage I simply have to get rid of all my fears. It is like turning on a different personality – one that can be loud and open. As my magical career has progressed, that performer personality in me has come out more and more. All I had to do is make the decision to put myself out there.”

Danielle has had great success in her magic career thus far, having been presented with the 2006 Society of Young Magicians Performer of the Year and winning the Professional Stage Contest competition within her SAM assembly in 2008. She thanks her family and friends

for the support that has enabled her to achieve such great things.

“My parents have stuck with me and encouraged me through this journey. My show could not exist without them. My mom is my enthusiastic assistant and is always ready to accompany me on stage (no matter how much she’d rather be in the wings!). She’ll scour the books and the Web with me for hours on end, planning for the next routine and show. My dad loves magic and loves building illusions. He has created fantastic effects that are meticulously crafted and personalized just for my shows. It is really amazing the effort and skill that he puts into magic making.

“Another great influence was Loren Lind, my mentor in the Society of Young Magicians. He booked my first gig. All of the rest of the members have spent hours with me going over routines and new effects. They have come to my shows to support me and are always ready to send me words of encouragement. They are awesome.

“Then there are all the wonderful magicians that have performed at Gerry Griffin’s California Magic and Dinner Theatre. Seeing these world-class magicians take the time to share their stories with me has excited my interest in magic after each visit and kept me going.

“Finally, there are many other individuals, like Bob Sanders, who have shown me many kindnesses throughout the years. The magicians we have met over the Internet have always lent me a hand whenever I have needed it. These people are amazing. I have never met them face-to-face, and yet they never fail to support me. I wish I could give public thanks to each and every one.”

Aside from magic, Danielle is also a member of the National Honor Society and her student council. She always puts her education first in her life and is very passionate about how it will affect her future. She also shares this passion when it comes to her community, volunteering

at local non-profit camps since she was old enough to do so.

“When the same non-profit organization rebuilt a much-beloved but very worn-down park in the area, I was thrilled to be asked to perform opening day for all the guests and city officials. Since then, I have been hired full time to lead a theatre camp inside the park during the summer, plus work part time during the school year. This organization has become a second family to me, and I feel blessed to have such an active part in it.”

In the future, Danielle hopes to continue her magic through college, performing and staying close to the magic community she loves very much. As for her studies and future career, Danielle says that she is still unsure as to what path she wants to take, but she wants to pursue some form of storytelling, either through film or the written word. “I want to be part of projects that can affect how people view the world and open up their imaginations. I know it may sound corny, but so many books and films have helped me, and I just want to pass it on.”

Whether it is the simple astonishment of seeing a coin vanish or the wonder in a child’s eyes on Christmas morning, the feeling of magic is something we all need to hold dear and never let go. It is easy in our busy lives to forget the beauty found in pure amazement, and as magicians we need to always remember it is our job to share that beauty and that wonder with our audiences and the world. Danielle Lamb is an extraordinary young lady who has not forgotten her job as a magician or the magic that lies within herself.

If you’d like to find out more about Danielle or get in touch with her, go to: www.magicbydanielle.com.

Attention magicians, young and old! I am always looking for great teens to feature here and always love to hear from my fellow magicians. If you’d like to get in touch with me, shoot me an e-mail at cliff@amazyou.com.