



RAISING YOUR SHOW

TO NEW HEIGHTS!

### Eye-crobatric Wonder!



Prepare to be amazed by the eccentric creativity of Nathan Dorrell, an international juggling champion and full-time evangelist. His stage

name, the Crazy Tie Guy, comes from his wacky neckwear which is pure Dr. Seuss. But besides ministering with his wife Kathy by juggling the typical props, Nathan also preaches by juggling words and phrases. There is a technical term for his creations: "ambigrams." If you are not familiar with them, you just have to see one to understand. Here is an example.

## Art & Science

This is an ambigram designed by \*John Langdon. For several years now I have enjoyed the quirky designs in his book *Wordplay* along with Scott Kim's work in *Inversions*. Notice that the above phrase reads Art & Science. Now turn this page upside down. Do you see the word Philosophy? That is the magic of ambigrams. And there can be variations such as a word reading the same whether upside-down or right-side up. Some must be viewed backwards (in a mirror) for the second word or phrase to appear.

This last style is Mr. Dorrell's specialty, prompting the title of his newest book,

*Amazing Mirror Messages: Reflecting the Truth*. And, indeed, his collection of 60 original creations is both amazing and delightful. Astonishingly, Nathan often combines two attributes into many of his ambigrams – they must be viewed both backwards AND upside-down. Clearly, Nathan is wired differently from the rest of the pack. Look at this ingenious design. It says 1Gate.



Now turn this page upside down and view it in a mirror or hold the page up to the light and view it from the back of the page. Clever, no? If you don't see the name Jesus, rotate the page and keep looking (Nathan offers this design imprinted on a clear plastic key chain that would make a great witnessing tool or inexpensive volunteer give-away).

Each of his designs also comes with a Bible-based starter script. Here's one of my favorites. It comes with a lesson about Jonah. Looking at it this way, it says RUN.



No need to turn this one over. Just check it out in a mirror. Do you see the



word TRUST? Eye magic! Nathan says, “Yes, presenting mirror messages can be much like presenting a magic trick.” But that’s the real question isn’t it? How is it possible to get these ambigrams into a show? How do you take a backwards, upside-down, mirror thing and make it play for an audience? Take heart! Nathan has it all worked out. In fact he gives us a dozen different presentation ideas and tips ranging from the simple (overhead projector) to the reusable (paint the design on large plexiglass), to the close-up (pad of paper and a bleed-thru marker). My favorite technique is his jumbo stage presentation:

“Spray paint [the design] on a sheet or thin material so it penetrates to be read on the other side. I use two volunteers to hold the fabric as I paint. Then... all I have to do is grab the bottom of the cloth from behind and lift up as... my volunteers drop the cloth.”

His book also gives us some ideas for holidays (Christmas, Easter, Mother’s Day) and even a couple of Spanish ambigrams like this one:



Who is the “ORIGEN” of creation? John 1 give us the answer. . . (check it in a mirror), CRISTO! If you would like to see more of Nathan’s ambigrams go to [www.crazytieguy.com](http://www.crazytieguy.com) and click on the Free FUN stuff link. You’ll also find his book *Amazing Mirror Reflections* on the Products/Books page. Current price is \$10. Also, Nathan has another book, *Drawing Bible Stories with a Surprise for the Eyes*. Great stuff, but I’ll save that review for another time.

\*Art & Science ambigram Copyright© 1992, 2005 John Langdon. [www.john-langdon.net](http://www.john-langdon.net). Used with permission. All other ambigrams Copyright © 2003 Nathan Dorrell, [www.crazytieguy.com](http://www.crazytieguy.com). Used with permission. You must purchase his book to

use these designs. Order at 866-841-8402. Want to try creating your own ambigrams? Visit [www.ambigram.matic.com](http://www.ambigram.matic.com) or [http://perso.wanadoo.fr/jean-paul.davalan/liens/liens\\_ambi.html](http://perso.wanadoo.fr/jean-paul.davalan/liens/liens_ambi.html)

## Bonus Bean Internet Resource



Many readers will be familiar with the cyber-space hangout for magicians called **The Magic Café**. But, in case you’re in the dark, it is the #1 chat site for magicians and the allied arts. Its founder, Steve Brooks is both a Christian AND an FCM member. Currently there are also 37 staff members that help keep the site in order.

The site has over 25,000 registered members that have posted nearly 1,400,000 messages on over 100 different topic boards such as Grand Illusion, Close Up, Livestock, Escapes, Clowning, Vent, Ballooning, Product Review, and so much more. It’s a GREAT resource with a fully searchable data base. The site is very easy to navigate.

There are two forums that should be of special interest to you. The first is a recent addition called The Fellowship of Christian Magicians. This forum “is for the discussion of topics involving the FCM. Posts may include questions about joining, club meetings, lectures, convention information and the like. Remember, FCM subject matter only.” Some fun discussions are currently underway.

The second forum has been around much longer and is located under the **Special Interests** heading. It’s called **The Good News** and is described as “Topics on the art of gospel magic.” Mr. Brooks has indicated that he intends to move this forum next to the FCM forum at some point – which makes logical sense. Again, lots of great information is being traded on this forum.

You don't have to be a registered member to access the site or read posts, but becoming a member is painless, free and allows you to join in on the discussions. You will not receive junk mail if you register. Plus, after 50 legitimate posts you will be granted access to protected areas of the site where secrets of the trade are discussed.

One word of warning – **The Magic Café** can be a bit of a rabbit hole. Once you tumble in you may have a hard time finding your way back out to the real world again. If you think you're ready, log on at <www.themagiccafe.com>. The Mad Hatter awaits you.

See you down the road!



*Kerry serves as an evangelist for The Salvation Army. For more info: <www.kistler-ministry.org>. Comments are always welcomed at Kerry.Kistler@usc.salvationarmy.org*



Upcoming Conventions and Events

<http://www.fcm.org/Conferences.html>

**21st Annual Creative Ministries Seminar.** September 15–16, 2006. First United Methodist Church, Claremore, Oklahoma. Contact: Del Wilson at 918-712-8749. Or, delwilson@cox.net.

**FCM - 23rd Annual CPAC - Christian Performing Arts Conference.** Denver, Colorado. October 5-7, 2006. Register online <www.c-pac.org> or contact: Dennis Link, 303-937-1416

**FCM Midwest Regional Conference.** October 20-21, 2006. Clarion Waterfront Plaza Hotel; Indianapolis, Indiana. Contact: Chris & Jeanie Brown; 10366 - 16th Road; Argos, Indiana 46501; 574-892-5608; cjbrown@kconline.com

Sharpening the Tools



23rd Annual

# CPAC

Christian Performing Arts Conference

October 5 - 7, 2006  
Denver, Colorado

featuring

**David and Teesha Laffin, Pit Finn,  
Mel Lamar, Larry Mahan,  
Ginger Brown, Ken Gardener,  
Dr. Earl Reum, Greg Schuerman,**

and many more ...

Join us for this incredible 3-day Rocky Mountain Gospel Arts Conference focusing on magic, clowning, comedy, puppetry, juggling, balloon art, ventriloquism, and more!

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- Friday evening Gala Show "Explore The Magic"
  - Thursday evening with Talent Show and In Your Character Party "Building Your Toolbox for Jesus"
  - Night-Owl Balloon-Jam and Close-Up Magic
  - Professional Portraits of your Character
- Continental breakfast, lunches, Thursday night party snacks and a full dinner on Friday night included

Register online at [www.c-pac.org](http://www.c-pac.org)  
or call us at (303) 937-1416 for more information

