

JUST ASK A SIX YEAR OLD

The Magic And Power Of Our Assumptions.

By Rick Rossini

I must confess it was something I had secretly wanted to do for a very long time. I had originally seen this illusion performed years earlier by another magician and it really blew me away. The trick is quite simple, direct and produces an experience of pure magic!

Two elastic bands are stretched between the thumb and forefinger of each hand and positioned on the other side of each other. Thus each elastic band acts as the restraining device for the other. No matter how hard you pull and stretch them, they just won't come apart.

And then suddenly with the faintest of magic breaths the bands magically, visually and slowly penetrate one through the other, like rings of smoke.

In essence it is an up close, intimate version of the classic "linking ring" trick, but using elastic bands. However an even greater difference is that this is performed "right in your face" and very, very slowly. It really is amazing to watch. It makes people go "WOW"!

And after all these years I was determined to finally learn how to perform this miracle.

Now keep in mind that in all things magical, as in the real world, there is a great difference between knowing how something is done and being able to do it. The latter takes a great deal of rehearsal, trial and error, and dedication to purpose; something I know a little bit about.

You see I had been secretly and religiously rehearsing this effect for months and was now ready to start trying it out on real live audiences.

First it is performed on the check out person at the grocery store, then the bank, the doctor's office, even the gas station attendant; anywhere there is an unsuspecting victim to be found. Sorry, I mean volunteer.

Slowly my confidence builds as each new spectator becomes more and more perplexed by this illusion. And then it finally happened, reality set in!

You see, when I near the end of the testing period I always show "the new illusion" to my wife and daughter. If I can fool them I know it works.

On Monday I showed my six-year-old daughter Jacqueline. The result was WOW!

On Tuesday I showed her again. The response this time was, *"Dad, you showed me that yesterday."*

On Wednesday I showed her one final time.

This time she looks at me, smiles with a twinkle in her eye and says, *"Dad, I know how it's done."*

"Right", I counter in my professional, smug tone, *"then tell me Jacqueline Grace Rossini, how is it done?"* She looked at me, smiled again and then proceeded with a long, involved explanation that just happened to be RIGHT!!

Jacqueline had successfully figured out what no adult audience member had been able to!!

Now the message behind this tale is not how smart Jacqueline is, but the superior powers of observation, reasoning and creativity that the average six year old possesses over most of us adults. The secret is simple and just as direct.

Magician's rule number thirteen, "*the hardest audience in the world to fool is kids, the easiest is adults!*"
Why?

Because kids have no preconceived assumptions of what can and cannot be done, and as a result are not limited by this restrictive, left brain thought process.

Simply put, kids think and reason in an "anything is possible world" and use their imagination and creativity to come up with simple, effective solutions to complicated problems! Which after all is what magician's do!

While most adults are consciously concentrating on the illusion their subconscious mind is constantly asking questions as to how is it done. However their conscious mind is also making restrictive decisions based on their personal assumptions. The mind looks at the elastics and reasons, "it can't be done this way because this makes that happen, and that is not possible."

Now your average six year old just looks at the elastics and says, "*this is how it can be done*", regardless of how illogical, impractical or impossible the answer may seem. The six year old is not limited by their assumptions about what is possible. And nine times out of ten, they are right!

Now I am NOT suggesting that we make a six-year-old CEO of your Company, Principal of your School, Director of your Personal Development Program, or Government Leader? Well possibly the last one. But there is an awful lot we can relearn from an approach like this, especially when it comes to our assumptions. Think about it!

We all make assumptions about everything, everyday. Assumptions about what we are capable of, our business, our associates, about our customers and about what our customers think about us.

However we must realize our assumptions can be simply that; they can be our own personal assumptions and not an actual representation of what is really happening. (Such as what was happening with the elastic band illusion.) As a result, our assumptions might be misleading us away from the hidden opportunities that really do exist.

Perhaps the real trick is to examine life from outside our own comfort level and take a look at things from a fresh, new perspective. Like that of a six year old who innately knows that "anything is possible".

What problem do you have and what assumptions are you associating with it? Now imagine all those assumptions gone and revisit the problem through fresh eyes.

Daydream, fantasize, and come up with solutions no matter how far fetched they might appear. Imagine waving a magic wand and the problem being solved; then look at what made the magic happen and see how it might actually work for you. You might just be surprised at the magic you create.

Remember Real Magic can happen only when people believe in themselves and are passionate about making a difference in their own life and the lives of others! Have focus! Be passionate about what you do! Create your own Real Magic!!

PS: Jacqueline is now learning how to perform the elastic band illusion!

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Rick Rossini has been a professional speaker, entertainer, magician, writer, corporate communicator, consultant and producer for over thirty years. He has worked his special presentations as promotional, educational and motivational vehicles for hundred of companies and hundreds of thousands of people all throughout the world. From the boardrooms of New York to the stage of the Sony Centre he has written, created, produced and performed for a myriad of corporate presentations, educational venues, television, film and video programs, and theatrical productions. All designed to inspire, excite, entertain, educate and motivate! Experience the MAGIC!

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