

A DISAPPEARING



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A DISAPPEARING was first produced by FUSION Theatre Company as a winning entry in their annual original short works festival, The Seven, June 5-15, 2014 at The Cell Theatre, Albuquerque, NM: Aaron Worley, director; Richard Hogle, lighting and scenic design; Brent Stevens, sound design; Robyn Phillips, properties design; Maria Lee Schmidt, production stage manager; Dennis Gromelski, festival producer; and Jen Grigg, festival curator.

CLAIRE: Jen Grigg

ALLEN: Matt Heath

MAGICIAN: Peter Diseth

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Winner, Audience Choice Best Play, Fusion Theatre Company,
Annual Original Short Works Festival, 2014

FARCE. A Craigslist magician who still lives in his parents' basement accidentally makes a naughty kid disappear at a children's birthday party. The magician has no idea where the boy is or how to make him reappear. Frantic, Claire and Allen have just one hour to find the kid before his parents arrive to pick him up from the party. Afraid they will be sued, lose their home, and have the FBI and CNN camped out on their front lawn, Claire and Allen come up with a crazy but practical solution.

Performance Time: Approximately 20-30 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(1 M, 1 F, 1 flexible)

MAGICIAN: Craigslist magician known as “The Great Marvin” who lives in his parents’ basement; wears a magician’s costume with “The Great Marvin” written on it; wears a magician’s hat and carries a magic wand; flexible.
Note: If female, change name to “The Great Marvenne.”

CLAIRE: Allen’s wife; hired a magician off of Craigslist for her son’s birthday party; female.

ALLEN: Claire’s husband; wanted to hire a clown for his son’s birthday party; male.

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SETTING

A children's birthday party at a suburban home.

SET

A children's birthday party. There is a table with children's birthday presents and a birthday cake on it.

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PROPS

Assorted birthday presents
Birthday cake
Magic wand
Cell phone

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SOUND EFFECT

Excited children

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"I TOLD YOU
NOT TO GET A MAGICIAN
OFF OF CRAIGSLIST!"

-ALLEN

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(AT RISE: A suburban home where a children's birthday party is underway. There is a table with birthday presents and a birthday cake on it. Excited Children can be heard in the next room. Frantic, Allen enters.)

ALLEN: (To offstage.) Here. In here.

CLAIRE: (From offstage, frantic.) What was that?

ALLEN: (Urgent.) Come in here.

(Claire and Magician enter.)

CLAIRE: (To Magician.) What just happened out there?!

ALLEN: (To Magician.) What was that?

MAGICIAN: (Still in shock.) I don't know!

ALLEN: Did I see what I *think* I just saw?

MAGICIAN: I-I-I can't explain that.

CLAIRE: Did you actually —?

ALLEN: (To Magician.) How did you *do* that?

MAGICIAN: (Stumped.) I don't know.

ALLEN: (Trying to wrap his head around it.) How in the world did that actually happen?

CLAIRE: Shhh! Keep your voice down. The kids will hear you!

ALLEN: The kids will hear me? Are you serious? After what they all just *saw*?

CLAIRE: They don't understand what they saw. They probably think it's a game.

ALLEN: A game?

CLAIRE: Yes! Tommy is *hiding*. They're all running around looking for him.

ALLEN: (To Magician, pointedly.) But they're not gonna find him, are they?

MAGICIAN: I don't think so. No.

CLAIRE: Where is he?

MAGICIAN: Well...full disclosure...I'm not sure.

CLAIRE: What?!

ALLEN: *(To Magician.)* How do you not know?!

MAGICIAN: I-I'm just as surprised as you are.

ALLEN: I don't think that's possible.

MAGICIAN: I don't know *exactly* how it happened. I mean, I know *what* happened...kind of. But I'm just not clear on how I...actually did it.

CLAIRE: How do you not know that? You're a magician!

ALLEN: And what about that puddle of green ooze on the floor where he was standing? What is that?

MAGICIAN: I'm guessing that's ectoplasm.

ALLEN: Ectoplasm?

CLAIRE: *(To Magician.)* What is ectoplasm?

MAGICIAN: It's an ethereal substance produced by the transference of energy during the dematerialization process.

ALLEN: Ethereal substance?

CLAIRE: *(To Magician.)* Is that going to come out of the carpet?

MAGICIAN: Think of ectoplasm as...it's kind of like...a piece of the kid's soul.

CLAIRE: What?

MAGICIAN: *(Hedging.)* Well...

CLAIRE: *(Hysterical.)* Oh, my gosh! His *soul*? Oh, my gosh!

MAGICIAN: Maybe more like...spiritual afterbirth.

CLAIRE: And you have no idea where he is?

MAGICIAN: Not exactly. No.

ALLEN: But you can bring him back from wherever it is you sent him, right?

MAGICIAN: Theoretically, yes.

CLAIRE: Theoretically?!

MAGICIAN: I mean, I should be able to get him back...I think. I'm just not sure I know how I...how to *do* that.

ALLEN: So, you have no idea how you disappeared him and no idea how to get him back?

[END OF FREEVIEW]