

# URBANGATEWAYS

## AMAZING SCIENCE OF MAGIC & ILLUSION

WALTER KING JR. "THE SPELLBINDER"



### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Amazing Science of Magic & Illusion will impact audiences by bringing a fresh and fun perspective on sciences like chemistry and physics, by presenting on how they can be used to create special effects for the art of theatrical magic and illusion. Science opens doors to those possibilities. Possibilities of something exciting, extraordinary and surprising. In Amazing Science of Magic and Illusion, students learn about force and matter through amazing, magical demonstrations of physics (the science of matter and energy), and chemistry (the science of liquids, gases and solid matter).

Master Illusionist Walter King Jr. "The Spellbinder", explains basic concepts of the art of levitation by demonstration of how oxygen, nitrogen and helium work, and the art of transforming liquids into solids matter with concepts found in chemistry. Being a self-taught artist in his field, King explains how the basic skills he learned in school from science as well as reading and math, helped him to build the show he tours around the world.

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1 microphone, preferably wireless
- 1 table
- Access to electrical outlets

### MEET THE ARTIST

Walter King, Jr. is one of Chicago's premier illusionists and has entertained with people like Jennifer Hudson, Sinbad, and Levar Burton. He has performed in every kind of venue from industrial shows to professional ball games. King discovered an interest and talent for magic at a very young age but never seriously considered it until his college years. By then he had developed strong theatre and dance skills in which he has received numerous awards, such as the Illinois Arts Fellowship Award and the Joseph Jefferson for "Best Performance."

## CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

**MAGIC** challenges the assumptions we have about what we can or cannot accomplish. Science opens doors to those possibilities.

In “Amazing Science of Magic and Illusion”, students learn about “force and matter” through amazing, magical demonstrations of physics and chemistry.

Master Illusionist Walter King Jr. The Spellbinder, explains basic concepts of the art of levitation by demonstration of how oxygen, nitrogen and helium work, and the art of transforming liquids into solids matter with concepts found in chemistry.

There are many surprises in this program that are designed to punctuate the information given during the presentation. Students are taught how to make their own bubble solution. While demonstrating the concept of liquids, gases & solid matter.

Viewers are taught the difference between the molecular structure of oxygen, nitrogen and helium. Students should leave the show thinking differently about science in the manner that science can be utilized in being creative. If it can be imagined, it can possibly be done.

**PHYSICS:** the branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. The subject matter of physics, distinguished from that of chemistry and biology, includes mechanics, heat, light and other radiation, sound, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of atoms.

**CHEMISTRY:** the branch of science that deals with the identification of the substances of which matter is composed; the investigation of their properties and the ways in which they interact, combine, and change; and the use of these processes to form new substances.

### RESOURCES

BBC Series History of Magic (learn about the progression of magic, from mindreading to large scale magic tricks)  
[bit.ly/35LIcd](http://bit.ly/35LIcd)

YouTube Video: Pepper and Water Science Magic Trick  
[bit.ly/3JOUoQ3](http://bit.ly/3JOUoQ3)

YouTube Video: Amazing Science Stunts (some tricks need adult supervision)  
[bit.ly/3HtelyB](http://bit.ly/3HtelyB)



## Chicago Guide for Teaching and Learning in Arts: Scope and Sequence

### Theatre Making

**Skill Development (IL 25A, 26A, 26B; Nat'l 1, 2, 4)**

- Develop focus and concentration while participating in dramatic activities.
- Enter into a make believe (pretend) situation as if it were real.

**Terms and Tools (IL 25A, 26A, 27A)**

- Identify the primary tools of the actor (body, voice, and mind).
- Identify story elements, including plot, character, setting, conflict, and message.
- Recognize story sequence (beginning, middle, end).

**Interpretation & Evaluation (IL 27A; Nat'l 7)**

- Express reactions to live theater.
- Develop appropriate reactions at given moments in a classroom sharing or theatrical performance (listen, laugh, applaud).

**Making Connections**

**Personal Connections (Nat'l 8)**

- Experience live or recorded performances.

## VOCABULARY

### ANIMATION

Related to levitation, an inanimate object is made to move.

### INVULNERABILITY

An object is made to appear indestructible.

### LEVITATION

A person or an object defies the laws of gravity and floats in the air without the visible means of support.

### PENETRATION

A solid object passes through another solid object without damage to either object.

### PRODUCTION / VANISH

Objects, animals and people are made to appear and/or disappear.

### RESTORATIONS

An object or person is damaged or destroyed, then restored to its original state.

### TRANSFORMATION

An object is altered from one size, shape, or color to another.

### TRANSPORTATION / TRANSPOSITION

An object changes position or place magically.

## SHOW INTRODUCTION

On the day of the performance, please have someone from the school read the following introduction when welcoming the performers onstage.

“Today we have a show from Urban Gateways. Award winning illusionist Walter King Jr, ‘The Spellbinder’ will be performing ‘Amazing Science of Magic and Illusion,’ where he will demonstrate how science is used to create illusions and magical special effects. Please give the performer your full attention, and welcome him to the stage.”

## PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students, “How does one become a magician/illusionists?”
2. Class Discussion: How do students think that magic uses science? During this discussion, briefly explain chemistry and physics.
3. Have students draw a picture of what magic means to them. What is a magic trick they hope to see during the show?

## POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Have students draw a picture of their favorite magic trick and/or moment from the performance.
2. Have students work in pairs to research famous magic tricks. After they have done some investigating, ask them to either draw a picture or free-write about how the magician may have incorporated science into the trick.