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The Great Frankini Named 2005 Chicago Close-up Magic Champion at Navy Pier



The Great Frankini makes yellow balls appear from an invisible purse during his Cups and Balls Routine for Navy Pier's 2005 Chicago Close-up Magic Championship.

Chicago, July 22, 2005—With objects disappearing and Oriental fans flying, Chicago magician The Great Frankini seized top honors in the 2005 Chicago Close-up Magic Championship at Navy Pier on July 14, 2005.

The competition, co-sponsored by Navy Pier and Chicago Assembly #3 of the Society of American Magicians, drew an audience of more than 150 to see 13 local magicians compete in the preliminary round in Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens. A panel of three local magic celebrities whittled the group to six finalists, who performed their 10-minute sets again in a final show.

At the end of the evening, The Great Frankini was named 2005 Chicago Close-up Magic Champion. His win brings recognition for a lifetime of devotion to his craft and a performance contract with Navy Pier.

Close-up magic, as opposed to stage magic, is usually performed for one to 20 people in close proximity to the magician and is considered by some to be the most skillful of the magical arts. The Great Frankini (a.k.a. Frank J. Glab) executed an Oriental-themed act that included a Chinese Laundryman Routine; a Chinese Musical Bowls, Cups and Ball Routine that uses an ornate Chinese fan to vanish the balls; and a Card Stab Routine that relies on a blindfolded Frankini stabbing an audience member's card with a knife from among a deck of newspaper-covered cards.

A home-grown magician and illusionist, The Great Frankini grew up in Chicago's Clearing neighborhood and fell in love with magical arts after receiving a magic set as a child. Today he excels at infusing the oldest of magical routines with a fresh creativity for modern audiences.

"My choices are not the usual choices of magicians today, and this victory confirms for me that a magical performer will have no regrets if he or she adheres to beautiful, classical, traditional and visual magic," Frankini said.

When he's not performing close-up magic, The Great Frankini can also be seen carrying out large-scale illusions, including:

- Sawing a Lady in Half;
- a Sword Suspension that ends with a woman balanced by her neck on the tip of a sword;
- the Zig Zag Illusion, in which a lady is cut in three;
- and the Metamorphosis or Substitution Trunk, an illusion popularized by Houdini and his wife that requires the magician outside a pad-locked trunk to change places with the hand-cuffed assistant inside in just three seconds.

For details on The Great Frankini's 2005 Chicago Close-up Magic Champion award, variety of routines and illusions, and performance schedule, contact The Great Frankini at 773-586-0091 and www.TheGreatFrankini.com or Jennifer Hicks at JRH Promotions, 847-910-0141 and 773-271-9063.

EDITORS: A press kit with high- and low-resolution photos is available at www.TheGreatFrankini.com/PressKit.htm.

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