



Performing Artist | Educator | Speaker | Consultant

Kevin Spencer, Ph.D. is an award-winning performing artist and academic. Spencer and his wife, Cindy, toured the world for more than 25 years, with one of the largest and most successful theatrical illusion productions in the U.S. They left behind a trail of accolades in their wake including 2009 *International Illusionists of the Year* and six-time recipients of *Performing Arts Entertainer of the Year*. They are also the recipients of the magic industry's most prestigious award given by The Milbourne Christopher Foundation – the 2015 *International Illusionists of the Year* for notable contributions to the art of magic.

Spencer has earned a Bachelor's in Psychology, Master's in Arts & Academic Interdisciplinary Education, and a Ph.D. in Special Education. He also holds a certification in Autism Studies and Trauma Support Specialist. He has published studies in peer-reviewed journals including the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT) and *Journal of Learning Through the Arts* (JLTA). His work was also featured in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA).

At the pinnacle of their career, Kevin stepped away from the big stage and into classrooms and hospitals around the globe. He is the leading international authority on the academic and therapeutic benefits of simple magic tricks in educational and clinical settings. His work focuses on using the art of magic to impact change in the lives of children with autism, developmental disabilities, intellectual challenges, emotional disturbance, and those who have histories of trauma. He has published numerous studies in peer-reviewed journals in education and healthcare.

Dr. Spencer is a 2024 Silver Anthem Award recipient for Nonprofit Leader of the Year in the category of Health. His therapeutic program – Magic Therapy™ - is a 2023 Gold recipient for “*Best Innovation*” in the category of *Health*. His education program – Hocus Focus™ – is a 2022 Silver recipient for “*Best Innovation*” and Spencer himself is a Gold recipient for “*Leader of the Year*” awarded by the Anthem Awards in May 2022, both in the category of *Education, Art, and Culture*. Spencer was also a 2022 finalist for the *Zero Project Award* which recognizes innovative persons, practices, and models that improve the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

Dr. Spencer is faculty with Harvard Medical Teaching Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital's “*Pediatric Sedation Outside the Operating Room*” conference; adjunct faculty in the School of Health Professions Department of Occupational Therapy and a research consultant for Institute for Arts in Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; faculty in the department of education at Carlow University in Pittsburgh; a Fulbright Specialist on arts integration for special populations for the U.S. Department of State; and an Approved Provider of Continuing Education for the American Occupational Therapy Association.

As both an academic and an artist, Dr. Spencer offers sensory inclusive performances to reach underserved communities and speaks at conferences and universities around the world on the active and passive benefits of magic tricks in educational and therapeutic settings.