

Criss Angel

For more than a decade, Criss Angel has dominated the world of magic as the biggest name on the planet. From his role as star, creator, executive producer and director of the most successful magic television series of all time, **Criss Angel MINDFREAK** on A&E Network, to his #1 best-selling Las Vegas stage shows **Criss Angel BeLIEve** and **Criss Angel MINDFREAK LIVE!** (in partnership with *Cirque du Soleil*® and MGM Resorts), to countless critically acclaimed television specials and series, best-selling books, top-grossing retail products, music CDs and more, Angel is the most influential and imitated magician of the modern era. Hailing spectacular reviews from outlets such as Bloomberg *Businessweek*, who called him “the biggest name in Las Vegas magic,” Angel proves time and time again that he is a true force to be reckoned with and the most influential and imitated magician of the modern era.

His hit series **MINDFREAK** on A&E is the most successful magic show in television history, resulting in more hours of magic during primetime than any other magic show ever. The series continues to be viewed regularly by more than 100 million viewers in over 90 countries. According to police in Clearwater, Florida, the live broadcast of the show’s “Building Implosion” episode drew approximately 50,000 people to the venue, resulting in the largest crowd ever for any magician, rivaling Houdini. “Criss is the Best, THE BEST,” said Oprah Winfrey.

Angel’s next series, **Criss Angel BeLIEve**, premiered on Spike on October 15, 2013 as Spike TV’s most-watched original series premiere in over 18 months. In November 2013 Endemol, the world’s largest independent production and distribution company, announced that it had acquired the international television distribution rights (outside of North America) to the series, and the show is now seen in over 100 countries worldwide.

Back by popular demand, Angel made another appearance on A&E in October 2016. The network announced a one-hour Halloween special which aired on Oct. 12. The fast-paced television event contained over 30 demonstrations.

In late 2014, Angel unveiled his second production-- featuring his first performances outside of Las Vegas in more than six years--with **MINDFREAK® Live!** The show’s sold-out premiere run of 18 shows were a huge success, selling out one month prior to its opening.

2015 saw the launch of a third show, written and directed by Criss: **The SUPERNATURALISTS™**, featuring 9 mind-blowing magicians that destroy reality and revolutionize the live magic ensemble experience. Having sold 40,000 tickets in just one location-- in its premiere four-week engagement at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut-- The Supernaturalists™ opening run at Foxwoods was the most successful, record-breaking launch of ANY ensemble magic show in history and a critically acclaimed smash which reached more than 251,250,640 people via global media over the course of its opening weekend. Angel’s objective with The SUPERNATURALISTS is simple; while there are other ensemble shows out there, performing many of the same illusions that have been around for years, his goal is to redefine magic touring like *Cirque du Soleil* did for the circus. Criss scoured the globe for the very best performers, each in their respected disciplines, and the lineup is truly historic. The illusions are not only original, but revolutionary.

For years, **Criss Angel BeLIEve** was hailed as the #1 best-selling magic show in Las Vegas (*Extra*), generating \$150 million in revenue in 2010 as reported by *Newsweek*. Angel unleashed the future following the show’s 7th anniversary celebration in 2015, bringing his brand-new creation **MINDFREAK® LIVE!** to the Luxor Hotel & Casino in May 2016. The new immersive spectacle—based on the wildly successful touring version, which performed to sold-out houses across the country and was hailed as the “Magic Event of a Lifetime” (*Huffington Post*)—replaced the critically acclaimed **Criss Angel BeLIEve**. Angel serves as writer, director, illusion designer, star and executive producer of **MINDFREAK® LIVE!**, which performs nightly Wednesday through Sunday with eight to 10 shows per week. Based on his breakout hit TV show, **MINDFREAK**, which smashed records with more than 100 million viewers per season on A&E, **MINDFREAK® LIVE!** will showcase 90-minutes of the most spectacular, original and revolutionary illusions ever performed on stage. With a cast that includes some of the world’s most talented specialty artists, Angel brings his vision to life with a blend of heart-stopping illusions, live musicians and DJs and state-of-the-art technology including animated LED lighting and RGB lasers, LED virtual worlds, 3-D immersive effects, pyrotechnic landscapes and much more. The *Las Vegas Review Journal*

has already hailed the show as "The #1 Magic Show of All Time!"

Angel is also the most watched magician in Internet history—a YouTube sensation. His "Walk on Water" clip has generated over 60 million views alone, and all his clips combined have generated more than 300 million views. Criss also has the largest social media following of any illusionist, with over six million followers.

Angel is also working on a few top-level retail partnerships to collaborate on a line of new products for release in 2017-2018. In a previous distribution deal, his successful, high-quality magic kits were offered on television, online and in 50,000 retail stores across the U.S., resulting in sales of more than \$30 million globally.

In 2011, Criss' brand power continued to evolve when he was chosen to co-create and appear in a new commercial campaign for Orville Redenbacher's Pop Up Bowl. His casting proved to be a huge coup for the brand as the spot was the number one most recalled commercial during its campaign, topping Ford®, McDonald's® and Kraft® Macaroni & Cheese according to Nielsen and getting picked up for runs in other countries.

Angel's book, **Criss Angel MINDFREAK: Secret Revelations** (Harper Collins) was a national bestseller and is now in multiple printings. Criss is also an accomplished musician, having produced and performed on five self-titled CDs, which accompany all his live performances and TV appearances.

Angel has received numerous awards throughout his career. He has been named "Magician of the Year" an unprecedented six times, including from The Magic Castle—far more than any other magician. He was the youngest magician inducted into the International Magicians Society Hall of Fame. Criss was also presented with a lifetime achievement award, The World Magic Legacy Award "A Living Legend," at The World of Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. Additionally, Angel was recently named the first recipient of "Magician of the Decade," as well as "Magician of the Century" and "Innovator of the Decade." Angel received an International Magic Lifetime Achievement Award and was unanimously selected as the recipient of the 22nd Louie Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Art of Magic.

Angel is tireless in his ongoing efforts to help children through his charitable works. His Johnny Crisstopher Children's Charitable Foundation, a JDS Foundation (formerly Believe Anything Is Possible), was renamed last year after his then two-year old son Johnny was diagnosed with leukemia. 100% of all donations to the foundation (no deductions are taken for administration or expenses) go to childhood cancer research, treatment and ultimately a cure. He has also received the Male Wish Granter of the Year Award and the Chris Greicius Celebrity Award as a result of his work and dedication to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, having just granted his 50th wish.

QUALIFICATIONS/ FACTS OF NOTE

- Criss performs approximately 400 live shows per year, with an attendance of over 500,000 people.
- BeLIEve featured OVER 40 of the most spectacular illusions ever performed – more than any other magic show in the world. In 2014 Criss added three new revolutionary illusions.
- 2015 saw the launch of a brand-new production at the Luxor Las Vegas. **MINDFREAK® LIVE!**, based on the wildly successful touring version, will showcase 90-minutes of the most spectacular and original illusions (over 50!) ever performed on stage – including a levitation that Criss has been working on for over ten years.
- Criss Angel has performed more hours of magic on prime-time TV than any magician in the history of television (That's more hours of TV than Houdini, David Copperfield, Siegfried & Roy, Doug Henning, and Penn & Teller combined). His acclaimed series MINDFREAK on A&E was the most successful magic show in television history – six seasons, over 100 episodes.
- Criss Angel is the most watched magician in history of the Internet with over 300 million views on YouTube alone. Criss' one clip – "Walk on Water" – has garnered over 60 million views (more than David Blaine, David

Copperfield, Siegfried & Roy, and Penn & Teller's most viewed clips combined). A clip from October 2013 – “Rips Bodies Apart” – accumulated over 18 million views in the first three weeks it was online.

- Criss Angel performed for an estimated 50,000+ people in Clearwater, Florida - the largest live audience in magic's history, rivaling even Houdini.

- Criss Angel has OVER 6 million followers combined on his various social network profiles - more than any magician in Internet history.

- Criss Angel is a Los Angeles Times "Best Selling Author"

AWARDS

Best Magic Show In Vegas – *IN Vegas Magazine* 2013, 2014 & 2015

Best Magician In Vegas -*Las Vegas Review Journal's* Best of Las Vegas Reader's Choice

Entertainer of The Year -*Gaming Today*

Magician of the Year - 6 times (National & International)

2001 -IMS

2004 -IMS

2005 -AMA

2007 -IMS

2008 -IMS

2008 -DCMA

Magician of the Decade 2009 -IMS

Innovator of the Decade 2010 -Innovention

Magician of the Century 2009 -AMG

Youngest Magician inducted into the Magic Hall of Fame 2011 -IMS

World Magic Living Legacy "Living Legend" Award 2011 -WMS

Outstanding Achievement in the Magical Arts' Louie Award 2004 -Tannens

REVIEWS

"An amazing, spectacular show!"

-Gary Oldman

"I've been in this business for many years. Henning and Copperfield opened for me and I must say Criss is beyond anything I've ever seen. He's truly in a category all of his own - a legendary star!"

-Tony Orlando

"The best magic show not only in Vegas, but the world! Loved the show!!!"

-Lance Burton

"Unbelievable! By far, hands down the best magic show I've ever seen."

-Amazing Johnathan

"Amazing! Absolutely Loved It! Where Houdini left it. Criss Angel picked it up and took it to a whole new level!"

-Andrew Dice Clay

"The #1 magic show of all time!" – *Las Vegas Sun*

"Criss Angel, the biggest name in Las Vegas magic." – *Bloomberg Businessweek*

"The Best Show On Earth!" – *Daily Star*

"Criss Angel's Mindfreak is a mind-blowing experience. One of the best shows I've ever seen anywhere....a Las Vegas must see!!!" -CBS Radio

"Mindfreak is mesmerizing!" – *Las Vegas Review Journal*

"Far beyond what any other illusionist has to offer. Criss Angel remains in a class of his own" -*AXS.com*

"An unprecedented magic experience." - *AXS.com*

"A groundbreaking journey!" -*Examiner.com*

"The standard for modern magic." -*Examiner.com*

"The most successful magic show in existence!" -*Examiner.com*

"Criss Angel, the greatest magician of all time." -*RedCarpetRefs.com*

"The newest must-see show on the Las Vegas Strip." -*RedCarpetRefs.com*

"Angel not only reinvents his live show, he reinvents modern magic." -*RedCarpetRefs.com*

"The Magic Event Of A Lifetime!" - *The Huffington Post*

"The only A+ rated magic show in Vegas!" - *BBC*

"#1 Magician on the planet" - *Las Vegas Sun*

"Criss is the best, THE BEST!" - Oprah Winfrey

"The most exciting thing on stage in Vegas!" -*Toronto Star*

"You have to see. It won't just blow your mind; it will quite possibly change your life." - *Starpulse*

"#1 best-selling magic show in the world!" - *Extra*

"A GREAT show!" - *Newsweek Magazine*

"The greatest illusionist in the world!" - Jay Leno

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND CIVIC-ORIENTED PARTICIPATION

Johnny Crisstopher Charitable Foundation (formerly BELIEVE): BELIEVE was founded by Criss Angel and his brothers J.D. and Costa in 2007, as a tribute to the incredible strength, inspiration and life of their father, John Sarantakos, who passed away February 12, 1998. The foundation was renamed and refocused last fall when Criss received the horrible news that no parent ever wants to hear: "Your child has cancer." Criss and Shaunyl Benson, the parents of two-year-old Johnny Crisstopher, were devastated when he was diagnosed with Acute

Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). It was at that moment when Criss decided to revitalize his commitment to cure childhood cancer.

Unlike many organizations, the Johnny Crisstopher Children's Charitable Foundation donates 100% of every dollar raised. No expenses are deducted out of any donation. Criss has funded the charity out of his own pocket since the foundation was formed. The first-annual live event, H.E.L.P. (Heal Every Life Possible), was held in the Criss Angel Theater at the Luxor in September of 2016. Featuring many celebrity appearances, and live and online auctions, the event raised \$1,000,000 in one night.

Criss' mission is to raise awareness about pediatric cancer and expose a disproportionately low amount of dollars spent on this leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. "The National Cancer Institute's federal budget was \$4.9 billion in 2015," Criss said. "Less than 3% of those funds were spent on the 12 major groups of pediatric cancer combined. This needs to change and I'm committed to do whatever it takes to get it done. I hope that you'll join us in our mission to shine a light on a very difficult reality. Innocent children and their families are dealing with life and death every moment of every day. We can all play a part together to one day make this dreadful disease disappear."

Make-A-Wish: Criss is actively involved with the organization, from granting the wishes of terminally ill children to taking donations during every show he performs in Las Vegas. Criss was named Wish Granter of the Year in 2010 and received the Chris Greicius Award in 2007, and has recently granted his 50th wish. Criss has also donated several motorcycles to various auctions with proceeds going to the foundation, and regularly challenges his celebrity friends to various contests for an amount to be donated to the winner's choice of charity.

Charity chairwoman Melissa Warren says: "Criss Angel is not only the best magician on the planet, he is singlehandedly the most generous celebrity angel for Make-A-Wish. He has granted more than 40 wishes. He never turns down an opportunity to grant wishes to kids suffering with life-threatening illnesses, and he goes above and beyond. He has been known to dispatch ambulances to help wish kids -- kids who, otherwise, are bed-ridden and can't leave their homes. He gave his personal cell number to a teenage girl who was near death, and they talked every day on the phone until the end. To Make-a-Wish, Criss is a true Angel!"

Boys & Girls Clubs of America: Criss regularly visits local Boys & Girls Clubs to hand deliver some of the over one million dollars' worth of magic tricks and kits he has donated for locations across the country.

One Drop: Criss also supports the **ONE DROP** water initiative (ONE DROP—a non-profit organization established in 2007 by Guy Laliberté, Founder of Cirque du Soleil—strives to ensure that water is accessible to all, today and forever. From its inception, ONE DROP has significantly and sustainably improved the living conditions of 300,000 people worldwide.), as well as annually donating cash and toys to many holiday toy drive events.

Criss was honored by *VEGAS Magazine* with his inclusion in the The Vegas Dozen Award. This award honors twelve men from an array of professions who display great professional and personal commitment to the Vegas community (in support of the **Keep Memory Alive Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health**). He has previously participated in fund-raising efforts for both the **Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund** to help New Jersey rebuild. (First Lady Mary Pat Christie chairs the Fund, and former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley serves as Honorary Vice-Chair, whose funding is specifically geared towards New Jersey relief and recovery efforts.) and the **Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights** (The RFK CENTER's core programs focus on the power of the individual, working through alliances and organizations, to generate change. In the tradition of Robert Kennedy, the RFK CENTER has forged effective collaborations with NGOs, universities, legal clinics, and the media on behalf of oppressed communities.).