

Roll up, roll up to MagicFest 2023

A full deck of magicians are putting the final touches to their range of mind-boggling tricks and illusions as they prepare to gather in Edinburgh from next week for MagicFest 2023 which runs from 20 to 31 December.

Edinburgh's own Kevin Quantum who founded the festival will appear this Christmas as well as a new generation of teenage performers who are ready to baffle and delight audiences in the Future Magicians show.

Following a successful debut, the show is now an established addition to the annual Edinburgh International Magic Festival, which runs from 20-31 December.

This year there will be four young performers (three of them from Edinburgh) taking to the stage.

Each has been working with a leading magician to perfect a 10-minute act to display their skills and help them on the road to becoming a professional performer.

The Future Magicians are:

Brooklyn-Ellis Carr from Newcastle, who at 16, has already attracted more than two million social media views for his magic videos, and who has been mentored by Edinburgh's Elliot

Bibby.

Brooklyn-Ellis said: "I've always wanted more opportunities to perform on stage and Future Magicians offers exactly that. With Elliot's help I've managed to create a mind-blowing act that I absolutely cannot wait to share. I'm so excited to get out on that stage and give it my all."

Jack Moodie (stage name **Magic Jack**) is 17 and already a veteran street magician having gone down a storm while busking during the Edinburgh Fringe.

He said: "I did some Fringe street performing for the last two years, which was great. But Future Magicians gives you the chance to be on stage. It's such great opportunity for young magicians. I took part last year and it's great to be back again."

At 15 **Jamie Leonard**, is the youngest of the group, but performing tricks is nothing new as he fell in love with the art when he was given a magic set aged seven.

He says: "I want to develop my skills and to really make people believe what they are seeing is magic. And I love just getting out on stage and performing for all you people. That's the best bit."

They will be joined by **Oscar Urwin**, who had an even younger start when he was given a magic set by his aunt and uncle aged three.

Describing his love of the art he said: "For me card magic is the most skilful. No relying on props, it's all on the magician in the moment. I love it."

Festival organiser, co-founder and performer Kevin Quantum, is sure that the festival offers great entertainment for the festive period.

He said: "MagicFest has everything from small-scale children's

shows to big shows for all the family and even something for the over 18s only.

“It’s a brilliant way to get away from everything have a load of fun.

“The range of magicians is superb and includes some of the best in the business. But I’d also really urge people to come along to see Future Magicians.

“These guys may be young but they’re oozing with talent and I’m looking forward to the day when I can sit there and watch their TV specials.”

Kevin himself has a Christmas Special, at Church Hill Theatre, which is full of magic, variety and heaps of audience participation featuring special guests – international illusionist Oliver Tabor and local award-winning magician Fraser Stokes.

There are also new collaborations with Edinburgh Castle’s [The Castle of Light](#), [Wonder and Co](#) (the capital’s new magic shop) and [The Joker and the Thief](#) pub.

The only event of its kind in the UK, MagicFest includes:

Kevin Quantum’s Christmas Special: Straight from sell-out shows in Edinburgh and Australia, Kevin returns with a high-energy, wonder-packed family show at the Church Hill Theatre.

Future Magicians: A welcome return for this very special MagicFest initiative where you get to see tomorrow’s magicians today. We take a group of would-be young magicians and pair them with professional tutors to prepare a special 15-minute magic act – which they then present on stage for you.



Oscar Irwin will take part in Future Magicians PHOTO Beate Karklina

Vincent Gambini: This is not a magic show: What makes magic magic? Is there really a Magic Circle Emergency Hotline for magicians in distress? A critically acclaimed performance of and about sleight-of-hand magic, its invisible mechanics, clichés, and what it tells us about live theatre and make-believe. Vincent Gambini presents astonishing close-up magic that invites us to question how enchantment and wonder are made within a theatrical situation.

Cameron Gibson and Friends: Edinburgh magician Cameron Gibson presents a fast-paced magic and variety show that will knock your proverbial socks off. From classic sleight of hand to mind-reading and comedy, it has something for everyone. Every show features special guests from the world of magic and variety – so you never quite know what wonders await...

Richard Wiseman: Mind Magic: Enter the strange world of illusion, magic, and mystery. How do magicians produce objects from thin air and defy gravity? Does the paranormal exist? Join psychologist, best-selling author, and member of the Inner Magic Circle Professor Richard Wiseman as he explores the limits of the human mind. A fun hour for all the family.

Elliot Bibby: The Best of Bibby: After a complete sell out at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the Insane Magic boys, Elliot is back with a solo hour of magic. Bringing the best he has to offer from 10 years of professional shows in this comedy magic extravaganza.

Tricky Ricky: Festive Funtime: After sell-out performances last year, the Trickster returns with more festive fun and lots of his puns in a show starring Jingles the Reindeer and his mischievous rabbit Sonny the Bunny. It's cabaret for kids and grown-ups.

Gary James: Wonderland: A fast-paced family-friendly show with jaw-dropping magic inspired by wide-eyed childhood memories and a career in entertainment. Gary captures the excitement and mystery from his childhood visits to the legendary Lothian Road store called Wonderland.

Gary Dunn: Jokes & Tricks: One of Scotland's favourite family entertainers returns to MagicFest for another show filled with mad magic and silly jokes.

Kevin Quantum: Edinburgh Magic: Unlock hidden Edinburgh and enjoy magic that's fooled the greatest minds associated with the city, from Harry Houdini to King Charles. Amazing moments tied to the secret stories hidden in the cobbles and closes of the capital. Objects float before your eyes, money multiplies, time stands still...

Vincent Gambini: Out of Thin Air: Stories about magicians at magic conventions, an attempt at presenting a show in which nothing happens, and magic poems about you, the spectator.

Deft sleight of hand, strange poetry, and low-key spectacle.

Richard Wiseman: The World's Greatest Card Trick and Other Mysteries: The world's greatest card trick was invented in 1942. It has been performed by many famous magicians, amazed and astounded millions of people, and made Winston Churchill late for Parliament. In this intimate show, a small group of people join magician Professor Richard Wiseman as he reveals the unknown genius behind the trick and demonstrates other jaw dropping mysteries from the mind of this master magician.

Cameron Gibson: Street Magic Masterclass: Spend a morning with professional magician Cameron Gibson to gain hands-on experience in simple yet mind-blowing magic that you can do. You will master tricks with everyday objects that you can use to entertain and amaze your friends and family.

Close-Up Magic at The Joker & The Thief: Astonishing close-up magic at The Joker & The Thief pub with resident magician Tim Licata, one of Scotland's most entertaining sleight-of-hand artists.

www.magicfest.co.uk



Kevin Quantum, founder of MagicFest











Future Magicians PHOTO Beate Karklina