

BECOMING A CONFIDENT MAGICIAN ...AGAIN

BY KEITH (KIP) PASCAL

Dear Kip,

*[Lee Asher](#) sent me to you. He also introduced me to *The Magic Mentor*.*

I have a problem.

I need help with confidence.

I'm usually very confident when performing, but lately I just don't have the guts to even perform!

Please help,

Bobby H.

Do you ever lack confidence in your performances, like Bobby?

Without knowing you, or Bobby, I can't give as specific recommendations as everyone might want. I don't know what kind of performances we are talking about. I don't know whether we are talking about close-up or stage magic.

And I don't know what's causing the lack of confidence.

Given all of the above variables and gaps in the "story," I am still 'confident' (pardon the intended humor), you can build the confidence needed to perform.



Note: Be sure you read the current issue of [The Magic Mentor](#). Some possible confidence problems are discussed. In this article, let's skip the cause of the sickness or wound, and get right to the band-aid ... with a dose of Neosporin®

The best way that I know to build confidence in magic is a two-pronged approach:

1. Set yourself up for success
2. Forget that you were ever uncomfortable in the situation through numbing repetition

Set Yourself Up For Success

Make the chances of a successful performance likely to occur.

If you are afraid of doing a whole show, start with performing one trick (as an M.C. or an opening act, for example).

Or maybe you are afraid of performing for a large audience. Then start small.

Whatever causes the uncomfortable feeling that produces a lack of confidence needs to be identified, if you can.

Then you “back off,” until it’s no longer a question of confidence.

If you fear performing for a big group, start with showing one person a trick. Slowly build ... two spectators ... 5 ... 10 ... 25 ... 104.

What I am telling you to do is to take out whatever steals your confidence, and then slowly, over time, add it back in, piece by piece.

Numbing Repetition

If you want to build confidence in doing some action, do the action in a manner where you can improve, over and over again.

At first, the thought of teaching in front of a high school class scared me. After doing it every day, day after day, the butterflies went away. I was in my element.

The same is true in magic.

Do you want confidence performing?

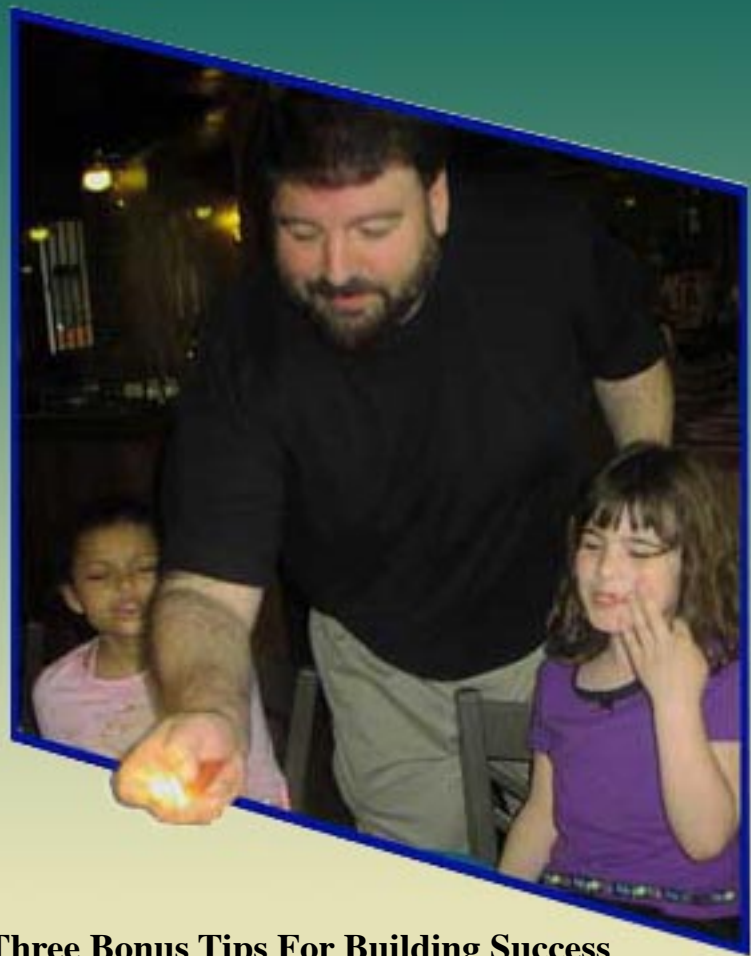
Get a job in a magic shop. (Don’t sign any contracts of employment that won’t allow you to work in magic in the future.)

I used to own a magic shop. And I can guarantee that every single employee who worked for us left with the confidence to perform magic in a variety of situations. You lose all reservations, when you have to perform the same trick hundreds of times a day, for a few years.

You get so smooth. Your movements become efficient. You develop stronger presentations.

And you gain confidence.

When you combine setting yourself up for success while progressively building with massive repetition, you will build a lot of confidence. Give yourself time. And do set yourself up for success.



Three Bonus Tips For Building Success

1. Sign up for [The Magic Mentor](#). It’s a free ezine. Use the tips to improve your magic performance. By taking active steps, you will build confidence. You know you are doing something to improve. That’s a confidence builder.

2. This second tip may sound like a sales pitch. I feel that [Coin Snatching: The Reputation Builder](#) is the ultimate confidence builder for two reasons. One, it takes guts to poise your hand over a participant’s, with a coin hidden in yours, and without warning speed switch the coins in the blink of an eye. There is a tense moment, where you’ll feel the anticipation before the snatch. Will you succeed? After hundreds of mini-performances of one of the snatches, you’ll develop a mega-dose of confidence.

Also, the book focuses on building your reputation. As people really come to appreciate you and respect your magic skill, your confidence develops. I have used The Rochester Switch (pages 37-54) to help lots of students build confidence.

3. If there is interest in this subject, I would be happy to develop more on confidence building. For example, I have a method for completely changing your attitude during a performance that only takes a few minutes to perfect. Another method I teach, takes a lot more effort, but will give you lasting confidence in your performances. Again, you’ll need to [let me know](#), if you are interested.