

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon
830-885-1081

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Evenings of mystery, wonder and illusion for Canyon Lake High School

Ray Brown didn't have the average childhood.

While most youngsters spend their free time honing their videogame skills or playing outdoors with friends, Brown was performing magic on a Las Vegas stage by the time he was 11 years old.

The current Canyon Lake High senior has now been a part-time professional magician for seven years.

He has displayed his talent at numerous corporate outings for businesses including Wal Mart, HEB Grocery, Dave & Buster's and Splashtown, and has been featured in the *Austin American-Statesman*, *San Antonio Express-News* and on San Antonio television station Fox 29.

Brown has met David Copperfield, an Emmy Award-winning American illusionist, in person four times, and has even received a personal letter from the famous magician telling Brown if he takes his passion and combines it with his gifts he'll be unstoppable.

"Magic is something I've always loved," said Brown, who won the Lance Burton Award of Excellence Magic Competition in both 2005 and 2006. "It seems like I've been performing as far back as I can remember."

Brown's first big break came when he was selected to play at The Orleans Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas at age 11.

"It was a big experience for me at the time," Brown said. "I learned pretty quickly some things I needed to improve on."

Brown will once again be performing on a grand stage Feb. 19-20, at Canyon Lake High School's 460-seat Emerald Theater.

Funds raised from the show, "The Magic of Ray Brown: An Evening of Mystery, Wonder and Illusion," will go toward another one of his life's passions and will benefit the CLHS film production classes.

Brown has already been accepted to and plans on attending one of the most prestigious film production schools in the country, Florida's Full Sail University.

"The film classes at Canyon Lake High have meant so much to me," Brown said. "Both magic and film have helped shape my past, present and future. It's great to be able to use my magic to help build the film production program at CLHS as much as I can before I leave here."

Sherri Painter, who teaches CLHS's film production classes, said it's hard to put into words how much Brown's generosity means.

"It's such a thoughtful gesture," Painter said. "He came to me and said he wanted to do something to give back before he graduates. I think it's wonderful."

Those expecting to see a few card tricks and perhaps a rabbit under a top hat at Brown's magic show might be in for a surprise.

"It's really a high energy theatrical experience," Brown said. "I combine audience participation, non-stop magic and grand illusions during this performance."

He will have illusions that pay tribute to both his heroes, Copperfield and Harry Houdini.

Brown will make a dramatic appearance in an empty six-foot tall chamber that fills with smoke, and will even attempt to escape from a straightjacket – a stunt that made Houdini famous.

"The great thing about my magic show is it's entertaining for people of all ages," said Brown. "Our definite goal is to sell out both nights. More people generates more energy, and that creates the best show imaginable."

Brown said although he will be pursuing a degree in film at Full Sail University, he doesn't plan to give up magic.

"I want to have a future in both," Brown said. "I love magic and have invested too much in it through the years to let it go."

Tickets for Brown's Feb. 19-20 shows at Canyon Lake High, both of which begin at 7 p.m., are on sale now.

Visit www.RayBrownTickets.com to purchase \$10 tickets in advance.

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IN PHOTO: Ray Brown's colorful magic style is in full display during a recent performance. "The Magic of Ray Brown: An Evening of Mystery, Wonder and Illusion" will take place Feb. 19-20 at Canyon Lake High's Emerald Theater and will include illusions dedicated to David Copperfield and Harry Houdini.