

# Clinton W. Gray - A Brief History

## The birth of a comedy magician

Clinton W. Gray was born at a young age and as he grew up he got older... He discovered very early in life that making people laugh was the easiest way to implement damage control when being disciplined. "No mom, I didn't spill my milk, that's UDDERly ridiculous." In an environment where sharp wits triumphed over pull-my-finger gags, Clinton learned what was appropriate at a very early age.

When he turned eight he received a magic book for his birthday and that spring the Comedy Magic Act was born.

In 1986, at only 12 years old, he became the youngest professional comedian in Canada, working the opening spot at comedy clubs throughout western Canada every weekend.

Not being able to build a comedy magic career in his tiny hometown in northern British Columbia, it wasn't long before Clinton headed for the bright lights of Vancouver. In three short years he went from doing a ten minute club act to headlining with a 90 minute evening show across Canada and the United States.



**Levitation:** Clinton practices his floating abilities as a baby

## That boy's good, but nobody believes this magic stuff is real.

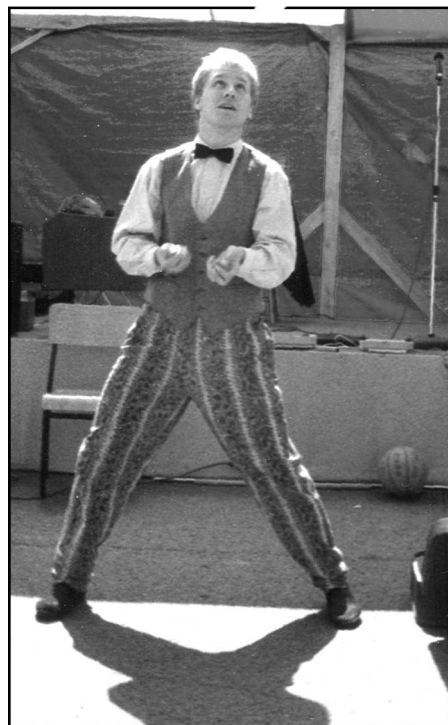
At 13 years old, while sitting backstage at a gig in Red Deer, Alberta, Clinton was eavesdropping on a discussion between the club owner and the headliner comedian.

"That boy's good, but nobody believes that magic stuff is real. The audience knows it's all just mirrors, wires, sleight-of-hand and trick boxes. Clinton needs to learn that the best stuff he does isn't the

magic, it's the comedy. He's @%#!\$ FUNNY!"

The next morning, Clinton realized the significance of that comment and immediately determined that those would be words to live by and he's never looked back since.

With signature illusions like the Magic Telephone Hotline, the Cowboy Card Trick, and Regurgitated Balloon Poodle, it's no wonder people say Clinton's show is unlike any they've ever seen. With his charismatic and fun personality, he doesn't merely fool audiences — he entertains them.



**The Teen Years:** touring the Canadian festival circuit at 15 years-old... look at the nice pants!

## What's a Prestidigitainer?

Clinton's real success emerged with the development of his unique stage show, *The Prestidigitainer*.™

The dictionary defines prestidigitation as the use of skillful tricks and artful deceptions to produce seemingly impossible results. In a word – MAGIC!

It also describes the word entertainer as one who holds the attention of an audience with something that is amusing and delightful.

Put the words together and you have *The Prestidigitainer*.™ – It's magic. It's entertainment. It's Clinton W. Gray!

Can you imagine hanging out in one place with several hundred professional entertainers, each trying to out perform each other?

Clinton is a ten-time (and counting!) international award winning performer with many accolades from the entertainment community. Some of his awards from appearances at world-class competitions include:

- **Grand Champion Close-up Magician of the US and Canadian Pacific Northwest**
- **Bronze Medal in the International Pro-Challenge of Magic**
- **Cecil Ackery Excellence in Comedy Magic Award**
- **Variety Entertainer of the Year- Canadian Professional Talent Competition**
- **International Bag O' Tricks Champion (3 years)**
- **Wilf Rutherford Stage Magician of the Year Award**

# BETTER Clinton W. Gray is Canada's Best Magician

Why is he not Canada's best magician? Clinton explains, "For years I claimed that I was Canada's BEST magician, until I discovered 18 other guys use that same title. So, if I can't be BEST... I'll just be BETTER!"

For over 20 years, Clinton W. Gray, The Prestidigitainer™ has been blending magic, music and mockery into high-energy, interactive comedy shows around the world. A ten-time international award winning comedy magician, his performances have been described as "a roller-coaster ride of antics, that cause audiences to be belly-laughing one moment and speechless with amazement the next." (Edmonton Journal)

Whether entertaining corporate CEOs at intimate cocktail parties

or college students at campus nightclubs, Clinton's speciality is the ability to engage the spectators and literally bring the entire audience into the show! Unbelievable illusion plus hysterical audience participation combine to create world class entertainment.



The "Impress-tidigitainer": working the corporate hospitality room.

## When will he get a REAL job?

Clinton's career continues to build momentum. Today he is in constant demand performing over 250 shows a year at conferences, festivals, fundraising events and high-end private parties.

Each summer, during the corporate off-season, he teaches and performs magic for summer resorts in the Catskills and Pocono Mountains. He is an elected member of a variety of entertainment and business associations including Rotary

International, ACTRA, the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and Laugh Makers International. When not promoting, practicing or performing, Clinton W. Gray enjoys sleeping in late, married life with a wonderful lady from Transylvania (where else would a magician's wife be from?), and doing his best to get to retirement without ever having a REAL job.

## The Guarantee: A Comedy M.A.G.I.C. System



**Guarantee:** your money back if you're not completely satisfied.

Although almost unheard of in the entertainment industry, Clinton carries a money back guarantee that every show will be an interactive, one-of-a-kind, memorable experience. His shows are always appropriate for the audience, since they are modular by design. After having the client complete a specialized questionnaire, Clinton chooses specific routines to custom produce a show that is unique for that audience. These routines are then "tweaked" with the client's information, so that the whole show feels like it was written for their event.

**Memorable. Appropriate. Guaranteed.  
Interactive. Customized.**

It's the M.A.G.I.C. System.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### you just can't make this stuff up...

**June 1991:** performs a show for his own highschool graduation ceremonies. This becomes the only time in his career that he will wear a tuxedo and top hat! Why do so many magicians live in the 19th century...?

**March 1993:** begins mentorship with Two-Time World Champion, Shawn Farquhar, who imparts wisdom like, "put the birdseed in peanut butter, and the doves won't spill it!"

**July 1995:** becomes the "1995 Grand Champion Close-up Magician of the Canadian and United States Pacific Northwest", and must get larger business cards so the title will fit.

**August 1997:** develops a brand new act, competes in the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians, Pro-Challenge, where he comes dead last... (hey, not all memorable moments are GOOD ones!)

**January 1998:** flown by bush pilot from Prince George, BC to Faro, Yukon. When they arrive, the airport [big field] is snowed-in and they must redirect to Whitehorse. All the equipment is transferred to a helicopter and he is flown back to Faro, this time landing in the hotel parking lot.

**August 1998:** wins the first of many Bag-O-Tricks contests. This international competition is the magic equivalent to improv comedy, made famous by the TV show "Whose Line is It, Anyway"

**Summer 1999:** begins a two year stint traveling with the B.C.R.A. as a rodeo clown. Clinton, The Conjuring Cowboy Clown does a risky escape act that involves horses dragging him around the arena in a feed bag.

**December 2001:** after an aggressive media publicity campaign he breaks the one hundred mark, appearing in 106 newspaper articles that year.

**May 2003:** performs straitjacket escape hanging 400 feet in the air from a Bell 212 helicopter in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

**December 2004:** three weeks before it happens, successfully predicts deadly tsunami that hits southeast Asia on Boxing Day. Audience reaction is UNREAL!

**January 2007:** becomes the first Canadian to volunteer with Magicians Without Borders, a humanitarian organization that performs magic for children in refugee camps, orphanages and hospitals around the world—often in war torn places where love, laughter and magic are desperately needed.