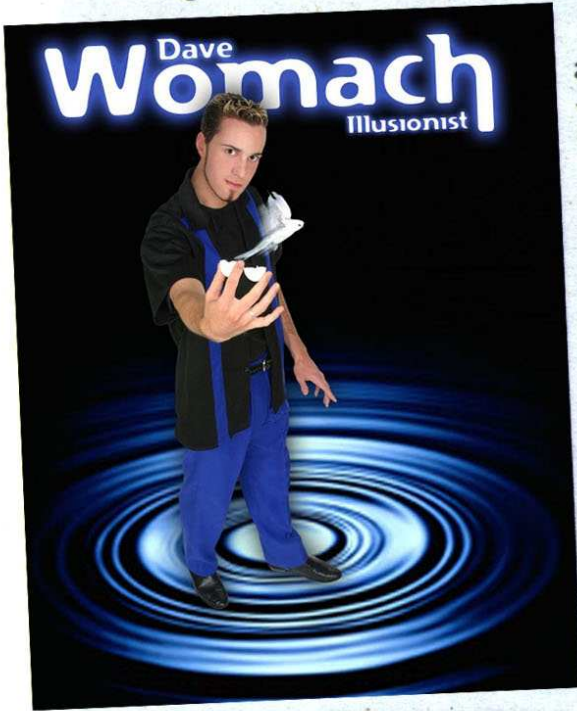


## He's the Magic Man PERFORMANCE

You don't expect many 19-year-olds to be succeeding at their own business, much less in the field of entertainment. And to arrange benefit performances for charities while organizing a national tour? You must be dreaming.



But Dave Womach is doing that, and he wouldn't mind it if you thought you were dreaming. As an illusionist, Womach has already staked out a career in the field of the impossible. Beginning with an interest in magic at the age of four, he's since performed in venues from Las Vegas to Shanghai.

On Saturday, he'll continue to expand his repertoire, premiering a new illusion at the Met during a benefit show for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery called Magicpalooza. "I'm debuting a trick with my umbrella cockatoo," he says. "It's a very animated trick where I'm no longer the magician – the bird is. I'm really anxious to see the reaction."

Magicpalooza will also feature several of Womach's friends that he's made in the magic community over the years, and he's hoping that his hometown audience will serve him well – he's launching an 80-show tour in mid-November, ending up in Las Vegas. "I'm a little anxious," he explains. "A lot of world champion magicians who have been on multiple international television programs were on the tour in the past. So I'm pretty excited."

So how does a recent high school graduate pay for what most people would consider an expensive hobby? "It definitely pays for itself," laughs Womach. "I've never had a real job. It's been awesome."

—Marty Demarest

**Magicpalooza, starring Dave Womach • The Met • Saturday, Oct. 12, at 3 pm and 7 pm • Tickets: \$8-\$12 • Call: 325-SEAT**