



# Prepare to Be Amazed: The Geniuses of Modern Magic

*Mary Schendlinger*

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*The story of modern magic through the lives of recent history's most gifted magicians*

While the art of magic may be as old as human beings, its golden age arrived in the mid-1800s when Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin performed onstage in a tailored evening suit and tidy haircut. The image of magicians was forever transformed.

Houdin was famous for his thrilling act of *Second Sight*, where his blindfolded son would identify articles held up by the audience. Other artists had their own specialties:

- **Adelaide Herrmann**, first woman to run her own magic show, brought the fun and flash of show business
- **Chung Ling Soo**, an American who led a double life as a dazzling Chinese conjuror
- **The Great Lafayette**, a flamboyant quick-change artist
- **P.C. Sorcar** revived the ancient traditions of his native India
- **Harry Blackstone** performed *small magic* -- simple tricks by sleight of hand
- **Doug Henning** revived the popularity of modern magic
- **Siegfried and Roy** combined special-effects technology with natural magic
- **David Copperfield** uses cutting-edge technology to create powerful stage illusions.

After each magician's story, kids will find great tricks they can learn, and they'll love the full-color reproductions of theatrical posters and photographs that capture all the excitement.

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