

RE: J. Neal / BIO and program copy

*** Please use the name: J.Neal in all program materials and note the spelling of LIANE (pronounced: Lee-Ann) is correct**

[This is the \(short\) program bio for our 45 minute show:](#)

Join us tonight for the “**Sensational Illusions**” of **J.Neal and Liane**”, who have been twice voted “STAGE MAGICIANS OF THE YEAR”. J.Neal and Liane have been seen on CBS-TV’s “THE WORLD’S GREATEST MAGICIANS” as well as multiple appearances on “THE TONIGHT SHOW”.

[This is the longer version for use when space permits:](#)

J. Neal and Liane are living proof that it’s not WHAT you do.. It’s the way you do it. In Nightclub, Casino, and TV appearances around the world, they have demonstrated that audiences want “Illusion ...with Style”. Simple, elegant, and exciting mysteries performed with matchless artistry and skill. By combining great music, choreography, and charismatic stage presence, each performance becomes and emotional, memorable event!

Quite obviously, **J. Neal**’s approach has paid off, having received ten consecutive nominations and twice voted “STAGE MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR”. **J. Neal and Liane** were also asked to appear on CBS-TV’s highly rated “THE WORLD’S GREATEST MAGICIANS.” which featured only 12 performers nationwide! Repeat performances on NBC’s “THE TONIGHT SHOW” have added to their reputations across America, while extended tours of the world include such exotic spots as Japan, South Africa, and Beijing China, where they performed over 500 shows...in Chinese!

J. Neal and Liane have performed with, and opened for such celebrities as Tina Turner, Anthony Newley, Leslie Uggams, and Shirley Jones, and Paul McCartney... among others. Yet another indication of **Mr. Neal**’s consummate professionalism, was being booked at CAESAR’S MAGICAL EMPIRE in Las Vegas...only to be “held over” repeatedly, until the eight week engagement became 11 months! Most recently, J. Neal and his beautiful partner Liane, completed a year long engagement hosting and headlining “TV’s Magic Stars” at the Horizon Casino Resort in Lake Tahoe! Now, see for yourself what millions of others have already discovered.... **THE SENSATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT OF J. NEAL and LIANE!**

[This is the informational copy for lecture:](#)

J. NEAL’S “INSIDE MAGIC”. J. Neal will be teaching the basics of Magic. Learn how to perform simple Sleight of Hand...and why magic works. A Fun and fascinating event for all ages!
(Please note that the spelling of SLEIGHT as written above, is correct)

[This is the intro for the MC or Cruise Director:](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Our performers tonight have appeared all over the world: from South Africa to Beijing China!
Please welcome the Sensational Illusions of J.NEAL !

My first "Tonight Show" show appearance!

Jonathan Neal's first appearance on nationwide TV was on the Tonight Show (with Johnny Carson)...but what is more amazing than that, is that it was a show he never auditioned for, or hoped to be on! And stranger still is that at the time, Jonathan didn't even own a television!

So how does a novice magician with limited professional experience get to appear on the most important TV variety show of it's time? In a word- MAGIC! Jonathan had moved to Hollywood a couple of years earlier and was focused entirely on developing a fresh and original style of magic based on music and movement and simplicity. Jonathan says. "I was living in a cheap, furnished apartment that was really just a rehearsal studio for my act and I was practicing all day and performing at local clubs by night. It meant for me, living as inexpensively as possible until I could achieve my goals. I figured it would take me at least another five years before I would be ready for any TV appearances. So I figured I could live without a TV and get more work done as well"

Meanwhile in Hermosa Beach, California there was a night club..."The Comedy and Magic Club", which was becoming well known to many top comedians as the leading route to the Tonight Show. To Jonathan, (who still didn't own a TV) it was just another place to present his developing act. "Harry Anderson (of Night Court fame) who was a friend of mine, kept telling me that I should be working the Comedy and Magic Club, but I felt I wasn't ready. I was quite happy in smaller, less recognized venues. Well, Harry kept after me for months and finally forced me to do it. "

Soon Jonathan was working on a regular rotation† there with many rising comics: Gary Shandling, Kevin Pollock, Bob Saget, Dave Coulier, Robert Wuhl, and others that would go on to great success. "Of course, the comics were all vying for a Tonight Show spot, and the man to whom all paid obeisance was Jim McCauley, the talent coordinator for Johnny Carson. "Believe me, with all that comic energy around me, the LAST thought I had was getting a Tonight Show spot. In those days, everyone knew Johnny did a little magic, but his main interest was comedy. So when Jim McCauley was in the house, the tension was over the top...almost electric! On those nights, the comics didn't watch each other...they watched McCauley watch the comics. and judged accordingly. So me, with my little magic act, I was quite content to be apart from it all and do my spot ...without the added pressure!"

Jonathan was packing up his props after the show when the word came down that Jim McCauley was making his way backstage, where all the acts "hung out". This meant that one of the comics would probably get the coveted Carson spot (after some advice from Jim about length or material) and everyone else would hide their envy. "I'm not sure who was more surprised, me or the comics, when Jim asked me...(the MAGICIAN!) if I wanted to do the Tonight show. If I WANTED to...? To say I was stunned would be an understatement! I was flattered of course, but was my act ready? What if I "screwed up"? And would this opportunity ever be offered again?"

Mr. McCauley told Jonathan that he would like a spot that could be as long as 9 minutes (very long for a first time appearance!) but might be shorter because of the nature of the program on that upcoming night: New Year's Eve! Jim told Jonathan that the program was to be different that night, with very little chit chat and just strong performances ...from Tina Turner and Bill Maher (making his first Tonight show appearance).

When show day arrived and Jonathan was ushered into a camera rehearsal. Jim McCauley asked him if he could alter the rehearsed nine minute spot... if it proved necessary?! Could he do something as short as 3 or 6 minutes? Talk about added pressure! Jim told Jonathan that due to programming variables... he wouldn't know for certain how long a spot Jonathan might have... until minutes before he was to begin!! Fortunately, Jonathan's act then as now, was modular by design... much like a singer who does a series of songs each of about 3 minutes in length.

Today Jonathan looks back at those early days and just laughs." If I only knew then, what I now know... but perhaps I was better off, I was too young to realize how nervous I should have been!" Jonathan's performance went off with out a hitch and tells us that his second Tonight Show was even more bizarre and exciting!! But that is for another time.