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Author Q & A

Regarding *Nothing Up My Sleeve but Pixie Dust*

What inspired you to write this book?

Every few years, the group I worked with back in the 70s would organize Magic Shop reunions, where we reminisced about the good ol' days. Many of the stories we shared I knew first hand. Others I didn't. Then someone would say, "Somebody should write this down in a book." Having already authored 6 of them, I felt I should be the one to do it.

What magic trick did you most enjoy performing?

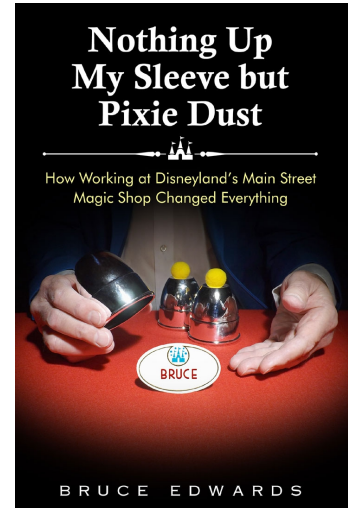
One of the perks of working there was being coached by magic professionals. I learned sleight-of-hand moves with a regular card deck. One trick was to have someone draw a card, then shuffle it back into the deck, whereupon I attempted to locate it. In the end, the card I found was the wrong one. Placing it face down on the counter, the volunteer would turn it over to find it had changed into the chosen card. The looks on those faces were priceless.

What was it like playing jokes on shop guests?

Most people enjoyed our harmless pranks, and laughed whenever they found themselves a victim of one. Others regarded our humor as somewhat less than amusing. Every so often, a guest would complain to City Hall that we had exceeded the limits of good manners. But that didn't stop the fun. Remember, the sign out front read tricks *and* jokes.

What was your favorite gag?

We sold these ketchup and mustard squeeze bottles, like the ones you see on restaurant tabletops. Point one at your intended victim and squeeze. All that came out was a colored string. People always jumped back, thinking they were being splattered with a greasy liquid. Interestingly, though they were prominently displayed on the counter, no one ever asked why diner condiments were being sold in a magic shop.



Nothing Up My Sleeve but Pixie Dust:

How Working at Disneyland's Main Street Magic Shop Changed Everything

By Bruce Edwards

Memoir

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What was Disneyland like behind the scenes?

Seeing the park's inner workings that were hidden from the public was fascinating – like the time I witnessed the robotic Mr. Lincoln being calibrated. But it was the other cast members whom I found most interesting. Where else can you rub elbows with artists, musicians and actors all in one place. Seeing the Disney walk-around characters backstage with their heads off was funny at first, but soon became a common sight you didn't think much about.

It's well known that comedian Steve Martin once managed the magic shop. Did you work with him?

Sadly, he left the park years before I started. I only learned of his presence after watching him host a video presentation on Disneyland's 50th anniversary. Nonetheless, I have reached out to his publicist, asking if he would consider endorsing my book. That will take some REAL magic. I hear he's a busy guy.

Why did you leave Disneyland?

There were other passions I wanted to pursue. I resumed my musical career—composing, recording and performing live. Then I realized my dream of becoming a feature film character animator. Not coincidentally, those dream-come-true successes followed my time working at Disneyland.