

Celebrating Diversity In The Entertainment Industry

HOLLYWOOD MONTHLY[®]

**CARMELITA
PITTMAN**
The Social Butterfly

DAN CHAN

“THE BILLIONAIRES’ MAGICIAN”

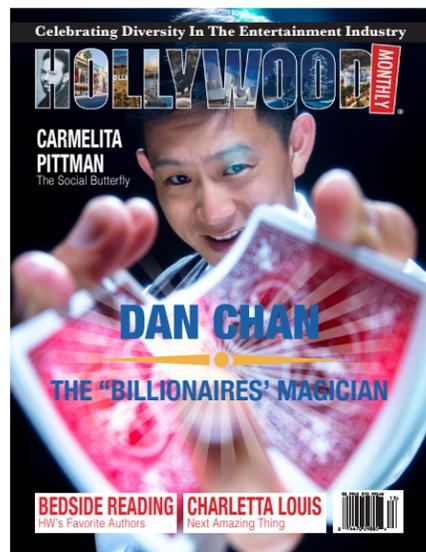
BEDSIDE READING
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CHARLETTA LOUIS
Next Amazing Thing



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The Story of
DAN & JAMES CHAN
Father & Son Duo

4 DAN & JAMES CHAN
Father and Son Duo

10 BEDSIDE READING
HW's Favorite Authors

14 JOHN AND NIKI
The Givefluencers

18 VIRTUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL
The KC Lights

24 MR. RAMAN SIDHU
CEO, EBG Federation

28 VIRTUAL ART GALLERY
Voice of Special Abled Person

32 50TH ANNIVERSARY
India-Pakistan War

34 CHARLETTA LOUIS
Next Amazing Thing

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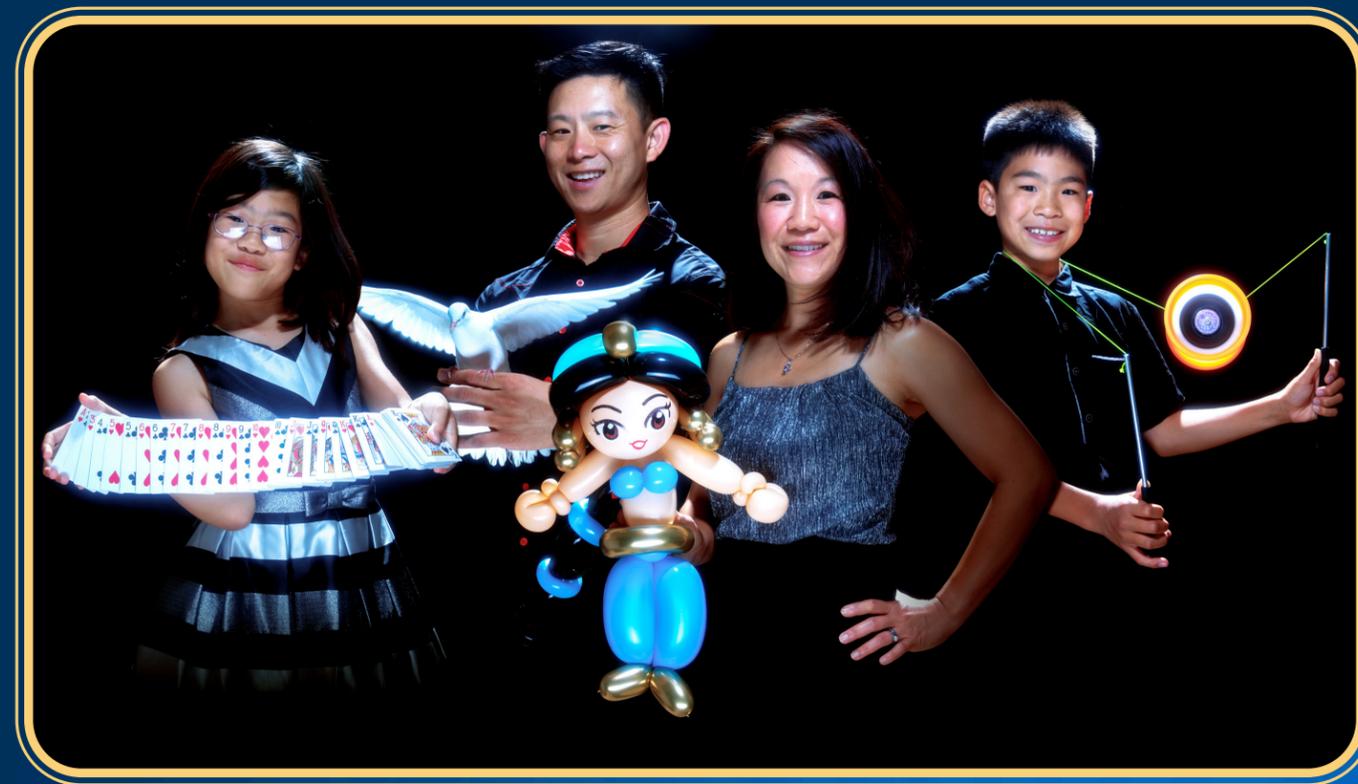
The Amazing Magic of **DANIEL CHAN** & His Son... The Incredible **JAMES CHAN**



Dan Chan is not just a magician; he's a businessman, strategist, and renaissance man, performing for billionaires worldwide. Before achieving success virtually, Dan Chan performed over 5000 live shows. In 2016, BuzzFeed profiled him, featuring his pick-pocketing and signature iPhone magic. These cutting edge effects, including hacking into smartphones, positioned him as Silicon Valley's top tech magician. Word spread quickly, and soon afterward, he was on the map internationally, performing in Germany, China, and Las Vegas for billionaires.

How did Dan find success? To answer that question, we have to go back to the beginning.

"The first few years were tough," says Dan. His wife Katherine can attest to that - she still recalls performing into her 8th month of pregnancy. After their son, James, was born, they were back on the road almost immediately as both Dan and Kat felt it was vital for them to stay together as a family. Dan recalls days when they traveled around California with his father sitting in the car with James while he and Kat were performing. Afterward, Kat would nurse the baby, James. As soon as he could walk, James was handing Dan props during the show. What kept the family going was their vision of the future. Dan knew exactly what the end results were that he wanted and



he reversed engineered the steps necessary to get where he wanted to be.

Their family's success wasn't luck. Dan Chan, the Master Magician, laid out the vision, then carefully and methodically strategized each move like a chess player, years in advance. James, with his youthful charm, endeared himself to audiences. Together their magic was a winning combination.

Dan remembers the lessons he learned at each stage, from street performing to performing at restaurants. He trained his son to follow in his footsteps, starting on the streets. As a street performer in San Francisco, he learned the importance of knowing how to hold a crowd captivated. Dan knew that before James could be a great performer, he needed experience in the streets. He realized that if a kid were to stop you and ask if you would like to see a magic trick, people would pass without missing a beat. However, if the kid started juggling 5 balls or 3 flaming torches, a crowd would form, and it would be easier to engage a group. Only then could he go into his hard-hitting magic effects.

When James was young, the father and son duo would fight a lot. Sometimes they would both end up crying. However, there was a pivotal moment when things changed - this was when Kat had a balloon twisting gig in Union Square in December. "We went





out together as a family to SF. I knew there would be crowds there, and I brought along James' juggling balls." Dan retells. "I told him to practice 5-10 minutes, and people started tipping him. James questioned why people were giving him money for just juggling. I told him that he was doing a great job and making people happy. I let him know that he could stop and get lunch or stay longer and make more money. James decided to stay. In two hours, he made over 120 dollars! After that day, we argued a lot less about practicing. That was the day he learned the value of a dollar."

At age 5, James began juggling three balls, and by age 8, he was juggling five balls. By age 10, he was picking-pockets and juggling three flaming torches. By age 12, he had television credits that included ABC7 News and two national television appearances, one on Kids Say the Darndest Things and another on Access Daily with Penn & Teller.

Now Dan has global ambitions, and to execute on his plans, he's leaning into a video-first strategy. Besides the slickly edited content of performances, he's recently produced a documentary, which documents his transition to virtual shows, that he's submitted to film festivals. Recently, Paramount Pictures and Netflix hired him to perform for their employees. Since then, Netflix has hired him multiple times, including several recent virtual events. Before the pandemic, his record was six shows in a day, but now he's regularly doing shows for US companies with a presence in Asia, India, and Europe at all hours. This past December, the Chan's have been busier than ever. They've performed as many as 12 virtual shows in one day and 52 shows in one week.

Today you can see this Father and Son Duo on ZOOM! From the comfort of your home, you can witness the fantastic feats that have made them regulars on the corporate entertainment circuit.

DAN & JAMES CHAN