While a Magician Works, the Mind Does the Tricks

By John W. Campbell, Jr.

A recent television news show offered a classic over-simplified view of how magic works, according to the magician who was shown performing some of the tricks. The basic idea is that the magician, after years of training, is able to manipulate the audience's attention and thus control their perception of reality. He can, for example, make a person disappear, or produce a card from nowhere, or even make a giant rubber band stretch across a room.

The writer then goes on to describe how a magician controls the audience's attention by making them focus on a particular object or action. He can also use their curiosity and interest to draw their attention away from what they are actually watching. This allows him to perform the trick without the audience noticing.

For the magician, the trick is always in the mind. He manipulates the audience's thoughts and perceptions to create the illusion of something that isn't really there. He can also use his own mental powers to control the audience's actions and thoughts, allowing him to perform the trick without their knowledge.

The writer concludes that, while the tricks themselves may seem impossible, the reality is that they are simply a matter of psychology and perception. A magician can use his skills to manipulate these factors and create the illusion of something that isn't really there. This is why a magician's work is always in the mind.