

## Paul Driscoll

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term coined during his days at Sam Rayburn, Driscoll says his “dream trick” would be sure to draw thundering applause from Americans.

“I would like to make Osama bin Laden disappear,” he said.

While still waiting to make that part of his act, Driscoll has dazzled audiences around the United States. His talents as a magician and his witty humor on stage have earned him “The Order of Merlin,” which is one of the highest honors given by the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

In addition to Hope’s opening act during a telethon, Driscoll has opened for other stars such as musicians Gloria Estefan, Kenny G and Paul Anka.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be the opening act for one of the kings of comedy like Bob Hope,” Driscoll said. “Many of these entertainers are very nice people, but Bob Hope was the biggest name by far that I’ve opened for. It’s indescribable to explain how it feels to be in front of a legend.”

Though not as well known as Hope, Driscoll does tend to stand head and shoulders above others in his acts.

“Everyone kind of gets whiplash when they look at me on stage,” he said. “You don’t see many tall magicians. Whether it’s making jokes about my height or anything else, it’s just a natural fit to use it as part of my act. It’s a ‘big’ part of my act, I guess you’d say.”

A review in Hollywood’s Drama-Logue magazine said, “Audiences are

delighting in Paul Driscoll’s brand of interactive magic-with-a-laugh. He is an engaging star, adept at adlibbing. He plays off and with his audience with panache.”

Driscoll spends much of his

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time performing on the road, but he has never forgotten where he got his start.

“My community was my first audience,” he says. “My friends, family and teachers were the backbone and supporters of my dream. I’ve never forgotten where I came from. And yes, I was tall back then, too.”

As a student at Southmore Intermediate School and Sam Rayburn High School, Driscoll was

active in the drama department and often called from class to perform his magic shows to other Pasadena ISD schools.

“My eighth grade speech teacher, Barbara Hayes, and my high school drama teacher

Janice Levi, both were big influences on me,” Driscoll said. “They always took a special interest in my and encouraged me to

make the most of my talents.”

Driscoll took that advice to heart. With the support of his teachers, classmates and friends, he wrote, produced and hosted a television program called “Smile, It’s Magic,” that aired on Pasadena cable television for three years.

When he’s not traveling the country and performing, Driscoll still calls Pasadena his home. His parents still live here and his brothers Edward, Stephen and Phillip live in the Houston area.

Stephen and Phillip, who are twins, share the same birthday as Paul. “I was born on their 10th birthday,” he said. “The three of us have always celebrated our birthdays at the same time.”

With many of Driscoll’s performances in Las Vegas and on the west coast, he has no future plans to move. “I’ve had opportunities to live in Los Angeles and Las Vegas,” he said. “They are nice places to visit, but they are just not home.”

Driscoll said he is enjoying the life as a magician, but may try something new in the future — the culinary arts.

“I’ve been interested in culinary arts for some time,” he said. “Then people could call me the Magic Chef.”

A wave of the wand for a filet mignon? “Anything’s possible,” he said. ★



## Online

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