

## Greeley's Paul Noffsinger entertains with close-up magic

Entertainment | March 25, 2019

Kathleen Duff  
fiveduffs@aol.com



Magician Paul Noffsinger performs card tricks for patrons of Tower 56 Distilling before putting on a stage show. (Michael Brian) BarMagic1-GDT-032519

Some entertainers tell stories, others tell jokes.

But when Paul Noffsinger takes the stage, it's ... magic.

Noffsinger, of Greeley, is a different sort of magician. He weaves tales about illusionists of the past as well as humorous stories about his own life into a performance where the magic is only part of the show.

He has performed throughout the United States — one of his favorite venues is New Orleans — and he is known locally for his sell-out performances at the Moxi Theater in Greeley.

And he has a fifth-grade teacher to thank. Well, sort of.

He decided as a child he wanted to perform for his class, so he practiced and practiced his magic. When the time came, his fellow students loved his tricks. But his teacher told him, "Paul, you better study hard because nobody is ever going to pay to see you do magic."

More than three decades later, Noffsinger remains motivated to prove his teacher wrong. In addition to his live performances, he owns The Mystery Collection, which offers evenings of magic, dark history, humor and intrigue. Noffsinger performs or he can teach patrons some magic tricks of their own to wow their friends or family. In addition to his shows, Noffsinger has acted as a consultant for "America's Got Talent" and "Penn & Teller: Fool Us." His private collection of memorabilia, such as an apothecary or a board with photos of famous illusionists or a shrunken head under glass, serves as an entrée in his spooky and wondrous stories from the past.



Paul Noffsinger (Roy Guste, New Orleans) BarMagic6-GDT-032519



Event posters for several of Paul Noffsinger's recent performances.

BarMagic3-GDT-032519

But stories from his own life are just as fascinating as those historic characters. One of his tricks revolves around a story of his search for his imaginary childhood friend, Yehudi, who got him into plenty of mischief. Onstage, Noffsinger presents a book — in this case, it's James Michener's "Centennial." He asks an audience member to put his finger on a page and memorize the page number. Explaining that he hoped to find Yehudi in the book, Noffsinger, who hasn't changed positions, asks the same audience member to open the book to that page. But the page has been torn from the book. Noffsinger looks across the stage at an easel with a drawstring bag. Inside is the torn page of the book. The trick is a success, leaving audience members shaking their heads. But Noffsinger tells them he is still looking for Yehudi.

### **i** More mystery

Reach Paul Noffsinger at [TheMysteryCollection.com](http://TheMysteryCollection.com) or call (970) 302-1849.

Starting in March, Noffsinger will have three regularly scheduled monthly shows: one open to the public at [Tower 56 Distilling](#) in Greeley; a full dinner show at Gourmet Grub in Greeley; and a ticketed small-theater show at The Gorehound's Playground in Fort Collins.

He also offers private parties and events.

Off-stage, he is writing an interactive Murder Mystery Party set at an auction of paranormal relics. Noffsinger said he will wrap up the set at a writer's retreat in Milwaukee in April. His Mystery Collection book will be released at Chey-Fy Comic Expo in Cheyenne in September, which he will headline.

"I like his humor and that he has a story to lead into what he was doing," said Connie Wallace of Berthoud, who attended Noffsinger's performance for FC Public Media, the Fort Collins public access TV station.

"And he really knows his magic history," added Dale Bonertz of Fort Collins. "He's really funny. I really enjoyed it."



People from the audience are part of the trick when Paul Noffsinger presents his version of the popular board game Clue. (Michael Brian)  
BarMagic4-GDT-032519

The audience doesn't see the illusion, of course, but they also don't see the hours of hard work that Noffsinger puts in writing new material, studying magic history and learning tricks to keep his shows fresh and relevant.

As he approached 40, Noffsinger was working in the finance department of a large meat company in Greeley. Having reignited his love of magic a few years prior, he found himself at a crossroads one day while sitting at his desk. So he called his wife, Danielle, a Greeley florist, and told her, "I am going to quit my job, work for a brewery and do magic." She replied, tentatively, "That sounds like a plan."

Noffsinger said with a laugh that he took her words to mean, "Yes, go ahead and quit your job." And I resigned that day." Despite the shock, he said his wife and daughters Lia and Lily have been very supportive of his life choice. He did work at a brewery for a short time, but it was magic that continued to call him.



Paul Noffsinger, owner of Mystery Collection, asks patrons to pick a card as he performs his "Bar Magic" show at Tower 56 Distilling. (Michael Brian)  
BarMagic2-GDT-032519

In addition to his own performances, Noffsinger particularly enjoys sharing the magic behind the scenes with others. He recently

Noffsinger continues to hone his craft with other magicians, including local magic legend Lew Wymisner, “The Great Loudini.”

And Noffsinger, now 43, listens. He and Wymisner will meet or have lunch and discuss ways to make his show better.

“Paul has a natural ability to relate to the audience,” Wymisner said. “I offer my opinion for what it is. I told him that magic has a lot of room. Find that room that fits you.”

“What Paul does borders on bizarre magic – off the beaten path. He’s got a real nice mix. He pulls the audience into his story, and then he has his magic and mentalism. Bottom line ... he is entertaining.”

1 Comment

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...



**Stacey Campbell**

What are the dates of his shows at Tower 56 and The Gourmet Grub?

Like · Reply · 1 · 2w

Facebook Comments Plugin

#greality



### Avocado toast a favorite at Margie’s Java Joint

April 6, 2019



**Meeker’s chef brings world-class experience and award-winning menu items to northern Colorado**

April 4, 2019



**Cycling at your desk and other wellness activities to maintain fitness at work**

April 2, 2019

Get ready to run: road race season is upon us, with trail race

What is CBD? A look into the health benefits of this growing