

## The Greatest Magician?

### 最伟大的魔术师?

英语学习点: **Magic Tricks** 魔术技法

Edinburgh has been remembering one of the world's greatest **magicians**.

The Great Lafayette was the **stage name** of the German **illusionist** Sigmund Neuberger. At the time of his death a century ago he was the world's highest-paid performer and 250,000 people went to his funeral.



*Image courtesy of Gordon Bruce at Scottish Magic Archive*

Lafayette's **grand finale** was a famous **stunt** called The Lion's Bride. A female assistant would walk into a cage containing a real lion. When the lion was about to kill her, its skin would be pulled off to reveal... The Great Lafayette.

Of course it was **all done with smoke and mirrors**, as well as Lafayette's great **sleight of hand**. But on 9 May 1911 something went horribly wrong.

Halfway through his **routine**, a gas lamp was knocked over and the stage scenery caught fire. The audience all thought it was part of the **act** and refused to leave the theatre until the band played the national anthem.

Lafayette died along with 10 other people, a horse and the famous lion. But he continued **to play tricks on people** even after his death.

Three days after the fire, another body was discovered in the theatre wearing Lafayette's clothes. This, it emerged, was the magician himself; the first body had been that of an assistant.

One hundred years on, the great magician continues to **work his magic**. Last weekend, the Edinburgh Festival Theatre hosted a series of special events in honour of the magician, including a **séance**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

### Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. When did The Great Lafayette die?
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Neuberger called himself Lafayette when he was performing his act.*
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Lafayette had remarkable hands.*
4. When was Lafayette's body found?
5. Look at the article. Can you find a synonym for the noun 'act'?

### Exercise 练习

测试一下关于魔术表演的词汇。选择方框内正确的表达完成句子。

1. It wasn't nice of you to \_\_\_\_\_ a trick on me!

make	play	stunt	run
------	------	-------	-----

2. His \_\_\_\_\_ runs for over two hours and contains a number of amazing tricks.

act	stunt	grand finale	magician
-----	-------	--------------	----------

3. To be an illusionist, you need to have incredible \_\_\_\_\_ .

slight of hands hand	slieght of hands	slienght of hand	sleight of
-------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------

4. Do you believe in magic? You realise it's all just \_\_\_\_\_, don't you?

mirrors and smoke	smoke and mirrors	smoky mirrors	smoked mirrors
-------------------	-------------------	---------------	----------------

5. I start my run at the Theatre Royal next week, but I still need to practise my \_\_\_\_\_!

séance	play	routine	sleight of hand
--------	------	---------	-----------------



## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. When did The Great Lafayette die? A century ago – 100 years ago.
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Neuberger called himself Lafayette when he was performing his act.* True – it was his stage name.
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Lafayette had remarkable hands.* Not given – Lafayette had 'sleight of hand' which is a phrase meaning he could use his hands well, but doesn't describe the hands themselves.
4. When was Lafayette's body found? Three days after the fire.
5. Look at the article. Can you find a synonym for the noun 'act'? Routine

### Exercise 练习

1. It wasn't nice of you to **play** a trick on me!
2. His **act** runs for over two hours and contains a number of amazing tricks.
3. To be an illusionist, you need to have incredible **sleight of hand**.
4. Do you believe in magic? You realise it's all just **smoke and mirrors**, don't you?
5. I start my run at the Theatre Royal next week, but I still need to practise my **routine**!

### Glossary 词汇表

magician 魔术师	stage name 艺名
illusionist 幻术师、魔术师	grand finale 终曲、结局
stunt 特技、绝活	It's all done with smoke and mirrors. 这只是烟雾和镜子。(喻) 都是假象而已。
sleight of hand 手法、技法	routine 常规节目
act 节目表演	to play a trick on someone 开某人的玩笑
to work one's magic 有魔力、有影响	séance 迎神会