

# Michael Douglas Magic



## Comedy Magic Show Event and Room Setup Recommendations

### Hello Event Planners!

I put together this document to share thoughts with you on the technical items that contribute to creating an excellent experience for your guests during the show. Please don't view these thoughts as demands but as simple ideas to help. Some of these thoughts only apply to larger banquet or theater settings.

### Program Timing Recommendations

#### **Ice Breaker:**

If you would like something special to break the ice with your attendees as they are mingling before a formal presentation begins, then Walk-Around magic is just thing you need. This style of close-up magic goes to your guests in small clusters and gets them relaxed and laughing with minor miracles that happen right in their hands. Walk-Around magic is placed best before at sit-down meal is served. Once people are eating the attention is on the food.

#### **Agenda Format Recommendations:**

Many events don't have an intermission. If you have a longer agenda for your event and you want to schedule a break then here's how to do it in a way to allow the show to have the greatest audience impact.

**BAD:** Dinner -> Awards -> Intermission -> Show

It will be hard to regain the attention of the audience and get them settled back in for the show.

**BETTER:** Dinner Show Intermission Awards

Dinner Intermission Awards Show (this sequence only works well if the awards are very brief i.e. 10 min max).

**DOABLE:** Diner, Intermission, Some Awards, Show, Intermission, Finish Awards

If you have lots of presentations and/or awards, then consider this option.

## SWEET SPOT

From experience, the best time to start the Stand-Up Comedy Magic Show is immediately following desert. This means AFTER the plates have been collected, so that servers and clanging plates are not a distraction. Trying to do a show while people are eating is a certain way to kill their attention on the show.

## Introductions

Your designated representative is needed to read the following introduction just before I come onstage.

Tonight's entertainer began studying magic as a child. Following college he began a technical career in Information Technology. He additionally served as a motivational speaker and trainer in the non-profit sector.

Since then he has shared his comedy magic from coast to coast at conferences, promotional events, churches, weddings, trade shows, as well as at corporate and private functions.

His past clients include, Capital One, The US Navy, Hanover Insurance, The Federal Reserve, George Washington University, and many others.

Please welcome (tonight's entertainer), stand-up comedy magician, Michael Douglas

## Seating

If the room is a rectangle, please arrange the stage in the middle of the long side of the rectangle. It is easier to perform to a wide audience than a deep one. Please refrain from putting seats directly to the sides of the stage. Magic is very visual and a side view of the stage will weaken the experience of people seated there. If you must have seating on the side of the stage due to capacity issues, then please let me know that in advance so as to give me the opportunity to adjust my presentation if I need to.

Most importantly, do not separate the audience from the stage with a dance floor. If there will be a dance floor, please put seats or temporary tables there to move the people in the back of the room closer to the stage. Try to place the first row of seats within 3 feet of the stage. The closer people are to the stage and the closer they are to each other the better the comedy works. Laughter is contagious and gaps between people lessen the impact of the show.

Please see our seating diagram for additional information on the layout options for the seating.

## Stage

Venue Access: Doing my “Load In” at least 60 minutes before the audience arrives is ideal. That allows me enough time to get setup and do a sound and light check with your technician before guests start filling in the seats. The breakdown time after the show is around 30 minutes. The full show itself runs 45- 60 minutes based upon your need.

Stage Dimensions: I can perform on the floor from the same level as the audience for groups under 80 people. Once we reach 80 people, then visibility becomes a concern. This is addressed by using a raised platform or stage of at least 12' wide x 8' deep (prefer 16' x 12'). The height should be appropriate for the audience size (approximately 9" rise for every 100 people). If the performance area is a movable platform/stage, please make sure that each section is securely fastened together. There should be no spaces between the sections of the stage. I use lots of volunteers during the show and high heels can get caught if there are gaps. The stage floor should be solid and level. Uneven sections can cause people to trip and fall. The safety of your guests as well of me is the big concern.

Ideally, the performance area will be smooth, level, clean, and free of obstructions like cables, speakers, and band or DJ equipment. I sometimes perform during Band Breaks so I can plan around certain obstacles when I know in advance. Visual obstructions like potted plants, flower arrangements, podiums, are best removed or placed to one side so as not to (1) encroach on the needed performance space or (2) reduce visibility for the audience. If other speakers are using a podium or lectern, place it off to one side when its use has been completed.

Stairs: A set of stairs needs to be present if the stage or platform is more than 9” high. Ideally the stairs would be on the front side of the stage. Steps on the side of the stage could also work. These will be used by me and members of the audience.

Electricity: An electrical outlet needs to be accessible from the stage for certain equipment that is used in the performance.

Stage Equipment: Please have a small table available on stage. Approximately 3 or 4 feet round or square is fine. It should be about the height of a desk or dinner table. If this can't be accommodated, just let me know and I'll plan accordingly.

Stage Access: Please limit access to the backstage area to the magic and technical crew exclusively. Thank you.

## Preparation Area

In a perfect world, at your event, I would have access to a room to get ready that has is accessible only to performers and show personnel. This room is preferably near the performance area and near a restroom with a mirror. However, I've used a restroom or an out of the way corner plenty of times when nothing more was available. I'll use what you make accessible to me.

## Lighting

My presentations are not designed for low light situations, and the show is highly interactive, so it is important that I can see the audience from the stage. Keep in mind, that house lighting usually works fine for corporate and private events of about 80 people or less where a dedicated lighting team is not available. The exception to this is if the room is unusually dark. With that said, special lighting is recommended and results in a more professional presentation. In more of a theatrical setting, in most cases, ambient house lighting and a light stage wash work perfectly. If available, blue and red filters are nice. Most action will take place in center stage; spotlights, if available, should be focused center.

## Sound System

I commonly provide my own sound system and microphone at private shows up to 100 people. If your event is in a larger venue with its own sound system or you want me to plug into your DJ's system, then it needs to be capable of mixing 3 channels of voice and music. It is also advisable to have on standby, a backup corded mic with at least a 25' cord. You just never know what may happen with electronics. One thing that I cannot compensate for is bad sound. If I can't be heard, then the show is a total loss. If we are using a system that you supply, then please verify its quality.

Channel 1: I bring my own wireless receiver and headset. It has an XLR output to connect into the mixer board that you or the venue provides.

Channel 2: I bring my own remote controlled iPad for music. It has a mini 1/8" output and an adaptor to make it a 1/4" output if necessary.

Channel 3: If you can, please provide a microphone on a stand for the person who reads my introduction. Wireless is preferred, as this mic may be also used by a volunteer from the audience during the show.

## Questions

Please contact me at [MichaelDouglasMagic@yahoo.com](mailto:MichaelDouglasMagic@yahoo.com) with any questions that you have. Thank you!

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