



COURTESY PHOTO

MerMan, the fire-eating magician, is set to entertain the Fort Eustis community at 7 p.m., March 15, at Jacobs Theater.

Fire-eating magician set to dazzle Eustis

BY DIRECTORATE OF PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
Fort Eustis, Va.

Knee-slapping comedy combines with old-fashioned magic and dazzling illusions when the Mystical Magical MerMan comes to Jacobs Theater, March 15, at 7 p.m.

You can experience family fun with the quick-witted MerMan as he amazes family and friends with fascinating magic tricks and incredible illusions.

His specialties include *The Floating Lady* and a full bag of tricks like: fire-eating, the death-defying *Tarantula kiss*, and eating a chain of razor blades.

MerMan, a long-time veteran of the East Coast entertainment scene, has thrilled children of all ages for nearly 18 years with his special brand of magic.

He takes pleasure in introducing traditional trickery to young audiences, especially when it's their very first live magical experience.

The dry-humored magician specializes in true magic with a twist. He mesmerizes his fans with his *Fantasy & Magic* shows that feature leprechauns, unicorns, superstitious fun and more.

Spectators can watch for grand illusions and sleight-of-hand trickery such as *The Great Chain Escape*, *Floating on Air*, and *The Vanishing Woman*.

"My job isn't just doing magic. I'm an entertainer — a storyteller," said MerMan.

"My goal is to take you out of your world and into mine for a little while in hopes that all your problems can be forgotten; and for a brief moment, you can just have fun.

"I take pride in making you think about the things that could be magic. After all, everyone wants to believe that there really is magic," he said, with a sly smile.

A professional fire-eater, MerMan often surprises audiences with his pyrotechnic special effects — gulping flames to the gasps of his audience.

MerMan has appeared throughout the United States and Canada at festivals, schools, charitable events, fund-raisers, skating rinks, night clubs, restaurants, parties and more.

He's a media favorite, often shown sporting his unique blend of comedy and sleight of hand on cable television programs and in the feature pages of newspapers.

The venerable entertainer began performing at the age of 6. When he was 11, he gave his first professional performance and earned \$20.

"Believe it or not, I was a very timid and shy child," said MerMan shaking his head. "Magic truly brought me out of my shell. It can happen to a lot of people."

The Norfolk resident said magic first became a profession for him after he perfected the art as a hobby. "I was always fascinated by magic," he said.

Tickets for the show cost \$3, and can be purchased at the Information, Tour and Travel office in the Morale Welfare and Recreation Leisure Center, building 671, or from the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities, building 210, room 103.

For more information, call 878-2602.