

**Kevin Spencer**  
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### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

- Adjunct Faculty Department of Special Education, Carlow University (PA)
- Teaching Artist, Hocus Focus, Inc. (VA)

### **HOCUS FOCUS – Education Project**

- Founded Hocus Focus (2009), educational project for individuals with disabilities.
- Certification in Autism Studies (2011)
- International Education Speaker/Trainer for Administrators, NGOs, Researchers, Educators and Students of all abilities.
- A leading authority on the academic and functional benefits of arts integrated interventions for special learners.
- Presentations and Keynote at numerous international special education conferences.
- Research Consultant in the field of Special Education.
- Author/designer of the HOCUS FOCUS curriculum for diverse learners.
- Member Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Board Member Division of International Special Education & Services (DISES)
- Member Division of Autism and Development Disabilities (DADD)
- Member Division of Visual and Performing Arts Education (DARTS)
- Member International Association of Special Education (IASE)
- Member American Education Research Association (AERA)

### **HEALING OF MAGIC – Healthcare Project**

- *Approved Provider* for continuing education with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).
- The leading authority on the therapeutic use of magic tricks in physical and psychosocial rehabilitation.
- Member European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE)
- International Continuing Education Trainer for therapists (OT, PT, Speech, Recreation).
- Research Consultant in the field of Rehabilitation Therapy.
- Founder of the Healing of Magic rehabilitation project (1987).
- Author of the HEALING OF MAGIC manual for therapists.
- Recipient of the *Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity*.

### **THEATRE OF ILLUSION - Performance**

- 2015 recipient of the *Milbourne Christopher Award* for Contributions to the Art of Magic
- 2009 Merlin Award for *International Magician of the Year*
- Performing Arts Entertainer of the Year (six consecutive years)
- Thousands of performances in 38 countries on 6 continents

### **POWERFUL MEDICINE: SIMPLY MAGIC – The Film (Produced by Kevin Spencer)**

- Recipient of 18 international film festival awards.
- International Humanitarian Platinum Award (2015)
- Best Short Documentary – Outside of the Box Festival (2014), West Chester Film Festival (2015), Best Shorts Competition (2015), Hollywood Short Film Festival (2015), Black Hills Film Festival (2015), LA Movie Awards (2015), and five Global Film Awards (2016).

## **EDUCATION**

Southeastern University (Lakeland, FL)

M.Ed. – Arts & Academic Interdisciplinary Education

Qualified Autism Services Practitioner/Certification in Autism Studies

College of Applied Human Services & Innovative Learning

Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)

B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology & Religion)

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

*First World Congress for Persons with Disabilities in Russia* (2017, September). Presentation and workshops in Yekaterinburg, Verkh-Neyvinsky, Chelyabinsk, and Ufa (Russia).

*Celebrate the Magic of Child Life* (2017, May). Keynote presentation at the international conference of the Association of Child Life Professionals, Las Vegas, NV.

*The Development and Psychometric Investigation of an Arts-Integrated Assessment Instrument for Educators* (2017, April). Paper presentation at the American Education Research Association conference, San Antonio, TX.

*Tapping the Magic Within* (2016, September). Keynote at the annual conference of the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association, Kansas City, KS.

*Arts Integration & Special Populations* (2016, August). Professional development training for educators. United Methodist University, Monrovia, Liberia.

*Hocus Focus: Intersection of the Arts & Academics* (2016, March). Four-day residency at California State University Long Beach, CA.

*Hocus Focus: Arts & Special Education* (2016, February). Two-day residency and Professional Development Training for special educators, Orange, TX.

*Student Engagement & Motivation through Arts Integration* (2016, July). Keynote at the annual conference of the Mississippi Whole Schools Initiative, Biloxi, MS.

*Tapping the Magic Within* (2015, October). Keynote at the annual conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of California, Sacramento, CA.

*Creating the Magic from Within* (2015, October). Keynote at the annual conference of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, Columbus, OH.

*Inspirational and transformational work with children with special educational needs and disabilities.* (2015, October). Keynote at the annual conference of the National Association of Special and Non-maintained Special Schools, Brighton, United Kingdom.

*Powerful Medicine: Simply Magic*, (2015, August). Presentation at the annual IgniteCON conference, Birmingham, AL.

*The Challenges of Inclusion in Conflict Areas*, (2015, August). Presentation at the round table of the Division of International Special Education and Services, Jerusalem/Bethlehem.

*It's Not An Illusion: Engaging Students with Special Needs*, (2015, July). Keynote at the 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Association of Special Education, Wroclaw, Poland.

*It's Not Magic: Engaging Individuals on the Autism Spectrum*, (2015, April). Keynote and Professional Development workshops at the meeting of the Dave Rice Autism Foundation and Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas, NV.

*Arts Across the Lifespan: Empowering Individuals of All Ages and Abilities*, (2015, April). Keynote at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Arts & Culture Association, Baton Rouge, LA.

*It's Not Magic: Engaging Individuals on the Autism Spectrum*, (2014, October). Keynote at the annual Beyond the Diagnosis: Autism Across the Life Span sponsored by the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training (K-CART) and Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS.

*Not an Illusion: the Magical Benefits of a Technology-mediated Arts Curriculum*, (2014, July). Presentation at the meeting of the Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal.

*Arts Integrated Interventions for Students with Identified Disabilities*, (2014, June). Uganda Ministry of Education: Professional Development workshops in Entebbe, Mpigi, Soroti, and Mbale.

*Getting to Yes: Inclusion in the face of a post-conflict Uganda*, (2014, July). Presentation at the meeting of the Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES), University of Minho, Braga, Portugal.

*Increasing Language Skills Through Magic*, (2014, June). Presentation at the meeting of the International Society of Language Studies: *A Critical Examination of Language and Society*, Akita International University, Akita, Japan.

*Hocus Focus: Working Magic In the Classroom*, (2014, February). Presentation at the meeting of the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders (MSLBD), Kansas City, MO.

*Hocus Focus: Magic Tricks in the Classroom*, (2013, June). Keynote presentation at the meeting of the Division of International Special Education and Services, Tobago, West Indies.

*Healing of Magic: Empowering Therapists with New Tools*, (2012, July). Presentation/Continuing Education Workshop at University of Ulster, Belfast, Ireland UK.

*Hocus Focus: The Benefits of Arts Integration for Students on the Autism Spectrum*, (2012, July). Presentation at the meeting of the DISES International Round Table: *Promoting Research, Collaboration, and Advocacy for Children and Youth with Special Education Needs*, Innisfree International College, Sligo, Republic of Ireland.

*Healing of Magic: Empowering Therapists with New Tools*, (2012, January). Presentation/Continuing Education Workshop at the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL.

*Healing of Magic: Health, Wellness & the Arts*, (2012, January). Keynote at the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series, East Tennessee State University, College of Public Health, Johnson City, TN.

*Hocus Focus: Educational Benefits of Arts Integration for Special Learners*, (2011, July). Presentation at the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Association of Special Education: *Educating Every Learner, Every Day: A Global Responsibility*, Windhoek, Namibia.

*Hocus Focus: Pedagogical Implications of Arts Integration for Special Learners & Educators*, (2011, May). Presentation at the 31<sup>st</sup> Seminar of the International Society for Teacher Education: *Challenged Teacher Education - Facts, Feelings, Formation*, Kristiansand, Norway.

*Healing of Magic: Empowering Therapists with New Tools*, (2011, May). Presentation at the International Scientific Conference on Rehabilitation, Russian State Soviet University, Minsk, Belarus.

*Hocus Focus: Educational Benefits of Arts Integration for Special Learners*, (2011, May). Broken Arrow School District, Dept. of Special Education, Broken Arrow, OK.

*Hocus Focus: Educational Benefits of Arts Integration for Special Learners*, (2010, December). East Asian International Conference on Teacher Education Research: *Teacher Education for the Future – International Perspectives*, Hong Kong.

*Hocus Focus: Educational Benefits of Arts Integration for Special Learners*, (2010, July). Presentation at RIGA 2010: *Embracing Inclusive Approaches for Children and Youth with Special Education Needs*, Riga, Latvia.

## **PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

Spencer, K. and Harte, D. (2014). *Sleight of Hand: Magic, Therapy, and Motor Performance*. The Journal of Hand Therapy, 27 (2014) 67-69.

Spencer, K. (2012). *Hocus Focus: Evaluating the Academic and Functional Benefits of Integrating Magic Tricks in the Classroom*. The Journal of the International Association of Special Education, JIASE, Vol. 13, No. 1, Spring 2012.

Spencer, K. (2012). *Hocus Focus: Evaluating the Pedagogical Implications of Integrating Magic Tricks in Classroom Instruction*. The Journal of the International Society for Teacher Education, JITSE Vol. 16.2, Winter 2012.

Spencer, K. (2013). *Magician's Hocus Helps Students Focus*. KidzEdge Magazine, Estes Park, CO.

Spencer, I. (2013). *Magic As a Learning Resource*. THE HOMESCHOOLER, Homeschool Association of California, Corona, CA.

Spencer has also made appearances on international news programs including *Voice of America*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, *American Voices* with Senator Bill Bradley (Sirius/XM Radio), *Good Morning Singapore*, *The CBS Early Show*, *Saba Tumer* show in Istanbul, *Fox & Friends*, and dozens of local/regional news broadcasts.