



FROM MAX

My name is Max Darwin and I'm really looking forward to meeting your students at the theater! Live theater is totally magic and I can still remember my first time going to see a show in a theater. But seeing my first magic show is what inspired me to be who I am today as a performing artist.

I believe in children and that they are truly amazing. No matter what limitations or challenges everyone has something magical inside of them. The message in my show is simple, "You Are Amazing"

ABOUT THE SHOW

In 2011 we rented a theater in New York City to perform my magic show. That weekend turned into 9 months and now 5 years later the show still plays for sold out audiences in NYC, Off Broadway and tours all over the US. The New York Times, Huffington Post, PBS Kids, and many more love the show!

MAX'S BIO

Max Darwin was onstage before he could walk. By the time he was five months old he was traveling with his parents, professional street performers specializing in clowning, mime, juggling, and magic. Since then, Max has emerged as one of the most sought-after magic artists in the country. He has been a magic consultant and/or performed in *Gotham* (Fox), *Brain Games* (National Geographic Channel), and *America's Got Talent* (NBC). Max is also a film/TV actor and can be seen on *Sneaky Pete's* (Amazon), *Blind Spot* (NBC), *Black Box* (ABC), *Game Farm* (Nickelodeon) and various national TV commercials.

WHAT'S INSIDE

This study guide was created for you teachers! We are providing you with several activities that will engage your students before and after the show. Our hope is to keep amazing things happening beyond the show and classroom.

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

Remember this guide is simply a suggestion of fun activities for your students. We don't get as many opportunities to be in the classroom as you do and are always open to suggestions! Please email Christine Cox, christine@theamazingmax.com with your thoughts/comments.

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Draw a picture of what you want to be when you grow up.
2. Write 3-4 sentences explaining why you have chosen that profession (*for 3rd grade & up*)
3. Have each child present to the class their picture and share what they want to be when then grow up. Older students may read their explanation to the class as well.

AFTER THE SHOW

Questions to ask:

1. What did The Amazing Max want to be when he grew up?
(answer: magician)
2. Did The Amazing Max get to be what he wanted to be?
(answer: yes)
3. What are some of the things that The Amazing Max told us would help become what we want to be?
(answer: use your imagination, believe in yourself, and work hard)

Follow Up Activity:

1. Ask the students what are things they could do right now towards making their dreams come true?
2. Send a letter to The Amazing Max with pictures and/or stories about what they want to be when they grow up.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ONLY A NAPKIN?

In the show Max talked about when he was a child he didn't have magic kits or tricks, he only had his **imagination** so he had to use objects that he had at home. He created things with things like a napkin, pencil, paper, coins, etc.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. One white napkin per child

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Take the napkin and have each child turn it into a snowflake
2. Put the students into a group and have them each create as many shapes/objects as possible with the napkin

Please note that with this activity that Max wants to encourage the kids to clean up after themselves like his parents made him do when he would use his imagination to create things with the napkins he found around the house!

PERFORMING A MAGIC TRICK

To be a real magician you must first take the magician's oath!

- **I promise to keep the secret** (The only way to surprise your family and friends with your magic tricks is you can't tell them how you did the trick! It is important when performing a magic trick that you don't tell people how you did it or you will ruin the magic)
- **I promise to practice, practice, practice** (Performing magic is a skill that is only learned by practicing. Learning how to perform magic is like playing a sport or learning how to play a musical instrument. When The Amazing Max was little he had to spend many hours practicing his skills so that he could get better and better!)
- **I promise to always have fun** (It's always important that when you're performing magic that you are having fun. Remember to smile at your audience!)

TRUST GAME (*recommended for ages 7 & up*)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. "The Trust Game" video (from Brain Games DIY)
2. 1 Deck of Cards

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Have the students watch the [instructional video](#) until 1.38 (pause after the trick is performed).
2. Ask them what the pattern is and have them guess how the magic trick was done?
3. Play the remaining the video which will reveal the secret on how to perform the magic trick.
4. Discuss how the trick is performed.

Other fun instructional videos:

[Brain Games DIY: The Risk Game](#)

[Brain Games DIY: The Pattern Game](#)

Additional video clips:

[The Amazing Max promo](#) (*recommended for all ages*)

[The Amazing Max performs a magic trick with Lily](#) (*recommended for ages 4-6*)

