HUGH LENNON & HYPNODOG

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35 years experience

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Risk assessment - 2009

The outcome of a six-month study of possible risks of Stage Hypnosis by a panel of experts appointed by the Home Office was as follows (actual wording):

"....There are no more risks than any other activity...."

Based on my personal experience of 35 years as a Stage Hypnotist, here are some possible risks (mostly physical) and the steps I have always taken to prevent them.

• The possibility of volunteers falling off stage or tripping on cables etc..

Steps taken:

- A. Volunteers are always seated when eyes are closed and always perform with eyes open when standing.
- B. All speaker cables are taped down to the stage.
- C. A white tape is placed away from the front of the stage and volunteers are given repeated suggestions 'not to cross over the white line' (This is also suggested in the Home Office guidelines). Stage area always checked before the show by Hugh's assistant for any possible obstacles.
- Possibility of volunteers getting hurt in audience.

Steps taken:

Volunteers are kept on stage at all times and never given any suggestions to perform in the audience.

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 Possibility of volunteers getting dehydrated usually caused by the heat of spotlights

Steps taken:

_A few years ago, some volunteers used to complain having headaches at the end of the show. Plenty of water was then made available on stage and this seemed to have solved the problem. Not had any complaints of headache for the last 25 years.

• Possibility of volunteer(s) leaving the building/venue during the interval therefore missing the removal of suggestions which usually takes place at the end of the show.

Steps taken:

• There is no intervals for festival performances. In other venues, when Hugh performs his full two-show, volunteers are kept on stage (fully awake), and Hugh and assistant are always present to ensure that they don't leave the stage.

Please note:

All suggestions are fully removed at the end of the show and all other Home Office guidelines are fully complied to in this show.