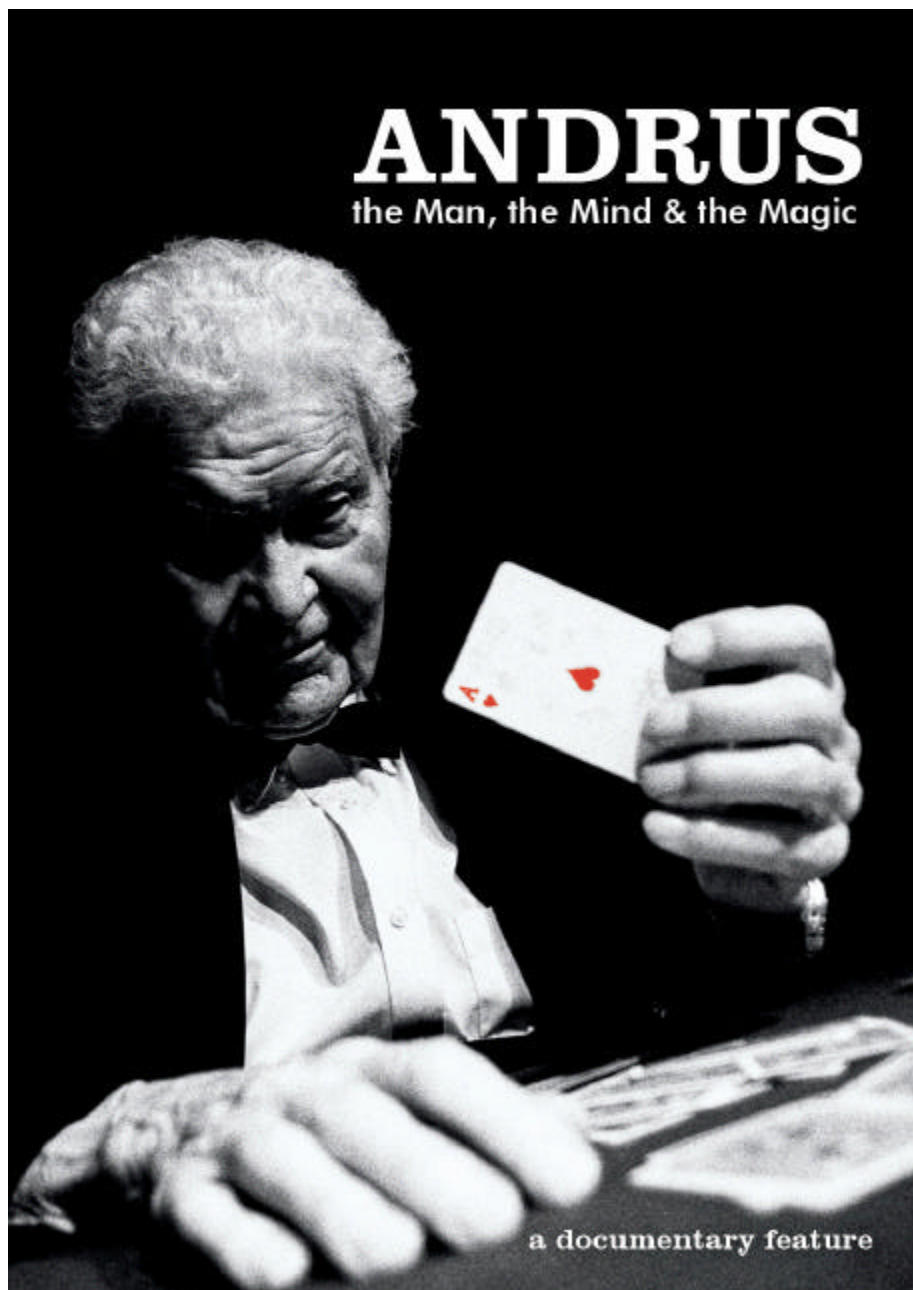


Andrus: The Man, the Mind & the Magic

Press Kit

Producer –Director: Robert Neary
Cinematography –Editing: Tyson Smith
Music: Boone Johnson, Aural Produce



Synopsis

To some of the greatest performing magicians alive today, Jerry Andrus is the name of a legend. Renowned as one of the best and most influential "close-up magic" performers of our time, Jerry is equally regarded among scientists, educators and skeptics as a visionary, poet, philosopher, inventor and creator of truly astounding optical illusions.

Andrus: the Man, the Mind & the Magic is the story of a modern day da Vinci told by the man himself, along with extensive interviews from some of the notable thinkers, artists and magicians in the world today.

About the Production

Jerry Andrus is no stranger to performing, whether on stage or on camera. He performs with a mission: to instill in everyone he encounters the wonder of our remarkable human minds and our ability to appreciate the marvelous natural world in which we live. The documentary features conversations with Jerry and includes extensive video recordings of illusions and magic, all of his own creation, along with readings from his literary works. Interviewed also are many of Jerry's contemporaries, experts in science, magic and psychology regarding their direct knowledge of his talents.

Production began in June 2006, filming Jerry's performance at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, California where Jerry headlines his close-up magic act twice a year; an act he has performed for decades. He is considered a legend at the Magic Castle for his unique brand of sleight-of-hand magic.

January 2007 Jerry was among the faculty presenters at *The Amazing Meeting 5*, in Las Vegas, Nevada – an annual conference of skeptics and scientists hosted by the James Randi Educational Foundation. Jerry was frequently invited to appear at TAM and other conferences, such as Cal Tech, where he brought his optical illusions to delight and confound attendees. Jerry died August 26, 2007, a few weeks after his final appearance as a faculty presenter at the *Skeptics Toolbox* conference in Eugene, Oregon. He cherished the wonder of science and appreciated the good in humanity until the day he died.

The documentary unfolds in three acts: The Man - Jerry's early years and his development as a humanist, independent thinker, and as a fanatically honest person. The Mind – The creative genius, inventor of unique optical illusions and magic tricks; all designed to explain the cognitive science operating unconsciously within our wonderful human brains. Lastly, the Magic – Jerry's performance as a master sleight-of-hand magic; including interviews with professional performing magicians with insights as to why magic is able to confound and delight us all. Interspersed throughout the film are readings of Jerry's poetry and philosophy.

Filmmaker Bios

Andrus is Robert Neary's first professional documentary feature film. Robert has made several small productions back in the early days when film editing was accomplished with scissors and glue. A member of several skeptic and free-thinker organizations, such as *Oregonians for Science and Reason* and the *Skeptics Society*, Robert took on the project of telling the Jerry Andrus story from the skeptic's perspective. Robert lives in Corvallis, Oregon, with his wife Nancy.

Tyson Smith directed and edited his first feature film, *The Sexy Chef*, then later his second independent film, *Monday Night Gig*. Tyson is also an award-winning graphic designer and works as a freelance illustrator. A partial list of clients includes the Wall Street Journal, New York Daily News, Nike, Wizards of the Coast, HP, Nickelodeon, Golf Digest, and many other nationally-distributed magazines and newspapers. He currently resides in Portland, Oregon, with his wife, Laura and son Beckett.

Skeptical Media

Located in Corvallis, Oregon, Skeptical Media LLC is a film production company formed to produce the documentary about Jerry Andrus. The company has plans for other projects involving science, critical thinking and skepticism of paranormal and non-scientific beliefs.

Credits

Producer / Director – Robert Neary
Producer-Cinematography – Tyson Smith

Original Musical Score by
Boone Johnson – Aural Produce
www.auralproduce.com

Additional Music By:
Tylor Neist

Film Editors / Graphics:
Tyson Smith, Laura Smith

Location Sound:
Nancy Neary
Keith Kendrick

William Switzer

Key Grip – William Switzer

Sleight-of-Hand Titles:
Reed McClintock, Magician
Rodrick Rogers, Magician

Special Thanks:
George Andrus
Barry Brilliant
John Dearing
Duane Duvall
Ray Hyman
Andre Kole
Reed McClintock
Ken Magee
Patrick Martin
Barbara “Kitty” Mervine
Evelyn Mervine
Scot Morris
Loren Pankratz
James “Amazing” Randi
Rodrick Rogers
Michael Shermer
Jamy Ian Swiss

The Magic Castle, Hollywood CA.
The staff of the James Randi Educational Foundation
Linda Shallenberger and Hal Bidlack
The Skeptics Society
Oregonians for Science and Reason
Corvallis Secular Society
Portland Society of Magicians
Society of American Magicians, Assembly 59
Corvallis da Vinci Days Festival
Albany Senior Center
Albany History Museum
The Skeptics Tool Box
Powell's Bookstore, Portland Oregon
The Hotel Vintage Plaza, Portland Oregon

Additional production assistance provided by:
Keith Kendrick
John and Jan Lahr
Kara Neary

Nancy Neary
William Switzer

Archival footage supplied by the Internet Moving Images Archive
(at archive.org) in association with Prelinger Archives

Andrus archival footage courtesy of Barry Brilliant
www.jerryandrus.org

Magic Castle archival footage courtesy of:
Rodrick Rogers

Additional archival photography courtesy of:
Michael Roth
Dwight Vance

Production Stills:
Tyson Smith

Stills:

