

Spellbound 2002



BWA



WELCOME



Spellbound 2002



It was a dark and stormy night. Heavy clouds, amassing in the east and west, had finally locked horns. Lightning flashed, rain lashed down and thunder roared. One particular fork of lightning struck a gnarled and ancient tree, causing it to burst into flames. The flickering light illuminated a trio of black and midnight hags, clustered around a cauldron. The head witch stopped feeding the simmering brew for a moment and, screeching to the heavens in a sharp and eldritch voice, decried: "When shall the BVA meet again?"

The answer is, tonight. Yes, for one night of the year and one night only, wizards, witches and warlocks, dark foul familiars and underlings, BVA members and home entertainment illusionists will gather from the far-flung corners of the globe, from each of the five dimensions, from the realms of magic and mystery, to celebrate the worlds of DVD and video.

For 22 years, the BVA has held fast to the magical secrets of its industry: keepers of the wonder and magic that brings entertainment into the home by means of a small electronic box and a large televisual display contraption, or perhaps a new-fangled projector.

Using a crystal ball to peer into the past and scry into the future, your high priestess of video entertainment and mistress of the moving image, Madame Lavinia, asks you to help celebrate the arcane mysteries that secure the magic of movies for generations past, present and future...



Welcome my pretties

W

ith tears of damsel, fur of bumblebee and undiluted extract of sponsorship, the BVA has concocted an evening of temporal delights to attract the peoples of the video industry. Some come bearing silver trophies and some come sporting black or brightly coloured costumes, all ready for a night of gaiety not seen in the four seasons since last we gathered.

Many have invoked the gods in their quest for eternal merriment. The BVA is content to deliver you a potion of ephemeral pleasures to lift your spirits, but we too have our fairy godparents to thank for the blessings they have bestowed.

Effigies of these benign beings are to be found throughout this book of spells – symbols of their generosity towards the industry. They bare strange and wonderful epithets, which belie the mundane but essential nature of their offerings at this out-of-world congregation. What can these mysterious names signify? AGI, Cinram, PPC, Sony DADC, VDC, Discronics, Sonopress, Warner Music Manufacturing... Ah, music – now there's a clue.

The ingredients for a successful potion are simple to conjure up, if you are acquainted with the desires of earthly creatures:

- Autumnal fruits and vegetables, plucked at the point of ripeness
- Herbs from dew-soaked meadows, dried by the lengthening sunbeams of the day

- Sacrificial lambs to feed hungry masters of home entertainment
- Oriental spices to enhance the flavours
- Skin and juice of grape, fermented and bottled to produce intoxicating liquors
- Mystical sounds to enchant and lure guests from their tables and into the enchanted circle. There, bodies will disport and lights flash, illuminating contorted faces. Frames and limbs will fly with wild abandon, in a ritual not performed these last four seasons.

What draws such an assortment of creatures to this moonlit site, to this central London park, to this vast owl-encircled canopy? Who inspires this excited, exotic behaviour?

According to folklore, this is a rite observed religiously, even fervently, after every autumn equinox. It lasts until the early hours, when revellers fade away or find themselves back in their beds by dawn.

Why, it's a manifestation and celebration of successful partnerships and fruitful marriages, between providers of home entertainment, the producers of the carriers of this fare, those who deliver it to the marketplace and the vendors to the public, who transport it to their dwellings for consumption, amusement, edification, diversion and enlightenment.

This is no event for the feint of heart. It is a festivity known as the BVA Annual Party.

Lavinia Carey
Director General of the BVA



THE FORCE AND THE FANTASY

At this juncture, two factors catapulted magic back into the movies. First, two Wisconsin wargame fans invented a game involving dice and plenty of fantasy role-play. Dungeons & Dragons took off in 1976 and was a phenomenon through the 1980s. Second, there was that blockbuster space fantasy, Star Wars (George Lucas, 1977). The film gave Arthurian magic and adventure a sci-fi twist as, to all intents and purposes, Obi Wan Kenobi was Merlin. It's no wonder then, that only a few years later, Excalibur (John Boorman, 1981) was a huge video smash.

Once again, magic became mainstream family entertainment. Film makers, such as Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, Tim Burton, Terry Gilliam and Jim Henson, brought magic to a new generation in films such as Willow (Ron Howard, 1988) and Labyrinth (Jim Henson, 1986). Fittingly, Return To Oz (Walter Murch, 1985) brought the original witch back to the big screen, this time with Willow's Jean Marsh as the evil Princess Mombi. The film's other star, Fairuza Balk, also went on to star in The Worst Witch (Robert Young, 1986), a charming film about a school for witchcraft and – it could be argued – a precursor to Harry Potter.

RE-ANIMATION

Just as Hammer had carved its own niche in the 1960s and 70s, so the success of the Manga blockbuster Akira (Katsuhiro Ôtomo, 1988) paved the way for a new cult. Manga's Japanese animation films (anime) are steeped in a mixture of fairytales magic, Japanese tradition and sci-fi futurism. The results, in films like Doomed Megalopolis: The Haunting Of Tokyo (Ôz Toei, 1991) and Wicked City (Yoshiaki Kawajiri, 1987), are totally unique.

THE WITCH RULES

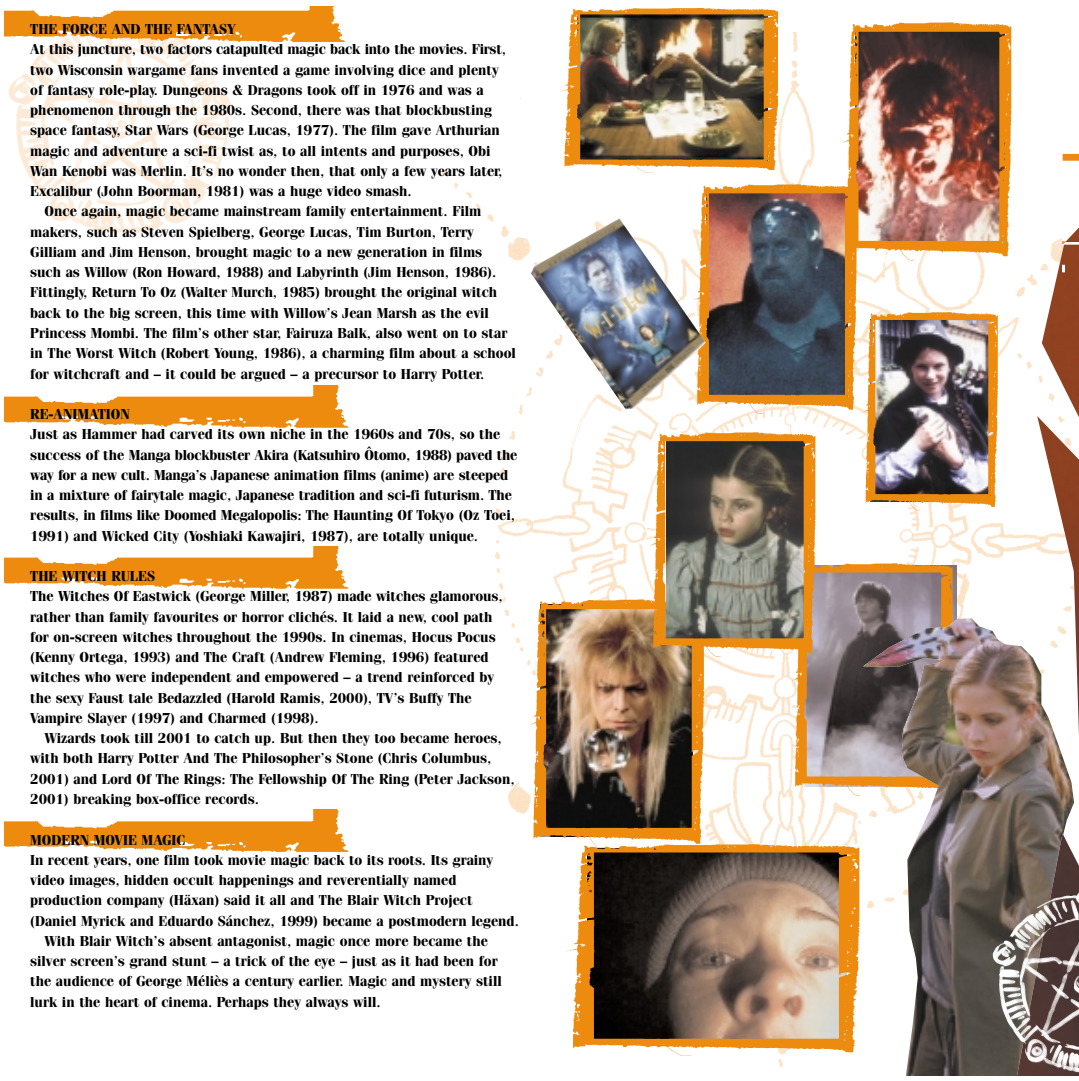
The *Witches of Eastwick* (George Miller, 1987) made witches glamorous, rather than family favourites or horror clichés. It laid a new, cool path for on-screen witches throughout the 1990s. In cinemas, *Hocus Pocus* (Kenny Ortega, 1993) and *The Craft* (Andrew Fleming, 1996) featured witches who were independent and empowered – a trend reinforced by the sexy Faust tale *Bedazzled* (Harold Ramis, 2000), TV's *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* (1997) and *Charmed* (1998).

Wizards took till 2001 to catch up. But then they too became heroes, with both *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone* (Chris Columbus, 2001) and *Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring* (Peter Jackson, 2001) breaking box-office records.

MODERN MOVIE MAGIC

In recent years, one film took movie magic back to its roots. Its grainy video images, hidden occult happenings and reverentially named production company (Häxan) said it all and *The Blair Witch Project* (Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez, 1999) became a postmodern legend.

With Blair Witch's absent antagonist, magic once more became the silver screen's grand stunt – a trick of the eye – just as it had been for the audience of George Méliès a century earlier. Magic and mystery still lurk in the heart of cinema. Perhaps they always will.

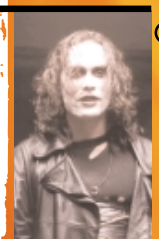


Hexed. jinxed. Cursed!

It's not just a mummy's tomb that carries a curse – all manner of magical movies have fallen foul of mysterious circumstances. Here are just a few...

The Crow (Alex Proyas 1994)

James O'Barr's dark urban fairytales – about a man's magical, revenge-driven return from the grave – has since become a modern myth in movie curse history, following the tragic death of its young star Brandon Lee. In the early morning of 31 March 1993, on the last day of shooting scenes, Brandon Lee was accidentally shot by a 'dummy' round, freakishly lodged in the barrel of the prop gun and fired out by the blank used in the scene. Brandon died only a few hours later, and is now buried in Lake View Cemetery next to his father, the ill-fated martial legend Bruce Lee, who died at the age of 32 of a brain edema, caused by an abnormal reaction to painkillers he'd been prescribed for back pain.



The Craft

2 At the film's final location, Leo Carrillo State Beach, both cast and crew were subject to some truly spooky happenings. At midnight, the beach became very foggy, just as the four actresses used their Wiccan invocation chants. As Fairuza Balk began her chant to invoke Manon (a fictitious name but one that sounds like Mananann, the Gaelic god of the sea), the tide suddenly rose, putting out all of the candles on the beach. Director Andrew Fleming says, "Each time the girls started the ceremony, and only when they would start the ceremony, the waves would start coming up tremendously fast. Then, just when Nancy said: 'Manon, fill me,' right at that exact moment, we lost power. It was a very strange thing."



The Family

The ultimate in cursed magic movies. Several people died during production and the set burnt down, delaying production for six weeks. Chaos ensued as the schedule for principal photography doubled, and the budget rocketed, while Director William Friedkin developed a habit of firing guns on set. As things got ever more bizarre, rumours began to spread that the head-turning scene was for real. And the film's troubles didn't end with its release – it was denounced as heresy by the Catholic Church, and screenings saw the audience having fits, vomiting, and becoming hysterical – there was even one reported miscarriage. But, no doubt, its infamy helped the film become a massive success.



THE WOLF

Even cinema's most wicked witch was not immune from a little ill fortune. As actress Margaret Hamilton made her cackling farewell from Munchkinland during a rehearsal, the fire effect took on a life of its own and, due to the copper oxide in her green make-up, almost burnt the witch to a crisp. Margaret's stunt double, Betty Danko, fared no better. Waiting under a pit from which the witch emerges in Munchkinland, Danko found her pointed hat flattened by dance director, Bobby Connolly, when he fell on her from a height. More seriously, during the witch's sign-writing scene, the pipe used to get the smoke effect exploded, blowing the actress off her broomstick and into a hospital bed for two weeks.



The black magic movie recipe

Enjoy a traditional supernatural shocker as part of your taste-free movie diet any time of the day or night. But remember, whenever and wherever you indulge, someone – or something – is watching...



HOW TO CONCOCT YOUR VISUAL BREW

Preparation time: Several weeks
Cooking time: Two hours

Ingredients:

- 2 scantily clad virgins (willingness to investigate strange noises a plus)
- 1 large, dark woodland (if no fresh ones are available, substitute with a graveyard)
- 1 ominous warning picked from a wise elder
- 1 sassy, counter-culture female teenager (ask your supplier for one with strange powers and a penchant for black nail varnish)
- 1 brooding male (escaped psychotic patient if in season, otherwise a troubled loner)
- 1 handful of run-down houses (preferably ones with dark attics and outhouses)
- 1 pinch of eerie silence
- 2-3 discordant violins
- 1 unseen haunting presence
- 1 liberal sprinkling of special effects
- Gallons of claret

1. Dip one of the virgins into a swimming gala or similar event where near nudity is a prerequisite. While still damp, place in woodland/graveyard and add counter-culture teenager – against her will if possible. Mix in the elder's warning and beat into a fine purée.

2. In a separate bowl, blend the brooding male with the run-down houses until smooth. Place a wet (ideally bloodstained) towel over the mix and leave in near-total darkness for three scenes.

3. Next, dice the special effects with a sharp knife and add to the virgin purée. Leave the knife wherever it's likely to prove most murderous. Add the eerie silence and the violins, and wait for the silence to rise to the top. Strain in the haunting presence and let it run riot.

4. Blend together the virgin purée with the loner and run-down houses mix. Season with the special effects and the remaining virgin. Submerge the mix in the claret and leave to congeal.

5. Strain all the ingredients into an editing suite and allow to settle. Cook over a low production budget for 90 minutes to two hours, increasing resources slightly for the last 10 minutes to ensure the movie is done to perfection.

6. Garnish with credits and marketing hype and serve immediately (preferably before the critics have seen it).

7. Suffix any leftovers with sophisticated-looking Roman numerals – II, III, IV, etc, and re-serve ad infinitum...

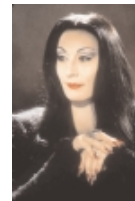


I put a spell on you

We present a small selection of witches – from both the silver and small screens – who have captivated and enslaved us...

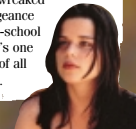
1. Anjelica Huston

As Morticia Addams in the Addams Family, Huston's husky tones set pulses racing. No one else could breathe such sexual frisson into lines such as "Don't torture yourself, Gomez. That's my job." Huston concocted a strange brew somewhere between the funeral and the downright sexy. Stylish and graceful, her lilting French cast a powerful spell and induced a slavish lust from husband Gomez. Cara Mia!



2. Neve Campbell

As school kook and mistrusted outsider, Campbell played witch-in-training, Bonnie, perfectly in 1996's The Craft. Just dark enough to be dangerous, just sassy enough to be sultry. As one of four friends, united by their 'otherness', Neve stole the show as the quartet wreaked havoc and vengeance upon their high-school cliques. Well, it's one way to get out of all that homework.



3. Alyson Hannigan

In Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Willow graduated from high-school computer geek to don't-mess-with-me Wiccan extraordinaire. While Hannigan made even the bookish version somehow seem sexy, it was only when the magic brought out the vamp in her that she truly shone. Then it was all black leather, heavy with the mascara and on with the all-black contact lenses – sexy to some! Extra passion was added by her first love, Oz, being a werewolf, and her second love being the white witch Tara. Alyson played it both ways again by managing to be both vulnerable and all-powerful.



4. Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman

There's a little witch in every woman, said the poster for 1998's Practical Magic. If being a witch means being anything like the willowy and sensual Gillian Owens (played by Kidman), menfolk must wish there was more witchcraft going around. As the fiery half of a pair of sisters (the other being the quieter but no-less sexy sister Sally, portrayed by Bullock), Gillian used her powers wantonly. And amen to that.



5. Elizabeth Montgomery

With no more than an endearing twitch of her button nose, Montgomery's domestic goddess, Samantha Stephens, could get herself in and out of an awful lot of kitchen-sink dramarama. Hubby Darrin – or 'Derweed' to Sam's scary mother Endora – was usually at the heart of the action.



6. Cassandra Peterson

Peterson, as the vampish Elvira, started life as an in-your-face TV show presenter. Saucy one-liners and a Dolly Parton cleavage, however, soon gave rise to a movie, 1989's Elvira Mistress Of The Dark. Here, the Queen Of Screem wrought havoc in a small New England town with her dress sense, attitude and countless sexual references.



Burn witch burn!

Real-life witches still walk among us, and have done so for centuries. But, broomstick or no, they haven't had an easy ride...

For 250 years, fear of witches raged throughout Europe. The Catholic Church was at the root of most trials and accusations of witchcraft. In those days, everyone expected the Spanish Inquisition.

But 1664's trials in Lindheim, Germany, had nothing to do with them, and everything to do with the personal grudges of a bailiff named Georg Ludwig Geis – the prosecutor and also, handily enough, the judge.

Geis persecuted the Schüler family, whose possessions he'd long coveted, trying and sentencing mother Martha, and imprisoning husband Johannes in a tall witchtower. The town's vicar, Konrad Hölker, helped Johannes to escape and get help from higher authorities. Sadly, while Johannes was away, Geis sentenced Martha to death and she was burnt in the witchtower on 23 February 1664.



However, with the help of Johannes and Hölker, the people of Lindheim stood against Geis and sentenced him to death. But fate intervened, as Geis was thrown from his horse just days before his execution.

Johannes and Hölker left Lindheim, but some 30 years later, Hölker had good news to record in his churchbook, as the lifelong friends became family. The entry simply read: "Married Oct. 17th, JOHANNES SCHÜLER (JR), son of Lindheim's former Miller and ANNA BARBARA, daughter of mine, Vicar of Lindheim." Aww!

THE CRUCIBLE MEETS CRUFTS
America's most infamous witch-hunt was also the subject of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. These events occurred between June and September 1692 in the small town of Salem, Massachusetts. Hundreds of villagers found the finger of puritan blame aimed directly at them. 19 were found guilty of witchcraft, taken up to Gallows Hill and hanged.

These poor souls were children and old people – anyone unfortunate enough to find themselves close to the source of the supposed demonic possessions, a West African slave named Tituba. Even the town's dogs weren't immune. Two malcontent mutts – believed to be accomplices to witches – were hounded from the witness stand.

STIFF UPPER WITCH

Britain's last witchcraft trial was one of the most bizarre. During World War II, housewife Helen Duncan supplemented her income by conducting seances and informing worried wives about their soldier husbands.

One night, Helen's seance was attended by a plain-clothes policeman who arrested her for vagrancy. On trial at the Old Bailey, it was revealed that Helen had foreseen the outcomes of several naval battles months before they were announced. A jittery establishment changed their charges. Under 1735's Witchcraft Act Helen was convicted as a witch and sent to Holloway Prison for nine months.

But this spooky tale has an even stranger conclusion. Helen found a powerful friend in the new prime minister, Winston Churchill, who is said to have paid frequent visits to her cell. Seven years after her release, the 1735 Witchcraft Act was finally repealed. Could it be that Churchill was making amends?



The real McCoy

Going round naked, riding bicycles and conjuring up available car parking spaces is all in a day's work for a real-life witch...

There's a lot of funny old notions attached to witches: cavorting with the devil, dancing naked around fires – that kind of thing. And, strangely enough, one of these notions actually does hold true.

"We jump flames," says Kate West, 45, who has been practising witchcraft for over 25 years. "and, if it's a large bonfire, then no, we don't wear clothes, as we don't want to incinerate ourselves!"

Jumping over a flame or fire is a symbol of purification. Traditionally, it happens at Beltane – a festival that celebrates the height of spring. Now that's got the sensationalist aspect out of the way, we can get down to the nitty gritty, like what is witchcraft and how do you get into it? For Kate, it's a three-fold affair: religion, ritual and magic. It's a religion, because witches believe in the divine; it's a ritual, because there are practices that follow the seasons and the cycles of the moon; and it's magic – your honest-to-goodness spells.

And as for how you get into it, it's more the other way around – witchcraft gets into you. "I was at school when comparative religions were the 'in' thing to teach," says Kate. "I found orthodox religions very patriarchal, and they didn't meet my spiritual needs."

Kate had questions, such as where is the goddess that goes with the god? What about

the cycles of the moon and the sun? She wasn't alone. "In my teens I discovered there were other people that sought these beliefs, and that the faith that encompassed this was called witchcraft – one of a group of pagan religions that pre-dates Christianity," she says.

Anyone can learn witchcraft, though some take to it more easily than others. "It's a bit like learning to ride a bike. Some people have a natural balance and some people take a few months to crack it," says Kate. But, as long as you accept the principals of the craft, you too can become a witch and work the magic.

"The best spells are the ones you make up yourself, because you're putting your personal energies into it, plus you're making sure it is meaningful to you as an individual," she says.

Of course, there are hundreds of books on witchcraft and magic. Kate is author of a few herself, such as *The Real Witches' Handbook*, *The Real Witches' Book Of Spells* and *The Real Witches' Kitchen*.

"There are people who will take the printed page and use it like a cookery recipe," says Kate, "but it doesn't work like that. The power and the energy, the focus and the intent have to come from within."

Typically, most spells that Kate is asked to cast are about healing. All good stuff, as the dark side is strictly out of bounds. "You do get the odd teenager wanting to work the love magic, but I have very strict guidelines on that,"



she says. Anything that interferes with someone else's freedom of will, anything that can potentially harm someone else is a definite no-no. "So, a 'make John love me' spell is well out the window," she adds.

But, these guidelines won't stop a good witch from hedging her bets, and it's amazing what a spot of sorcery can come in handy for. "When I'm pushed for time, and driving, and I need a parking space, then I'll formulate the magic so that, when I get to where I'm going, there's a space," she admits.

Now in London, that really would be magic!

War of the witches!

Film and TV's infamous witches and wizards do battle for magical supremacy. And, in the words of Highlander: "There can be only one..."

ROUND 1



Merlin vs Mickey Mouse

Folklore love versus Disney hynipin in his stint as the Sorcerer's Apprentice. Merlin put a king on the throne of England and forged The Round Table. Mickey, meanwhile, made a magical mess of shirking on his chores – all to a classical score by Paul Dukas. KO Mickey.



Winnie vs Miss Ernst

Bette Midler's Winnie and her Hocus Focus cohorts returned from the dead, camped it up for Halloween and rode round on vacuum cleaners. Anjelica Huston's witch in The Witches turned children into mice, and was a far more vampish affair. Huston, we have a winner!



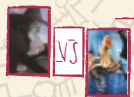
Harry Potter vs The Wizard Of Oz

Star pupil at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft And Wizardry, Harry Potter triumphed over evil Lord Voldemort. The Oz wizard wasn't a magician at all, but a sideshow entertainer, ventriloquist and balloonist from Omaha, Nebraska, who wound up in Oz by accident. Potter wins.



Gandalf vs Catweazle

Gandalf, servant of the Secret Fire, scourge of Sauron, hero of Middle Earth. Catweazle: gangly, inept, medieval wizard, transported to 1970's England, with nowt but a toad for company. Gandalf wouldn't even break sweat.



Wicked Witch Of The West vs The Witches Of Eastwick

Alex, Jane and Sukie take on The Wizard of Oz's cackling harridan – commander of winged monkeys and doer of nasty things to munchkins. Wicked witch wins for looking, well, more witchier than they.



Prue vs Mad Madame Mim

In TV's Charmed, three sisters seek to fulfil a magical prophecy. Being the most powerful sister, it's Prue who gets to tackle the "marvellous, magnificent, magical, mad Madame Mim". Mim loses. She's just a cartoon!



Willow vs Sabrina

High-school nerd turned Wiccan goes against teen witch with talking cat. In Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Willow takes on demons, warlocks and Hell Gods. Sabrina The Teenage Witch, meanwhile, worries about boys and conjures spells to help her with her chores and, umm, boys. Go Willow!



Samantha vs Gillian

In Bewitched, Sam Stephens renounces magic in favour of a domestic life. In Practical Magic, Beryl Gillian Owen doesn't really care about the consequences of her craft till she gets sister Sally into trouble. Naughty Gillian loses!

QUARTER FINALS



VS



Merlin vs Miss Ernst

Wizard, wiseman, prophet, priest and druid. The Tales of Merlin are many. What chance does the dark-haired Ernst have against he who forged a king, conjured the dragon's breath and united the land? OK, so she looks good in a black dress, but a mouse still thwarted her. Yay for Merlin!



VS

Gandalf vs Harry Potter

Little Harry Potter has amazing powers and a knack for getting himself out of tight scrapes. But, ask yourself this: Could you see Harry standing on a stone bridge, over a bottomless chasm, below, "You shall not pass!" at the top of his voice to a fiery demon five-times taller? No, nor can we. Back of the class, Potter.



VS

Prue vs Wicked Witch Of The West

Posthumous award, this, as both are dead – Prue at the hands of an evil demon, the Wicked Witch at the hands of Dorothy and a bucket of water. Well, how was she to know that water killed witches? But this is the realm of magic and both could come back at any time. Prue wins on account of her ability to have a bath.



VS

Willow vs Samantha

Willow has conjured spells of darkness and light. She's imprisoned demons, returned a vampire's soul and even brought best-mate Buffy back from the dead. Domestic goddess, Sam, twinkled her nose in a cute little way, occasionally used magic to solve kitchen-sink dramas and never quite worked up the courage to tell bull-s--- mother, Endora, where to go. Willow wins again!

SEMI FINALS



Gandalf vs Merlin

Merlin, rumoured son of an angel and a nun; Gandalf, energy-made matter, created by supreme beings to safeguard the world. At first glance this pair seem evenly matched. But, whereas Gandalf faced off foe after foe and lived a long and healthy life, Merlin succumbed to the charms of The Morgana and disappeared off the face of the Earth. Did he die? Was he imprisoned in glass forever? Both stories are said to be true. Unlucky in love, Merlin, and unlucky here. Gandalf goes through.



Willow vs Prue

Witchy Willow was the only member of Buffy's infamous Scooby gang with enough clout to take on evil Goddess, Glory – she levitated into the immortal one's lair, bearing a big bag of knives, and lived to tell the tale. Alter-ego, Alison Harrigan, could also do wicked things with a flute, but that was in American Pie. Prue Halliwell, you died, your alter-ego (Shannen Doherty) was a Beverly Hills 90210 brat and you share your surname with a former Spice Girl. Not good. Prue, it's over. You're out!

THE FINAL



VS



Willow vs Gandalf

Buffy's sidekick got addicted to the dark side, went seriously off the rails and damn near destroyed the world, goddamit! Saved at the eleventh hour by the love of a good friend, she swore off the magic forever. Gandalf, on the other hand, never gave into temptation and even fought off the corrupting power of the greatest magical ring ever made. In this battle, there can be only one outcome...

Turn to page 51 to find out the winner >

It is your destiny

The Tarot Cards predict that you will have these answers to the following questions...

Questions:

- 1: What's your favourite magic-themed video?
- 2: What is the most memorable magic moment of your career?
- 3: If you could be a famous witch or wizard, who would you be?
- 4: You've been granted one wish. What is it?
- 5: If you had one magical power, what would you want it to be?



Louise Dearden – Editor of Timecode

- 1: Jamie And The Magic Torch
- 2: Meeting Richard Gere and realising we're practically the same height
- 3: Grobags
- 4: Not to get drunk at this year's BVAs
- 5: To make the sales assistants at Prada believe that I've already paid

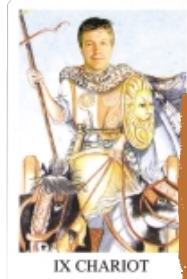


David Simmons – Managing Director, Macrovision UK Ltd

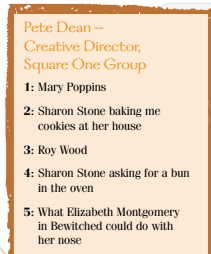
- 1: Big
- 2: Finally deciding to retire
- 3: Sooty
- 4: Leicester City to get back into the Premiership
- 5: The power of healing

Paul Basford – Managing Director, MRIB

- 1: Excalibur – a gullible Arthur, a magnificent Merlin and a drop-dead gorgeous Morgana
- 2: A tremendous through ball to Tony, our Content Editor, in the HMV charity five-a-sides, which resulted in a scorching goal!
- 3: Harry Potter's Professor McGonagall – anyone who can turn into a cat is top in my book
- 4: My own island in Bali with a T1 connection to the world
- 5: To create 'Groundhog' weekends



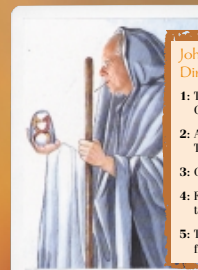
IX CHARIOT



BEASTS

Pete Dean – Creative Director, Square One Group

- 1: Mary Poppins
- 2: Sharon Stone baking me cookies at her house
- 3: Roy Wood
- 4: Sharon Stone asking for a bun in the oven
- 5: What Elizabeth Montgomery in Bewitched could do with her nose



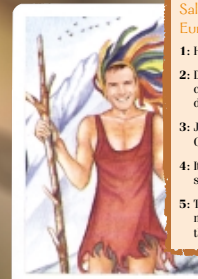
XIV HERMIT

John Hayward – Editorial Director, HEW

- 1: The Escape Artist (1982), starring Griffin O'Neale
- 2: Attending the World Premiere of The Lord Of The Rings.
- 3: Catweazle
- 4: For Bleeding Edge HQ to relocate to Barbados
- 5: To be able to teleport home, instantly, from the pub at closing time

Stefan Demetriou – DVD Product Manager, EMI Music

- 1: Jamie And The Magic Torch
- 2: Getting first job at EMI
- 3: Ron Weasley
- 4: To play for West Ham Utd
- 5: Flying. Anything to avoid London Underground



VII FOOL

Paul Chesney – VP DVD Sales and Marketing, Europe Disctronics

- 1: Highlander
- 2: Dressing up as a Disney character in the LA theme park during an induction programme
- 3: Jack Nicholson in The Witches Of Eastwick
- 4: It involves Kylie. I'm not going to say any more
- 5: To be able to go back in time to moments in my life and relive them, knowing what I know now



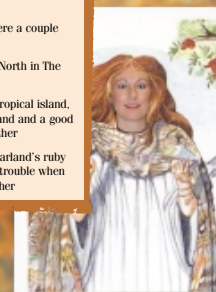
BIRDS

Tim Murray – Editor, RRP Magazine

- 1: David Blaine – one of the nicest blokes I've ever interviewed and a true genius.
- 2: It would involve Robert Callow, Riverdance, the Sony lot in LA and about 5,000 people
- 3: Either Wizard in Taxi Driver, or anyone in that Harry Potter malarkey
- 4: It would include words such as family, friends, happiness, health, Millwall, punk rock and acid house
- 5: The power to never be late again. Ever

Amanda Wells – Editor of View

- 1: The Wizard Of Oz
- 2: Going to my first premiere a couple of years ago
- 3: The Good Witch Of The North in The Wizard Of Oz
- 4: To be transported to a tropical island, with a cocktail in one hand and a good man eating out of the other
- 5: I'd love a pair of Judy Garland's ruby shoes, to get me out of trouble when I clicked the heels together



XXI PRIESTESS

Peter Dodd – Editor, HEW

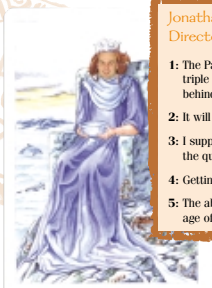
- 1: The Lord Of The Rings
- 2: Having Murray Walker commentate on a stock car race I was in
- 3: Gandalf, natch
- 4: To have a wish whenever I want one
- 5: The ability to rise above everything



XVII EMPEROR



II SUN



FISHES

Which witch are you?

Are you a cackling, foul and midnight hag; a heroic vision in shining white; or a plain and ordinary Joe? Find out in our spellbinding quiz...

1 If you could choose one main magical ability, would it be...

A. The power to hurl bolts of lightning and rain fiery death down upon all those who do you harm, who annoy the hell out of you, or who you generally just don't like the look of – thereby blasting them into a thousand burnt fleshy pieces.

B. The ability to heal and soothe, to bring about world peace, harmony and tranquility so that – wherever you go – your immediate environment echoes with love and goodwill.

C. Dunno really. The power to get the shopping done – without having to traipse around the supermarket on a cold and windy Thursday night, after a hard day at work – would be nice. But then there's the Internet for that kind of thing, isn't there?

3 You are given an object of great magical power but are told that, if you use it, the energy will be too great and will corrupt you for ever. Would you...

A. Use it to bring the entire world under your dominion, laying waste to the land, enslaving all of the earth's peoples and bending them to your own malevolent will, creating a thousand years of darkness and torment.

B. Try your best to do good things – little by little and in lots of small ways – using the power for only the briefest of moments, forever hoping that what good you can bring to your friends, family and all of God's little fluffy creatures will outweigh the harm it could be doing to yourself.

C. Give it to Oxfam.

2 The object of your desire doesn't know you from Merlin or Morgana. How would you get them to fall in love with you?

A. By casting a spell, making your desired one blind, deaf and dumb to any charms other than your own. You could then kidnap and hold them love hostage until they've given up the will to live, so making them your pliable passion slave for ever – or at least until you're bored.

B. By enchanting them with your wonderful, witchy skills – producing from your wand fireworks and a feast fit for a king. Then you could promise to love them forever, marrying them in a fairy forest and making vows before all the spirits of the air, earth, fire and water.

C. Do nothing – if they don't love you now, they never will and there's plenty more fish in the sea. Now, what's on the television?

4 You're after a new familiar – an animal accomplice that will be on hand to offer help and sage advice. Would you choose...

A. A thick-set, midnight-black Doberman – a foul and savage beast with breath wafting in from the Ninth Circle of Hell and teeth as sharp as jagged rocks; a hound of Hades with eyes like ruby gemlets and fangs dripping acid saliva.

B. A large snowy owl – a gift from the Goddess Athena herself – with soft and gentle feathers of purest white, eyes that reflect pure benignity, a wise and enquiring mind and a kind and caring temperament.

C. I had a hamster once, but it died. No more pets, thank you very much.

5 Your idea of the perfect home is...

A. An imposing gothic castle – fronted by huge, impenetrable cast-iron gates – set on a brooding cliff top, with the howl of the wind competing against the wailing of Banshees, and a sheer drop down to a cold and soulless ocean.

B. A country cottage, set in a leafy forest – with thatched roof, wooden doors, birds singing, squirrels jumping through the tree tops, butterflies skimming around pretty flowers and a herb garden for producing homemade healing salves and ointments.

C. 27 Nelson Mandela House, Peckham.

7 Your preferred way to mix a magical spell would be...

A. With a big black cauldron, full of foul ingredients, bubbling away insidiously and emitting a noxious green gas.

B. A candle and some protective herbs are all you need.

C. Bung it in the microwave and count to 10 – it all tastes like cardboard anyway.

8 If you found a magic wand, would you...

A. Wave it around with demonic intent, inflicting volcanic boils and pustulating sores on the faces and hands of anyone within reach.

B. Grant wishes, send princesses to the ball, turn mice into coachmen and generally make the world a better place.

C. Go find another one and order up some Chinese.

6 Your favourite curse is...

A. Hubble bubble, toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble. North wind blow and find my foe, for bitter seeds he will sow.

B. Spirits of kindness, angels of light, banish the darkness and ease our plight. Fairies and pixies come to our aid, do battle with demons, so we aren't afraid.

C. I've told you once and I won't tell you again. Now bugger off!

The results:

Mostly As

You is bad to the bone – a big black witch or warlock to strike terror into the very hearts of all those around you. No deed is too dark to devise, no spell too terrible to cast and no curse too awful to utter. When you sweep past, babies cry, milk curdles and children scatter. You bristle with power, menace and evil intent. You've been known to cackle menacingly to yourself and rub your hands together when misfortune befalls others. But it'll end in tears – after all, absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Mostly Bs

More Wicca than wicked, you use what powers you have only for good. You tend to be poetic and hippyish, if a little wet. In touch with nature and imbued with a positive energy and aura, your magic helps cure the sick and needy. You're kind to animals, including creepy-crawlies, and even remember to phone your mum every week. Ever fancied a stint as a fairy godmother? What a nice, kind and gentle white witch you are.

Mostly Cs

God, you're dull – more 'Muggle' than Harry Potter's step-mum and dad – and with absolutely no magical aspirations or abilities at all. The closest you've ever come to wonder is watching a Paul Daniels Christmas Special on TV. While some people find the world full of mystery and enchantment, you're happy if the buses run on time and the remote control for the video still works. Voted Most Likely To Be Turned Into A Frog 2002.

Magic Moves

Prime pieces of otherworldly real estate could make for the perfect family home. It just depends on what type of family you have in mind. First-time buyers beware...



All Hallows Eves

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry
Price: 100,000,000 Galleons

Around a thousand years old, with many original fixtures and fittings, this large, multi-faceted boarding school is charmingly situated within its own extensive grounds, with a haunted forest, large inhabited lake and whumping willow tree. Grounds keeper included. Protective spells prevent unwelcome intruders. Easy links to London King's Cross St Pancras.

Hundreds of bedrooms
Both single-sex dorm-style and private

Reception room
Great Hall, with magical ceiling that adjusts to suit the seasons

Bathrooms
In abundance, many of them haunted



Sale Agreed

The Addams Family House
Price: Going for a song – da-da-da-da, click, click

Creepy, kooky, mysterious, spooky mansion-style fixer-upper with three floors and 27 rooms, set in large grounds on a hill, overlooking a friendly neighbourhood. Patient neighbours. Own graveyard and private dungeon with playroom – including electric chair, guillotine, bed of nails and stocks. Front-gate security includes a 'Beware of Everything' sign.

Bedrooms
With wrought-iron gates

Closets
With skeletons

Conservatory
Boasting poison oak, Venus flytraps and African strangler plants



The Tower Of Orthanc
Price: One ring – one shiny, golden ring

Behold! The ancient tower of Orthanc – 'Isengard' to speakers of the Old Tongue. A dark and gleaming peak of blackened rock, wrought by the hands of man, yet seemingly riven from the bones of a tormented earth. Behold, I say! Four mighty blocks of many-sided stone that, near the summit, split into four gaping horns; their pinnacles as sharp as spear points, their sides as smooth as polished glass. An army of Orcs is at your disposal. One evil wizard – Saruman – in residence, fitted as standard. See Gandalf about removal.

Bedrooms
Aye! If ye can sleep at night

Orc nursery
Kids! Hatch and raise your own evil army

Roof terrace
Offering panoramic views of bleak and desolate landscape



Setting the Standard for the next Dimension

The Blair Witch House
Price: Your immortal soul

Charming two-storey affair, set in picturesque woodlands, a short terror-driven hike from Burkittsville, Maryland, USA. Burkittsville itself is founded on what was the former Blair Township. Rumours of a ghostly witch inhabiting the area have never been proven. Very rural and very quiet. Dead quiet. Would suit reclusive hermit or inquisitive students. Two hours' drive to Washington DC – if you ever make it out alive, that is.

Cellar
Needs renovation and possible exorcism

Totally detached
Magnetic anomaly sends compasses haywire, adding to its reclusive charm – your chance to get back to nature

Decor
The writing's on the wall



Spellbound 2002

It's just an illusion

Forget the witches and wizards of old. Real magicians walk among us today, performing spectacular feats and weaving elaborate televisual spells. Or do they? After all, they're not called illusionists for nothing...

David Blaine



David Blaine was recently in the news for standing atop a 100ft pole for 30-odd hours, then leaping off onto a pile of cardboard boxes. Previously, he encased himself, Han Solo-style, in a block of ice, and buried himself alive for a week under a Plexiglas tank filled with 4,000lbs of water. Has this bloke got a death wish or what? Blaine was born in 1973 in Brooklyn, New York, and bought his first magic trick at four. At 16, he levitated for his doctor, who quickly sent him off for an examination. When entertainment chiefs at ABC Television saw a tape of his magic, they were, allegedly, "astonished", and called him in. That meeting led to TV special, David Blaine: Street Magic – the show that kick-started his career.

David Copperfield



Copperfield doesn't do things by halves. This is the man who made the Statue Of Liberty disappear, who walked through the Great Wall Of China and levitated the Orient Express. He discovered a penchant for illusion while working in a ventriloquist's prop store and magic shop. Since then, Copperfield has won dozens of Emmys, picked up two Entertainer Of The Year awards, been honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame and has received a knighthood from the French government. Copperfield's even dated supermodel Claudia Schiffer, although the couple are now separated – after six years together, the magic simply must have worn off.

Siegfried & Roy



Animals have always held strange sway over the lives of Las Vegas illusionists, Siegfried Fishbacher and Roy Uwe. In 1951, seven-year-old Roy was saved from drowning in quicksand by half-dog, half-wolf pet, Hexe. Siegfried held his first magic show at a goat farmers' club. When Roy was 11, he hung around Bremen Zoo and befriended a cheetah named Chico by mewling at it from between the bars. The boys met in 1957, while working on an ocean liner, and were soon performing magic tricks together. Chico the cheetah joined them soon after, as did Jahmal the jaguar and Sahra the Siberian tiger. The duo's big break came at a Monte Carlo show, where they received rapturous acclaim and an invitation to Las Vegas, where they've performed for the last 30 years.

Robert Houdin



Frenchman, Jean-Eu ene Robert Houdin is credited as the 'Father of Modern Magic'. Roaming Europe in the 1840s and 50s, he was one of the first magicians to perform in public theatres instead of country fairs, street corners and marketplaces. Robert Houdin was a scientist as well as a magician, and was one of the first people to use electromagnetism in his tricks. In one trick, he used this force to ensure that a box he had commanded to stay put, did so, even when attempts were made to move it. In 1856, the French government asked him to travel to French-occupied Algeria – it was worried that Algerian magicians would encourage an uprising – where he used a similar trick to turn a strongman weak. He frightened the unwitting stooge even more by rigging the chest's handle with electricity, giving him a nasty shock.

Paul Daniels



Paul 'You'll like it, not a lot, but you'll like it' Daniels has always occupied a kitsch place in British hearts, but he's also won the much-coveted Golden Rose of Montreux trophy and has been presented with the prestigious Magician Of The Year award by Hollywood's Academy Of Magic Arts. Born in South Bank, Cleveland, Daniels took to magic at the age of 11, when he discovered a book called How To Entertain At Parties, containing an abundance of magic card tricks. One of his most spectacular illusions was at Silverstone racetrack in 1985. Paul was chained, placed in a sack, locked in a wooden box and laid out on the track. A racing car, driven by Jackie Stewart, rammed and obliterated the box at 120mph. The magician was nowhere to be seen. The car came to a halt and out stepped... Mr Paul Daniels. Magic!

Houdini



Born in Budapest in 1874, Erik Weisz took the stage name Harry Houdini (a homage to Robert Houdin) and became one of history's most famous illusionists and escapologists. His first performances were in amusement parks and 'dime museums'. Houdini quickly perfected a handcuff escape. Although he offered \$100 to anyone who could successfully cuff him, he never had to pay. Pretty soon he was escaping from all sorts of contraptions, including leg irons, coffins, straitjackets and prison cells. One of his best routines was one in which he was handcuffed, nailed inside a crate and thrown in water. His death was a tragic one. When asked if he could take a stomach blow from any man, he was hit hard, three times, before he could prepare himself and died from peritonitis on 31 October 1926 – an ominous date, as it was also Halloween!

Products Reduced

As our selection of everyday consumables proves, magic is all around us...

Vanish

Less eye of toad and wing of bat, more oxygen-based bleaching agent and non-ionic surfactant. Other magicians may be able to make tall statues and scantily clad assistants disappear with wild abandon, but can any of them send dirty marks and blemishes to the nether regions of hell? The answer is no. Stains vanish with Vanish. Hey! It's a kind of magic.



Fairy Liquid

Fairies are magical creatures that live at the bottom of your garden. This potion of theirs sits in your kitchen and is known for whisking away greasy stains from your crockery and cooking implements. Billed as a 'mild, green Fairy Liquid', it's not to be confused with that wild, green fairy liquid, absinthe. One bottle of that and you'll be seeing magical creatures all over the place!



Voodoo body spray

Not a form of Haitian witchcraft this time, but a thoroughly enchanting body spray and shower gel from Lynx by Fabergé. Allegedly "inspired by the fervour, excitement and exoticism of ritual and the power of strange magical mysteries", Voodoo will banish nasty niffs – and perhaps rejuvenate your zombie for a good few hours. Goat's blood, chicken's feet and frenetic dancing optional.



Milky Way Magic Stars

Stars are usually the stuff of fairy wands and things to wish upon – but here, according to Mars advertising, they're little nuggets of chocolate and "they're yummy for your tummy". Thank you, Joe Pasquale – you squeaky voiced comic you – for your spellbinding, not to mention grating voice-over talents on Magic Stars' commercials.



Black Magic chocolates

And what lies within that old Black Magic box? Disappointingly, it's a selection of chocolates with silly names like Continental Connoisseur and Orange Sensation, when what you really want is Coffee Cauldron and Hazlenut Hex. Still, they have the power to enslave you, to create untold amounts of dribble and to produce a wobbly blot on the stomach's landscape. Where's that Vanish?



Your terrific Top 10

Music that'll haunt you forever...

1. I Put A Spell On You Screamin' Jay Hawkins

Much covered, most recently by dance DJ and singer/songwriter Sonique. Also one of Nina Simone's more famous renditions. Neither of them wore voodoo costumes when they sung it, though Screamin' Jay did. He's the man!



2. Season Of The Witch Donovan

Donovan was hailed as Britain's Bob Dylan, which is scary enough in itself. This was a haunting little ditty with a name that became Halloween III's subtitle.

3. Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic The Police

Love song, taken from the album, Ghosts In The Machine. An anagram of Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic is 'heavenly gem is eroticist's delight'!



4. Magical Mystery Tour The Beatles

Wonderfully evocative anthem that conjures up all sorts of exotic images. Partly inspired by LSD-guru Ken Kelsey's psychedelic bus and partly by a British coach trip.

5. Voodoo Chile Jimi Hendrix

There's no doubt that, on the guitar, this man was a left-handed rock wizard. The 'chile' in Voodoo Chile is Hendrix for 'child' and not a reference to the spicy Mexican dish containing burning peppers from Hell.



6. Witchcraft Frank Sinatra

"Those fingers in my hair, that sly come-hither stare, that strips my conscience bare, it's witchcraft," Old Blue Eyes crooned, but to who? Mia Farrow? Lauren Bacall? Ava Gardner? The list is endless.

7. Black Magic Woman Santana

Beware the black magic woman. In June 2002, in the United Arab Emirates, a teacher was sentenced to four months in jail for putting a bad mojo on her former husband and his sister. That'll teach him to divorce her.



8. It's A Kind Of Magic Queen

This track made it to the UK number-three slot in March 1986. Wicca is 'a kind of magic' whose followers believe in living in harmony with, and drawing power from, Mother Nature herself.

9. Strange Brew Cream

A song about love gone bad and, in the US, also the name of a tattoo parlour, a computer store and, scarily enough, a coffee shop. Beware the cocoa mocha latte!



10. Pinball Wizard The Who

American Pat Lawlor is credited as the wizard of pinball design. Spookily, he made highly successful pinball machines to tie in with The Twilight Zone and The Addams Family.

War of the witches winner!

From page 31

Gandalf

Was there ever any doubt? Gandalf is a wizard and a half – servant of the Secret Fire and scourge of evil Lord Sauron. He bested his boss, Saruman, when Saruman went bad, broke his staff and took his place as leader of the Wizards Council. He has a sword and he's not afraid to use it. He's fought armies of the terrible, faced off demons and dark lords, come back from the dead, protected the whole of Middle Earth and generally saved the day. He even makes impressive firework displays for children and small Hobbits. Hurrah!

