



FISMTM

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

Nr. 85 – November 2020

**To all Presidents of the FISM
member-societies, and Delegates in the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the FISM**

Dear Mr. President, Dear Friend in Magic,



As a result of the current pandemic that we are suffering, the audiovisual media now at our disposition have induced a brutal boom and radical change in our lives. Like many things in life, this phenomenon has its negative and its positive effects. Our task must be to know how to select everything positive that suits us and discard the negative by using common sense and appealing to our intelligence.

It is clear that in the current circumstances, the possibility of multi-video conferences is the only tool to help us break through the barriers of the compulsory mobility restrictions set by our respective governments. Being able to hold virtual work meetings is helping in a definite way the communication and advancement in

consensual decision-making in the FISM management groups, both on the international and continental level. As in the FISM, most magic associations have developed their own virtual communication tools, providing all kinds of options to their members. From informal on-line gatherings to virtual congresses with conferences, teamwork, round tables, performance marathons and even on-line local contests. All these initiatives not only deserve our most fervent support, but we also have to encourage them, to create global communication platforms using all available means.

In this line of thinking, the newly created platform "UNITED MAGICIANS FOR THE WORLD" has been a resounding success and has served to demonstrate that we are globally united and prepared to endure the pandemic for as long as needed, each of us trying to help within our possibilities to overcome these difficult times.

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But we have to be careful with a negative effect that the current situation entails. It is what the experts call the "Cocooning effect" (Cocooning is the name given to the tendency of the individual to socialize less and less and to retire to their home which becomes their bastion).

Throughout human history, there have been pandemics with devastating effects. All the pandemics suffered have had a beginning and an end, as will happen with COVID. To think that it will never be possible to return to normality is to think that the theaters, congress centers, Olympic stadiums, shopping centers, etc. will all disappear. This catastrophic and pessimistic vision of the immediate future can only come from frustrated minds that want to take advantage of the current disconcert for their own future benefit.

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The historical trajectory of the FISM has an impressive wealth, a specific weight in the world of the art of magic and it must continue to preserve it, value it and continue to advance it, by at least keeping the same level of quality that we have now. Can anyone imagine online Olympic competitions, in different stadiums, under different conditions of the facilities? Can anyone imagine that a world magic championship can be held virtually, achieving the same degree of quality and guaranteeing conditions for equal criteria and offering the necessary possibilities for a fair competition?

It is clear that rushing into an issue of such importance would be a serious mistake that we cannot afford.

Patience, in these cases, is our best virtue to face the situation, but it does not mean sitting idly while waiting for the new normal life to return. It means being more active than ever, taking all possible actions to help the magical community not to be forgotten; to create initiatives or sponsoring initiatives that help young magicians, professional magicians or clubs with problems. We have a lot of work ahead of us as we are eagerly awaiting the end of the current calamity.

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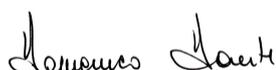
The initiative started in the last virtual congress of UMW (United Magicians for the World) has shown that the world magic community is prepared to face any situation. The selfless participation of the best magicians in the world in this audiovisual marathon, the voluntary donations to help young magicians to participate in the next WCM and the thousands of virtual followers that it has had demonstrate once again that united, we can float the globe of the world in our hands, as reflected in our FISM logo.

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The art of magic is based on interaction with the public, achieving, not only to astonish them, but also to bring out all their emotions. The art of magic is based on face to face contact, creating spontaneous reactions of the spectator. On-line performances can get pretty close to this ideal, but they can never replace the power of a live show. The theories of the great masters of magic, such as the famous "Five Points in Magic" of Juan Tamariz and the studies of Ascanio, S.H. Sharpe, Eugene Burger, Max Maven, Eberhard Riese and so many other geniuses of magic are all based on direct contact between the magician and the spectator.

Let's not lose our great heritage of Magic by losing our patience!

Kind Regards,



Domenico Dante
International President



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