



## LOCAL ILLUSIONISTS OFFER A BEHIND-THE-SCENES TAKE ON PERFORMANCE

the big box for cutting a person, flying instruments and other popular tricks. But we present them in a local style, as the presenter wears the national outfit and headdress, and we use Kuwaiti music and songs during the show, in addition to special lights," explained Saleh.

He also revealed some tricks. "I don't mind telling the secret of my tricks, as I'm not a magician - I'm just an illusionist. So when I do the disappearing trick, we manipulate the audience with light effects, and when one person disappears, another replaces him from the backstage, but they don't notice. Many people think a genie is helping us make people disappear, but they have to understand it's just an illusion," he stated.

Muharib is still a student and performs with Imagine in the evenings. He learned his tricks from the Internet, books and other shows. During this interview, he showed this reporter some quick yet very interesting tricks - one with a playing card and another with a ring he was wearing.

He wants to continue working with the team even after graduation, but he is not sure if it would be his main job or a part-time one.

Abdullah is a director and also participates in some segments of the show. He has also acted in a local soap opera. His and Khalid's family were against such shows as they thought they involved magic, which is unacceptable by religion and society. But they eventually came around, and now attend all shows.

Imagine will present a show Sept 29, 2016 at the Hmeli Theatre (previously the Medical Professions Theatre) in Jabriya. "This will be our third big show and the 17th in total. It will be the first to have live animals participating, in addition to the animal mascots that we usually use. This show will be completely different from the previous big one, as we have been preparing for it for the whole year, and have presented some parts of it at small joint shows," he added.

The upcoming show that will take place on Sept 29 will include 40 minutes of performances presented for the first time in the world - and it's a Kuwaiti idea. "The show will include Ghost Protocol, Blue Light, Khifa Show and others. The entire team that is working on this show, including those in backstage, decor, lights and other areas all are Kuwaitis," concluded Saleh.

Imagine can be found on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @ImagineKUW. They also have a website: [www.imaginekuw.com](http://www.imaginekuw.com)

