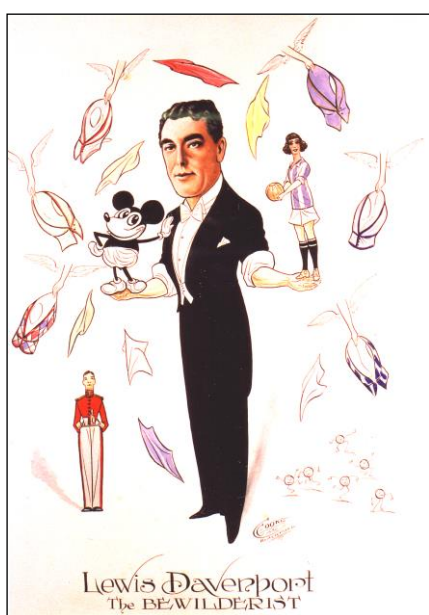


What were the main stages in Lewis Davenport's performing career?

- When Lewis started performing around 1900 he typically worked solo, starting out in the Working Men's clubs in and around the East End of London.
- In 1904 he married Julia Dwyer and they worked their way up variety theatre bills with a silent act called "The Davenports". They topped the bill at some of the theatres they visited. Unusually, Julia did some of the magic rather than just acting as an assistant. Lewis was recognised by fellow magicians as highly skilled in manipulating items such as billiard balls and thimbles.
- Julia died from tuberculosis in 1909 and Lewis performed with her brother Dave for a short time as "Les Davenports". Dave provided the comedy in this act.
- Lewis remarried in 1910 and his new wife Winifred Wynne joined the act which was now billed as "The Davenport Duo and Wynne". This act was short-lived.
- Lewis then confined his performing to the London area, generally working solo. He made many appearances at Maskelyne's Theatre, St. George's Hall. His main energy was focused on growing his magic business.



A 1920s advertising postcard

- In the early 1920s he developed an act billed as "Lewis Davenport". His assistant was his second wife who used the stage name Winifred Wynne. The act was a mixture of skilful manipulations and novel showy illusions. It featured Lewis' signature trick, the Colour Changing Waistcoats. This act was seen at No. 1 theatres including the London Coliseum, Alhambra Leicester Square and Victoria Palace.
- Lewis retired from the stage and concentrated on his magic business from the early 1930s.