

Sarlot and Eyed

ARTIST BIOS

Roland Sarlot & Susan Eyed

According to family history, Roland Sarlot's Transylvanian grandmother would go into a deep trance to read tarot cards after which took her days to recover. Roland himself first sent a girl into a hypnotic trance at a party when he was in the 8th grade. He had just read a book on hypnotism and decided to see if he had the talent for it. He did -- but the girl's deep spell scared him so much that he threw away the book and immediately decided to become a magician! Growing up in the shadow of the famous Magic Castle, a world famous private club for magicians in Hollywood, California, Roland observed and learned from the acts of such legendary magicians as Dai Vernon, Shimada and Doug Henning.

After graduating college in math and physics, Roland moved to Tucson, Arizona, where he designed scientific instruments for astronomy and semiconductor. But his passion for magic still haunted him, and eventually Roland decided to practice magic full time. He became the "house magician" for the popular resorts Canyon Ranch and Miraval, performing regularly for the spa guests.

In 2002, Roland teamed up with artist and dancer Susan Eyed to create an exciting, colorful stage show called *Dance of Illusion*.

A creative, lyrical child, Susan Eyed had visions of grandeur and dreamed of a place far away from snow banks, mud puddles and layers of tweed clothing. She longed for a sense of adventure and mystery; to explore the world with Jacques Cousteau wearing long flowing gowns under sunny blue skies.

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A Magical Journey

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Eventually, she did travel around the world and was profoundly influenced by the cultures and arts of countries such as Morocco, India, Turkey, and Senegal. When she returned from her first world tour, she studied Middle Eastern dance and performed at Arabian night clubs in Detroit and Windsor, Canada. Upon moving to Tucson, she started her own ethno-modern dance company, Hadia Sahara, or “Gift of the Desert.” Susan was the choreographer from 2001 to 2007, during which time the company also became known for creative costumes, unique dances and incorporation of non-traditional props.

When Roland and Susan first began working together, Susan assumed she would be a traditional magician’s assistant who gets in the boxes and hands the props to the magician. But this never happened -- from the beginning, Roland and Susan developed an act that built on all their talents. Susan now combines her dancing with her own magical effects which include the use of swords, daggers, fire, silk veils, and silver rings. Roland and Susan’s experiences traveling the world are displayed in the international stories, settings, costumes, and music of *Dance of Illusion*. The people who used to build Roland’s scientific instruments now build props specially designed for their magical illusions.

Together, Roland and Susan have performed from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, from Chicago to Denver, for groups ranging from a thousand Citibank employees to “the 200 most powerful women in America” to the wheelchair-bound patients at the Tucson Veteran’s Hospital. In *Dance of Illusion* they have combined their passions to create a modern magical variety show that has audiences believing in the wonder of magic again!

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