Blackstone Circus of Illusions, featuring Harry Blackstone, Jr. playing at the Schubert Theater through May 1.

It seems that everyone has been fascinated with magic at one time or another. People just naturally want to see someone do the impossible. Harry Blackstone, Jr. does just that in Blackstone’s Circus of Illusions. Blackstone has brought some fine magic to Boston for a limited engagement at the Schubert.

Blackstone is one of the most extraordinary magicians of our time. He skillfully manipulates his audience so they see anything he wants them to see. In his current show, which is an odyssey Broadway, quite convincingly presented a 31/2-ton elephant, saws a woman in half with a 36-inch buzzsaw, produces an entire stipend of Flower bouquets, levitates several objects, and performs many other quite impossible tasks.

Blackstone is a name which is well known by connoisseurs of magic. The current president’s father, The Great Blackstone, led the art of stage magic to heights never before reached. Blackstone, Jr. believes that by “building on what has gone before, of course, but attempting to modernize, innovative presentation that is very much of the present, of the future and of my own creation,” he can raise the art of magic even higher.

There are certainly signs that this is true in Blackstone’s current show, but the proof is yet to be seen.

The show suffers some from an excess of gaudiness. Blackstone has attempted to bring some Broadway-style flashiness to an art that has long has a more subdued, formal air of ceremony in its showmanship.

Making the magic more entertaining to the public, of course, a noble goal, but simply adding a chorine line and more glitter to the show neither makes it more Broadway nor more entertaining.

If Blackstone hopes to achieve his goal, he should continue to try to make his show a more unified series of skills or stories in which the magic plays a deciding role. By making his show a “Circus of Illusions,” he can try to unify the stories that he tells through his magic. It will take a little more than making the show a “circus” to make the concept work. The individual illusions, however, are performed superbly.

One of the most entertaining illusions of the evening was when Blackstone animated a borrowed handkerchief. The small square of cloth danced, jumped, and practically flew all around the stage. When Blackstone offered the handkerchief back to its owner, the owner was almost afraid to take it, it had so convincingly appeared to have become possessed.

Another superbly done illusion was Blackstone’s version of sawing a woman in half. Perhaps, though, Blackstone has taken this one just a bit too far. The more conventional version of this illusion has the woman placed safely in a large box so the audience cannot see the blades pass through her body. In the new version, however, the woman lies on the table of a 36-inch buzzsaw, and the audience clearly sees where the blade passes. If the audience can bring itself to look at the stage by the end of this illusion, happily the woman is found to be quite whole and walking around just as she was before her ordeal.

Blackstone has included one of his father’s most beautiful production routines in his show. In the “Enchanted Garden,” we are shown a stage that is bare except for a small table and a group of handsomely dressed men and women. The magician steps on and produces bouquets for everyone, flowers for the garden, a working fountain and a wide variety of silks. It is lavishly and skillfully performed.

In spite of this show’s shortcomings, Blackstone is a performer well worth seeing. He will certainly make you believe that the impossible is possible. In fact, he will prove it.

Gary S. Engelson

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**UA News**

**General Assembly Meeting Results**

Protest on this past agenda was the approval of next year’s budget. All GA reps were pleased by the strong communications now existing between Board and GA. The unanimous approved indicated a strong vote of confidence behind the new President.

In addition, a fair number of generally routine items were approved; the other major actions were the establishment of a formal Freshman Council to act as a group for class representation and leadership and friendship development during the freshman year.

The “Weamer Forum,” a series of lectures featuring close faculty-student interactions was formally charted as a memorial to retiring President Weisner by the Undergraduate student body.

Next GA Meeting

The final GA meeting of the academic year will be Wednesday, May 15, at 8pm. GA reps: note: This is not the standard Thursday meeting day. Location and agenda will be posted in the next UA News.

UA Social Committee Positions

Anyone interested in working on campus social planning next year should stop by room 401 of the Student Center and fill out an interest sheet.

SCEP meeting Tonight

The Student Committee on Educational Policy will meet tonight in the UA office N20-401 at 7:30pm. Refreshments will be served. All who are interested are welcome.

SCEP Agenda

1. CEP report
2. Academic calendar study
3. Courses and unit ratings
4. Discussion of projects for next year
5. Election of next year’s chairman

UF News

The UF News appears in The Tech in most Tuesday issues. It acts as a voice of the Undergraduate Student Body. Space is available for organizations on the above mentioned. All submissions should be sent to the UF News editor, Chris MacKenzie, on the Friday prior to the issue in which the announcement is to appear. Deliver all submissions to the UA office.

Call for Nominations

The Undergraduate Association will be presenting “Certificates of Merit” to undergraduates who have performed various services to the undergraduate community over the past year. The UA wishes to formally thank students for jobs well done.

The UA calls upon all students to nominate people who are especially deserving of these awards. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, May 9, 1980, but earlier submission is preferred. Send all nominations to the UA Awards Committee, W20-401.

Alumni Summer Jobs Program

A list of potential employers is available in the UA office for those students who left resumes for the Boston Area Alumni Summer Jobs Program. Come to the UA office Mon.-Fri. 12-5pm and ask to see the notebook.

Finance Board Results

Finance Board has completed budget compilations. Please stop by W20-401 and speak to Walt Crosby if you would like to know about next year’s budget. Everyone interested is invited to hear how their activity’s money has been allocated.

Class of 1983

Help design the Class of ’83 T-shirt! Please submit any ideas to the UA office by May 13, 1980. The winning design will be determined at a open meeting of the freshmen class on May 14 at 8pm in the UA Office. First prizes will be awarded.

IAP Policy Committee

There are still two seats open on the student-faculty IAP Policy Committee. If interested, please call Thomee Prisby, Nominations Committee chairman, at x3-2686 by Friday, May 9.

Water Skiing Meet

The MIT Water Ski Club/Team will be competing in the Northeast Intercollegiate Water Skiing Championships at Oakham, Mass. on May 110th. Experienced jumpers, trickers, and skiers should feel free to contact Mark Olsen at 5-6108 or Nick Adams at 5-6627.

Class of ‘81 — Day at the Sox

Fifty reserved bleacher seats for Saturday’s afternoon game against the Royals are available for $2, maximum of 4. Normally costing $3, the tickets are available from Mitchell Brook, 5-9634 or Lynn Radlauer, 494-9141 or x5-8614.

Alumni Association Representatives

On December 14, 1979, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association approved a resolution to allow undergraduate representatives to many national boards and committees, including the Alumni Fund Board, the Alumni Activities Board, and the Alumni House Family Committee. Among others. Please contact IAP Chuck Markham at x3-2896, W20-401 if you are interested in becoming a student representative on any Alumni Association national boards or committees.

IAP Policy Committee

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Drop By!

We look forward to a very active, fun, and fruitful year. If you’d like to get involved in any area that interests you now, over the summer, or next fall please call Chuck Markham, IAP, or Nick Adams, IAPF, at x3-2896 or drop by the UA Office, W20-401, at the 4th floor of the Student Center.