

The Magic and Mystery of

Leodini



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Compiled and written
by Leodini

The Birthday Party Planner

About the Author

Leodini is a long-time performer of magic. His program features comedy, audience participation, livestock, and small illusion suitable for platform and cabaret-type venues.

He also performs sleight-of-hand close-up magic at restaurants and occasional short mentalism routines for adult audiences in corporate venues.

A writer and public speaker, he writes magic-related posts on the Internet, marketing materials, magic routines and speeches with magic or psychic themes.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- **Champion 1996** Silk Magic Competition
- **Champion 1997** Comedy Magic Competition
- **2nd Runner Up 1998** Close-up Magic Competition
- **2nd Runner Up 1999** Close-up Magic Competition
- **2000 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Magical Performance** (Only four magicians in the entire Philippines received this award.)
- **Champion 2000** Close-up Magic Competition
- **1st Runner Up 2001** Comedy Magic Competition
- **1st Runner Up 2002** Open Category Magic Competition
- **Champion 2002** Stage & Platform Magic Competition
- **1st Runner Up 2003** Romantic Magic Competition
- **Consultant : NAKS!, GMA 7's popular magic show**
- **Champion 2006** Card Magic Competition

A Few words before we start...

Creating a memorable birthday party for your child can be a lot of work. But it can also be fun. All you need to know is a way around the dozens of details to take care of.

I wrote this handbook in the hope of helping you create on your own a special birthday party for your child. The tips in this handbook will save you time, effort and money. They are laid out for you in simple language. All you need to do is follow them step-by-step, so you aren't tangled in details.

A do-it-yourself birthday party, as opposed to one organized by a professional party planner, is definitely a work of love. It entails hard work, but your child will love you more for the extra effort you take to make his or her birthday fun and memorable.

With that end in mind, the challenges of organizing a birthday party should not daunt you. Instead, treat it as little adventure that you take with your child. Get a lot of fun and excitement out of organizing it.

If you find this ebook useful, please share it with your friends. They'll be thankful you did, but most of all I'll be forever grateful for your kindness.

Good luck and all the best.

Leodini

A crash course for the Do-It-Yourself Parents

10 tips for creating a special birthday party for your child

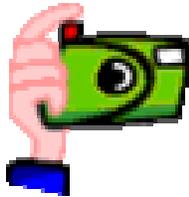
1. **Brainstorm with your child.** If your child is old enough, ask him or her what he or she would like as a theme. Share your plans with your child, so he or she will feel how special you'd like the birthday party to be.
2. **Gild the lily.** After determining the theme, select the appropriate party ware, decorations and favors to go with the theme.
3. **Draw up a program of activities.** You should know exactly what happens during the party and in what sequence. Don't wing it and expect fun to just happen by itself. Successful parties are always well planned.
4. **Your choice of entertainment will set the tone of your party.** Whether you plan to hire a Magician or a Clown Host, book early. Most good performers have filled calendars, so hire one well in advance. A good strategy is to book the Magician before you send out the invitations. A recommendation from a friend would usually be enough to help you get a good performer. A direct booking will save you some money as opposed to hiring entertainers through a booking agent.



5. **Find Helpers.** Build a team of “*alalays*” and runners to do errands for you. Dozens of details will crop up in the weeks leading to the party date. You can't handle them all

by yourself. Find some good help to avoid being stressed out.

6. **Create a festive mood.** Add flair to your sala or garden where you hold the party activities. Decorate it with balloons and streamers. Don't use helium-filled balloons, because they are flammable and may cause accidents.
7. **Make your address easy to locate.** If you hold the party in your house, decorate your gate with balloons to help guests find your house easily.
8. **Smile for the camera.** During the party, take a lot of pictures of your child, guests, activities and highlights of the party. Limit the posed shots to a minimum. Candid and action shots capture better the fun of the moment. If you have a camcorder, assign a family member to record the party on video.



9. **Childproof the party room.** If you're holding the activities in the sala, remove the TV set, antique jars and anything that is expensive and breakable. Kids have a way of ruining precious household possessions or hurting themselves with broken pieces of home articles without meaning to.
10. **Have a lot of fun.** Expect at least one child breaking a plate or glass, so you won't freak out when it does happen. Enjoy the party with your guests. Let your team of "*alalays*" do the bulk of work.

The 4-week Birthday party planner

4 weeks before the party

1. Discuss with your child your plans and choose a party theme. Pick the date and choose the time of the party. Decide on the venue and find one if you don't want to hold celebration in your house.
2. Create a guest list of your child's friends, classmates and cousins. Add your own close relatives and friends to your list.



3. Arrange for extra help of friends and relative to assist you run the activities during the party.
4. Order party supplies, decorations, party favors, activities and prizes for the games.
5. Book a magician (Please see tips on choosing a magician on page 9).

3 weeks before the party

1. Make/buy invitations and send them out. A good strategy is to ask guests to confirm, so you can get an estimate of the number of children and adults who will attend.
2. Draw up a plan of activities including a list of games to play. Determine how many prizes you have to allot for the games.

3. Plan your menu. If you prefer to order the food from a catering service, choose one now and meet with its representatives.



4. If you plan to hold the party outdoor (as in your lawn or by the swimming pool), have a back-up plan in case it rains.

1 week before the party

1. Order cake from a bakery if you are not baking your own.
2. Go to the grocery and buy the ingredients you need for your menu.
3. Prepare food that can be made ahead of time and store them in the refrigerator or freezer.
4. Confirm all orders placed such as balloons and other party supplies.
5. Confirm with the caterer if you're hiring one.
6. Confirm with the venue if you're renting one.
7. Test your sound system, microphone, tape decks and CD player. Make sure they are all working. If you're renting a professional sound-and-lights system, confirm your booking with the provider.



3 days before the party

1. Go over this checklist again and determine which items are still left undone.
2. Buy remaining food and last-minute supplies.
3. Make sure the camera and camcorder are in good working condition. Buy new batteries or fully charge the rechargeable batteries. If you are using film and videotapes, buy them now while you are still thinking about it.
4. Confirm with the Magician. Make sure he has your address and telephone number right, so he can call you in case he gets lost on his way to the party venue.

1 day before the party

1. If you're baking it yourself, finish decorating the cake. Otherwise, pick it from the bakery.
2. Keep a good number of candles, matches and flashlights ready in case your party extends into the night and there's a sudden power outage.
3. Accident-proof the party area.
4. Decorate any indoor areas. Do the outdoor decorations on party day.
5. Prepare food that you cook or make yourself ahead of time.
6. Buy drinks and beverages and put them in the refrigerator.
7. Prepare tableware and silverware.

On the day of the party

1. Prepare foods and beverages that have not been made ahead of time.
2. Double check that you have extra ice.
3. Take plenty of picture and videos of the day.
4. Enjoy the party.

Why hire a Magician **(my biased point of view)**



Ok, I'll own it up right off the bat. This is my biased advice to you. Take it with a grain of salt.

Your child is special. Make his or her birthday party special and memorable.

A live magic show creates a human connection that draws together your guests. Your child and his friends will all be thankful to you for providing it.

The food, drinks and decors of the party will pass to memory. But the magical moment will last forever in your child's mind.

I saw my first magic trick when I was in Grade 3. Until now, I still remember vividly that first magic trick.

You probably did not have a magic show at your birthday party when you were still a child. It was a novelty then that had not yet caught on. Today, many parents have realized it's a must-have feature to make the child's birthday party extra-special and memorable.

So hire a magician to entertain the children and the adults at your child's birthday party. A good magician can give your birthday child fond memories that will last till old age.

Tips on choosing a magician... (another vested-interest advice)

I'm sure you don't want to waste money or set yourself up for embarrassment. Choose your magician wisely by keeping in mind the following:

- **Hire a “real” Magician.** By “real”, I mean not a Clown who doubles as a Magician. Do you think you can save money by hiring one performer to do the work of two? Wrong. Clowning and being a Magician are two different things. Magic takes long years of practice. A clown who does magic may not be up to the job. Find a performer who specializes in magic, not a Clown doing magic on the side. This will save you from grief and embarrassment.



- **Interview the Magician.** A good way to select a magician is to call and interview him on the phone. Listen to how he makes a presentation over the phone to judge his level of competence and professionalism.
- **Ask him to describe his show.** His program should include livestock magic, because children love to see rabbits, doves and ducks during a magic program. The magician must also use a clean material---no jokes about drugs, sex, alcohol, tobacco, race or physical disabilities.
- **Learn how long is the program.** A good birthday-party magic show is about 30 to 45 minutes. It should include tricks that are also entertaining to adults, and not only appealing to children.

- **What are his professional affiliations?** Although this may not have a relationship with the quality of his program, a magician's membership to a Magic Association may indicate a high level of commitment to the art and business.
- **Ask him a list of his awards.** Awards are normally good indicators of the magician's skills. Ask him what competitions he has won and how many?



- **Request information on his experience.** How long has he been practicing magic? The rule of thumb is, the longer he is performing, the more reliable he is.
- **Be clear about his technical requirements.** Most magical performers would request technical support from you to enhance their programs. The very basic requirement is the sound system where he can play his background music. Make sure the sound system that you will make available to him is powerful enough and suitable for the venue and the number of guests. Don't give him a transistor tape recorder if you have 100 guests in attendance. In fact, never use a transistor player. Make available one that has at least 30 watts of power. Check that the tape decks, CD player, auxiliary jacks, wires and microphones are all in working conditions. You will have a very somber party if the sound system doesn't work, so check and double check that it is working,
- **Lastly...** if during the telephone interview you have not reached a decision, ask the Magician to mail (or e-mail or FAX) you his written resume and other magic credentials. In that way, you can study further his qualifications.

Don't take too long to decide, though. Book him on the same day, if you're satisfied with his qualifications. The best magicians are hired well

advance. Letting a day pass by without deciding may mean somebody else may hire him ahead of you.

“How to Create a Party so Special that Your Child Will Remember it Forever...”

On his birthday, give your child a Magic Show featuring:

- Amazing magic tricks
- Hilarious audience participation
- Live multi-color doves
- Ducky, the Yellow Duck
- Roger, the Magic Rabbit
- Mark, the talking, moving Magic Drawing
- ...Plus the classic illusion of Metamorphosis



Your child and his friends will be laughing throughout the show...

The adults will be amazed and entertained...

You relax and enjoy the party, knowing all your guests are having a good time...

Please call Leodini

at

0917-9130934

or drop him an email

leodini@leodini.com

for an extraordinary birthday party.