



JOKER & KING





## World Tour of Jazz and Close-Up Magic

The intent of jazz and the intent of magic are not so different from one another. Fundamental to the entertainment value of both art forms is the element of surprise. If the audience always knows what is coming around the corner, the tricks and notes lose their flair. And yet, arguably these two different art forms differ dramatically in terms of presentation: jazz musicians desire to reveal everything to the audience, even the wrong notes; magicians, however, must conceal themselves in order to sufficiently deceive the audience. Yet, because the intentions are the same, we—Julian Reid, a jazz pianist, and Kenta Koga, a magician—desire to combine these two seemingly contradictory art forms in order to create a cutting-edge form of entertainment, one that misdirects, surprises and wows the audience in all-new ways.

Our tour, entitled “Joker & King” (the ‘J’ and ‘K’ being the initials of our first names), will consist of a show lasting 60 minutes. To be sure, this show is not a magician show with musical accompaniment, nor is it a jazz show with magic on the side. It is, rather, a co-performance of magic and music onstage. The two performers will be synchronized, playing off their art forms’ interactive relationship.





As aforementioned, most of the show will consist of them performing concurrently. However, every show during the 43-day tour will be slightly different for both the Joker and the King. Depending on the specific point in time, the Joker will change his intentions. On one hand, at times the Joker will aim to deceive the audience along with the magician, in which case he'll play along the misdirection of the King. On the other hand, at some key points in the show he might abandon the King and take the side of the audience. Sometimes, however, he won't be playing either side, and will instead just be sitting squarely in the seat of a musical performer, serving as a canvas onto which the King splashes dollops of magic. As is the case with any improvised show, every show will look a little different in terms of when the Joker decides to side with the audience, with the King, and with himself.

The King, too, will be constantly in flux. While his actions will be a bit more prefigured than the musician's, he will be able to have ebb and flow to his routine as well. Each show for the King will be different

because each venue is different. In each venue, there are different crowds, different expectations, different possibilities for concealing and revealing. The King, as he has done numerous times before, will expertly exploit the ever-changing landscape, serving to keep any audience on their toes. Not to mention the fact that he will constantly be in dialogue with the music, which will be presenting itself anew to him, as well as the audience, each time the proverbial curtain falls.

The tour will run for 1.5 months and will span three continents: starting in New York, working its way across Europe and then jumping to Japan and covering various countries in Asia. We look to run the show at night in upscale venues including, but not restricted to, restaurants, hotels and private parties. Our goal is to perform high-quality, high-energy shows every night for our audiences.



# Kenta Koga

Kenta Koga, from Japan, has been practicing magic for 13 years. He has been performing professionally at private parties all over the world since he started college. He loves not only performing magic but also inventing original tricks that push the boundaries of close-up magic. He is currently an undergraduate student at Yale studying Computer Science, and merging the fields of magic and technology has also been his passion.

At Yale, Kenta has directed/ performed in four large magic show productions at four different university theaters, and has performed countless close-up magic shows for events held for the guests of the university. He received the Creative Performance Award 2013 by Yale University for this Joker King project.

He has performed at venues such as:

Tiffany & Co., Tokyo  
Affinia Shelburne Hotel, New York City  
Mobile World Congress, Barcelona  
Halekulani Hotel, Honolulu


# Julian Reid

Julian Reid, a native of Chicago, Illinois, has been playing the piano for 17 years, and doesn't enjoy doing anything more than playing. Julian is currently a senior at Yale University, studying Philosophy. He began his musical journey with classical music, asking his mother to take lessons when he was 4 years old. He started playing jazz and gospel in high school at Whitney Young Magnet High School and Southlawn United Methodist Church, respectively, and has won various awards for all three types of music including the Merit School of Music Junior Concerto Competition ('04) and Yale's Joseph Lentilhon Selden Memorial Award ('12) for musical excellence at Yale.

At Yale, he has co-directed the Gospel Choir, led his own jazz combo, has been the musical director for the Black Church at Yale, has been a part of the band Sugarbat (keys, drums and banjo that plays a fusion of rock, neo-soul, jazz, r&b, and bluegrass) and is working on an album with Alysia Harris, a world-renowned poet from the poetry troupe The Striver's Row. Julian has studied jazz with Steve Million, Kevin O'Connell, Pharez Whitted and Willie Pickens. He lives and plays in New Haven.







Producer / Manager

## Engin Yenidunya

Engin Yenidunya, from Turkey, has been producing events around the world for 18 years. While at Yale, he organized the biggest India-Pakistan relations conference held at a US college campus as well as numerous Model United Nations conferences. He also hosted cultural events regularly for the Yale Undergraduate Friends of Turkey. Since 1999, he has organized and hosted 44 sangria parties in 14 cities in 10 countries around the world: New Haven, New York, London, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Tokyo, Boston, Singapore, Madrid, Sevilla, Los Angeles, St. Croix, Ubud, Shanghai.

After graduating from Yale in 2002, he lived in New York, London, and Hong Kong before moving to Tokyo. Since 2005, he has been working in Tokyo as a banker and serving as the President of the Yale Club of Japan, organizing concerts, speaker dinners, volunteer events, and happy hours. He has hosted 300+ people parties at the Conrad, the ANA InterContinental, and Le Baron de Paris.

As Partner of Tokyo Story in Japan and Mantar Film in Turkey, he has produced several films including Tolga Karacelik's Toll Booth (first Turkish film to have a weeklong run at MoMA in New York), Amir Naderi's CUT (Orizzonti Opening Film at the 68th Venice Film Festival; later shown at Toronto and Tribeca), and Ashes by Cannes Palme d'Or winner Apichatpong Weerasethakul. He is an Executive Producer on New York-based tango trio Importango's forthcoming album.

Engin first met Kenta in 2010 when he got accepted to Yale and had him perform at a Yale Club of Japan event. Since then, he has become his older brother and his manager. He is excited about taking The Joker King around the world just like he has done with his sangria parties.



## Destinations

Late May : New York City, East Coast

Early June : Spain, Portugal, France, UK, Netherlands

Mid June : Germany, Scandinavia, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland

Late June : Italy, Greece, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Japan

Early July : Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore



## Evening of Jazz and Magic at Your Private Party

Whether it's a bar, lounge, restaurant, house, boat, or a cabaret, we will adapt our performance to match the venue. If you are interested in having Joker & King perform at your event, please contact Engin Yenidunya at [engin@jokerandking.com](mailto:engin@jokerandking.com)

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GLASS

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MAMIA FILM

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