<http://mommypoppins.com/that-physics-show-nyc-kids-theater-show>

*That Physics Show* is an awesome and educational production that has absolutely nothing to do with the holidays, but that doesn't make it any less spectacular. Veteran Rutgers University physics demonstrator David Maiullo doesn't need glitz, glamor or glitter to wow school-age kids with his amazing experiments as he makes balloons burst into flame, soda cans crack and lasers light up the room. Some of the demos are so incredible you may feel like you're watching a magic show. But all of his "tricks" are actually just science, which is the most mind-blowing reveal of all.

Admittedly, [*That Physics Show*](http://www.thatphysicsshow.com/) is mounted on a shoestring budget in a small black-box theater with prerecorded music and no set or costumes for Maiullo or his hardworking assistant, Kelsey Lane Dies. But Maiullo's infectious enthusiasm (this guy lives for science) and cool demos make up for the low production values. Sure, you could probably see many of these experiments on YouTube, but they are much more impressive live, especially because no seat is more than 10 or so feet from the stage.

In many ways, it feels like a magic show. The stage is strewn with strange contraptions that Maiullo uses for his "tricks" that show concepts like motion, momentum, friction, energy, sound and light waves, and temperature in action. However, unlike magicians who fanatically guard the secrets to their illusions, Maiullo shares how everything works. He fills balloons up with hydrogen then lights a match to blow them up. He lies on a bed of nails and even has a kid stand on top of him, then explains why it doesn't hurt. He uses a fire extinguisher as a jet pack to propel himself across the stage on a go-cart. His use of common household items makes the experiments even more appealing to kids. I heard quite a few, including my own, beg: "Mom, can I try that when I get home?!"

Maiullo is an adorkable chatterbox who knows how to engage the audience, especially kids. Before each experiment, he asks for predictions and by the end of the show, even shy children are calling out theories. For science buffs, the outcomes may be obvious. But for those of us who are physics challenged (I correctly guessed three results out of about 30 demos), it's as eye opening as it is eye-popping.

Although Maiullo talks in layman's terms, *That Physics Show* is best for tweens. Younger children won't be able to follow what's going on (Maiullo packs so much science into 80 minutes, I didn't always understand the context of each demo), plus there are multiple explosions and loud noises. Teens might enjoy it too, though some might find it too goofy.

By the end, the stage is a mess of popped balloons, burnt Rice Krispies and a variety of detritus. As Maiullo is fond of saying, "Science is all about breaking things!" Of course, the one thing science *shouldn't* break is the bank. At $30 per ticket, *That Physics Show* is a bit pricey, but you can [snag $20 seats via Broadwaybox](http://www.broadwaybox.com/shows/physics-show/).

Afterward, there's no need to flee Times Square. Grab a meal at one of these [family-friendly, non-chain restaurants](http://mommypoppins.com/kids/times-square-family-friendly-restaurants-kids-theater-district-eating-nyc) and then explore nearby [kid attractions](http://mommypoppins.com/content/times-square-with-kids-things-to-do-beyond-the-usual-tourist-attractions) like Bryant Park, where you can [ice-skate for FREE](http://mommypoppins.com/family/tech-science-fun-for-nyc-kids-apps-makerspaces-more-geeky-good-stuff) (if you bring your own skates) and browse the holiday market.

[*That Physics Show*](http://www.thatphysicsshow.com/) is playing through Saturday, January 2, 2016 at the Playroom Theater, 151 West 46th Street between Broadway and Sixth Avenue on the 8th floor.

<http://saysmesaysmom.blogspot.com/2015/11/the-illusionists-and-that-physics-show.html>

We received free tickets to The Illusionists for review purposes. Any and all opinions expressed here are our own.  
  
Me - The Illusionists was a fun show. It was about magic. It was really cool. I liked the ones that talked to the audience better than the ones that didn't. I especially liked the Trickster, the Futurist and the Unusualist. I liked that they used a lot of audience participation, and they were funny. It was really cool when the Unusualist asked a women to pick a card from an invisible deck of cards, and he was still able to guess the card that she picked. I liked when the Trickster did a trick with an egg in a bag. He picked this woman out of the audience to help and took her and her husband's watches without them knowing. I liked when the Futurist did a trick where he took a guys phone and it looked like he blended it up in a blender, and then it showed up in a surprising place. The Unusualist  made shadow puppets including one of Louis Armstrong that really looked like Louis Armstrong. The Daredevil set himself on fire while he was hanging upside down in straight jacket. He escaped and got a fire extiniguisher. It was surprising and exciting that he could do that. I liked the trick the Anti-Conjuror did with birds but I didn't like the one he did with a quarter. The quarter trick was gross. I didn't like the Manipulator or the Deceptionist because they didn't talk to the audience. Over all, it was an unbelievable show and you should see it.\*

That Physics show doesn't have a story to it. It was a fun way to learn science. I was excited because I finally got picked to participate when I had been waiting all day through the two other shows we went to that day. I got to hold the end of rope slinky while the guy shook it. I liked that the show was general admission seating so we got to sit in the front row. He quickly pulled a table cloth off a table full of stuff and nothing fell. I tried that at home, and I was able to do it too. I liked when he put a lighter under a balloon with helium and then under a balloon with hydrogen. The balloon with hydrogen blew up. Right after he did that, I turned to my mom and said "It smells like Channukah." It was funny when he made his assistant's hair stand up. He put a hotdog and then flowers in liquid nitrogen. They got really hard. He threw them against the wall. They broke into a lot of pieces. It was cool! I wish I could throw a hot dog against the wall. They gave out rainbow glasses, and it was fun looking at the colors and how they looked different in different elements. It was a good show. If you don't want to miss out on the fun, go see it before it closes in January.\*\*

<http://saysmesaysmom.blogspot>.com/2015/11/where-to-go-wednesday-illusionists-and.html

What: That Physics Show

Where: The Playroom Theater  
              151 W. 46th St.  
              New York, NY  
  
When: Now through January 2  
  
Who: Ages 10 and up

Mom's view: If you are looking for a show with a plot, this is not it. However, if you are looking for a show that is interesting, exciting and fun, you will find that here. The show stars David Maiullo, who has been a physics demonstrator for over 20 years. It is basically a one man show although Mr. Maiullo does have a couple of assistants helping him and once or twice during the show does get a little help from the audience. The show is very educational.  However, don't let that keep you from attending the show or, you will be depriving yourself of a really entertaining and informative show. While younger children would definitely be bored at That Physics show, older children will love it. In no other show can you find exploding balloons, hotdogs and flowers shatttering, and bowling balls hurling through the air among other things. Just don't tell your kids it's going to be educational. Get them there, and they'll love it. Don't wait to go though because the show is only running through January 2. For more information or to order tickets go to <http://www.thatphysicsshow.com/>.