

LIFESTYLE



Melinda, a recent inductee into the Magic and Movie Hall of Fame, makes a winged horse disappear.

Steffi photos by Vernon Ogradnek

IT'S MAGIC

Female magician Melinda stages MTV-style spectacle at Taj Mahal

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An old show business axiom says that performers should stay away from working with children or animals if they want to keep the spotlight on themselves. Melinda, a rare female magician, holds her own with the dog and horse that she makes appear and disappear respectively during her casino magic show.

She also uses children in her presentation, and acknowledges their presence in the audience and recreates memories of her own childhood on the stage during "Melinda, First Lady of Magic."

REVIEW

MAGIC SHOW —

Melinda, First Lady of Magic performs until Aug. 4 in the Xanadu at Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort. Tickets are \$25 reserved; \$20 general admission; \$15 children between ages 3-12. For tickets and show times call (800) 736-1420.

Lots of rock music

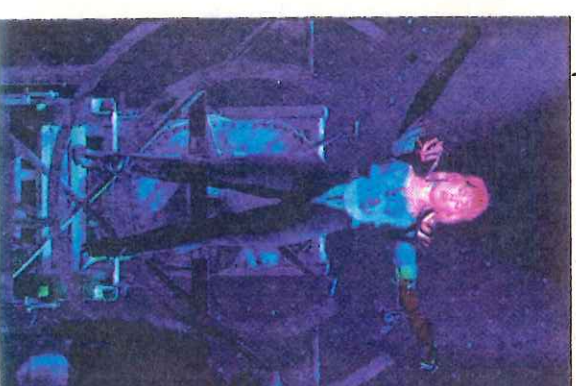
Music plays a big part of Melinda's show. Her rock 'n' roll, MTV-style spectacle features skits that do not overstay their welcome. Those with short attention spans will not be bored by her show.

Melinda hits the stage in a black leather outfit riding a motorcycle as if she used to sing in the rock band Judas Priest. She presents jungle, Spanish, "Phantom" of the Opera and country-western scenarios during her show. The Drill of Death, a gigantic, industrial drill, seems to impale her through the back and lift her into the air. You will recognize this large-scale illusion from her television commercials.

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Melinda gets everyone into her act, including this small child whom she levitates.



A gigantic industrial drill appears to impale Melinda in one of her magic acts.