

# NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!!

by Cheryl Ibbotson

**W**hen looking for special event entertainment to amuse and delight guests, many people are pleasantly surprised to find that live entertainment is not only reasonably priced, but is also available through Tradebank. For Tradebank clients hosting birthday parties, anniversaries, corporate Christmas parties and events, weddings or any other gathering requiring entertainment, we've got something for you!

Bob Cates of Comedy In Motion, a long time Tradebank client, is a comedian and variety artist, as well as an entertainer extraordinaire. Bob has been a full-time entertainer since 1995. Displaying amazing skill and stamina during every performance, he combines his vibrant personality with his comedic talent in every show to fully engage his audience. He performs acts that very few others will attempt, such as plate spinning, Chinese Yo-Yo, Dance Dance Revolution, and the juggling of up to eight items. A new and exciting laser act is currently in production.

Bob was always looking for ways to make his peers laugh and began juggling as a hobby in high school. His passion continued throughout college and university, where he earned a 4 year Bachelor of Arts degree. "Thirteen years ago I finally took the plunge and was able to start performing full-time. I often joke to my audiences during my show that it's amazing what a grown man will do to get out of a cubicle," he says.



Some of you might remember the Ed Sullivan show, where over the years many plate spinners were featured. One of the original plate spinners was the late Jaq Schmidt and Bob now owns and uses Schmidt's original equipment. Audiences are in awe as Bob runs around keeping all 21 of the plates spinning simultaneously on poles for what seems like an eternity.

Having discovered the dance pad at an arcade, Bob added Dance Dance Revolution to his show. After a few years of practice, Bob was able to master the concept in which a television screen displays arrows to instruct one's footwork, starting off slowly and then quickly picking up speed. Bob was hooked on DDR and decided to incorporate his incredible juggling skills with his new discovery, making him the first to perform the act live for audiences. "I

perform Dance Dance Revolution using a song that requires 390 steps per minute and the screen may say that my footwork is perfect, or it may say that I missed 3 steps. If it says I missed a few steps, I usually make a joke out of that while I'm juggling," he laughs.

Bob's performances have taken him all over the globe, and currently he spends four months of the year amazing cruise ship passengers, young and old. In addition, Bob spends the majority of the summer entertaining at Muskoka resorts and performs locally throughout the winter months for both large and small events. Bob is well-known throughout the Comedy industry and was recently nominated as Best One-Man Show at the 2006 Canadian Comedy awards, as well as Entertainer of the Year at the 2007 Event Industry awards. He has also received recognition for his exceptional juggling including the 1999 and 2001 Molson FEO Awards for Best Entertainer of the Year and was the Canadian Juggling Champion of 1994.

Clients interested in hiring Bob Cates of Comedy in Motion for an upcoming corporate or personal event should call or email Bob directly at 519-653-9866. He also encourages those interested to check his website ([www.comedyinmotion.com](http://www.comedyinmotion.com)) and view video of him performing. You'll be glad you did!

Tradebank has a variety of outstanding live entertainment and Elliott Smith, Magician, is no exception. At just six years old, Smith received his first magic set from his parents and knew instantly that he wanted to be a professional magician. "Some children will play with a new toy for a week or two and then put it down, whereas I remember just taking to it. It was all I wanted to do. My parents were always very supportive and thought it was really cool to have a child that had a passion and a dream for what he wanted to do so early on in life," says Smith.

In his spare time, when most children were out playing games and participating in sports, he was alone with his magic kit and was putting on small magic shows



by age seven. "I was games, and I used to was my fun. That's h

At the age of Brotherhood of Ma school and universit working in the resta material for twelve a performing tricks whe a great ice breaker and remembered me." In a per make more money with par quit his promotional job and sixteen years ago.

The majority of Smith's busin Christmas parties and golf to parties for adults and family reunions. Hi can go for a full hou addition, Smith w For example, this event and will dr

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and the U.S.A., he was in Barbados In addition, Smith h Entertainer's Roadr from as far away as read for all up and