

Pick a card ... any card

By Charlie Holmes Columbia-Greene Media | Posted: Saturday, November 21, 2015 2:15 am

WINDHAM — He's demonstrated how casino card dealers can do a false shuffle on TV shows like "20/20" and "Inside Edition," and now he can be caught in the act — up close in Windham.

"I have a unique brand of magic that's exclusive just to cards," magician, Jason Ladanye, said.

Give Ladanye a stack of ordinary cards and he could probably use them to escape a burning building.

"A deck of cards is just a tool that allows you to create pretty much anything you want," Ladanye said.

Ladanye's fascination with magic started like most kids.

"When I was a kid I saw David Copperfield on TV and my mind just blew up," Ladanye said. "I just couldn't see how he could do these amazing things."

From that moment on Ladanye became a regular at the local magic shop in Watervliet. He mowed lawns to earn money to buy magic props.

"But then when I was 17 or 18 ... I really got into cards," Ladanye said. "I really liked card magic because it was practical. I realized I could just have a deck of cards with me and I had a whole show."

Ladanye was realizing props had downsides. They didn't travel well and then there were all those secret compartments.

"When I would do the trick people would want to see the stuff that I performed with and I would have to say, 'No, I can't show you the plastic domino because you'll see how it's done.' I hated that," Ladanye said. "Then when I got into real sophisticated card magic I realized, 'It's a deck of cards.' It's a regular deck of cards and everything is achieved through sleight of hand. All my hours of practice are what is the gaff. So when I would do something amazing and people would say, 'Well, let me see those cards.' With pleasure I would say, 'Here. Yeah. Keep the deck. It's yours.' and that would frustrate people even more. They think that they're trick cards or something."

Ladanye's card show isn't for the faint of heart. It's a race against time to complete an impossible task and just when you're sure he won't be able to pull it off, he does.

Opening for Ladanye will be Sean "the Prankster" Doolan.

“I do comedy magic, sleight of hand,” Doolan said.

Saturday night Doolan’s act will mesh with Ladanye’s normal theme.

“I will do the classic Three Card Monte. The street gambling routine,” Doolan said. “And I have a surprise. They call me the prankster magician for a reason.”

During intermission Hudson Valley native Christa Lamia will be making her debut.

“She’ll set up a table and if people want to come over and watch her perform, they can,” Doolan said.

The performances are taking place at the Windham Civic and Performing Arts Centre starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. To reserve a seat call 518-734-4218.

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