

JOHN DANIEL

A renowned west-coast illusionist, John began his magical career performing Spook Shows with Bob Towner. In the 1960s, he became associated with Carl Owen at Owen Magic Supreme when the master illusion builder was considering his retirement. John met Mark and Nani Wilson on their first night in Hollywood, directing them to the hotel which became their base of operations on the Sunset Strip. After *Allakazam*, he continued performing and creating illusions for magicians in Las Vegas and elsewhere. Together with Carl Owen, John received credit as Magic Production Advisor on *Allakazam*.

JOHN GAUGHAN

John Gaughan was Mark Wilson and Nani Darnell's first assistant, starting with them when he was a mere lad of 14, and assisting in the packaging of the magic kits sent as premiums to viewers of the local TV shows in Texas. After graduating from college, John moved west just in time to join the staff of *Allakazam* at the end of the first season. He learned the craft of illusion building from master craftsman Carl Owen, and soon headed the Wilsons' shop. He eventually formed John Gaughan and Associates, creating magic for top professional magicians, Broadway shows, trade shows, and more.

FRANCIS MARTINEAU

Born in Canada, this well-known nightclub performer of the 1940s and 1950s gained great fame illustrating Rice's three-volume *Encyclopedia of Silk Magic*, and lettering the entire text by hand. He joined the *Allakazam* staff in its second season as the first foreman of the Wilson's shop. A gifted artist, his conceptual drawings for various projects at Mark Wilson Productions, those completed and those never realized, are exquisitely rendered and beautifully executed.

LEO BEHNKE

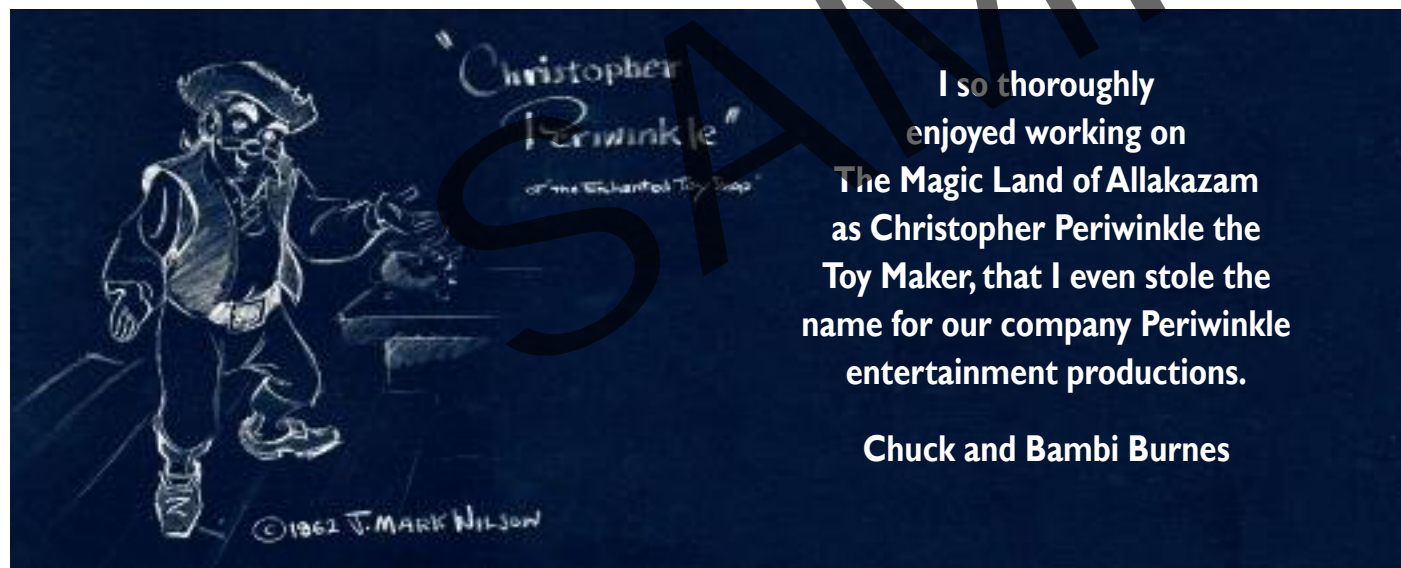
Leo Behnke was working with John Daniel at Owen Magic when the Wilsons called at the shop; he joined the staff of *Allakazam* in April of 1961. Leo's responsibilities included the weekly Trick-in-the-Audience, Sleight of Hand and Table Top Magic sections, as well as handling fan mail, acting as librarian, and creating magic for the backs of Kellogg's cereal boxes and the *Allakazam* comic book giveaway which was given to every child in the audience after each recording session. Later, Leo specialized in corporate and trade show presentations, as curator of David Copperfield's magic museum, and author of numerous works on magic, including *Party Magic from the Magic Castle* and *Impromptu Magic from the Magic Castle*.

LIN SEARLES

Lin was an expert card mechanic and a student of professional gambling routines when the Wilsons came to California collecting the *Allakazam* creative team. At the time Lin was employed at Owen Magic, writing instructions for the smaller magic tricks. He became the writer and script supervisor for *Allakazam*, and later wrote a series of Western novels that were published under the Ace Paperback imprint. Following *Allakazam*, Lin opened his own magic shop in Pasadena called The Magic Wand.

DICK ZIMMERMAN

Dick was still serving in the U. S. Navy when he began corresponding with Mark Wilson and providing ideas for *Allakazam's* first season. An inventive magician recognized for his creative talents, he served as a consultant to many others, including David Copperfield. His signature innovations include the Linking Hula Hoops and the Dancing Ring on Rope. At one time an executive with the Mattel Toy Company, Dick was also one of the country's leading experts on Ragtime, and recorded the complete piano works of Scott Joplin on a long-playing album.



I so thoroughly enjoyed working on **The Magic Land of Allakazam as Christopher Periwinkle the Toy Maker, that I even stole the name for our company Periwinkle entertainment productions.**

Chuck and Bambi Burnes



REBO

It was 1957 when I joined up with Mark and Nani Wilson. They were a team producing and performing television shows in various markets across Texas. I had started in magic as an assistant to Harry Willard the Wizard, one of the largest illusion shows the world had seen, then work spook shows in theatres, four years in the Air Force and a degree in Advertising, and I was ready to join the Wilson team.

We pioneered television and the coming videotape. Mark knocked on doors, Nani sewed costumes and I worked on show ideas. The big one came from Kellogg's and we ended up on network TV at CBS Hollywood. Bobby Torchy Towner and Bobby Fenton joined our team and with the help of Johnny Daniels and Carl Owens, we were beginning an adventure that would take us though the first year of 39 shows. We made not only Magic, but also television history.

*See you down the road,
Bev Bergeron*