

Call It Magic

“We all think we’re unique, which is ironically what makes us so similar.” – Karan Singh

25/5/17- Students of class XII, expecting just another routine day of school, were in for a treat as they moved to the auditorium without any inkling of the permanence which this day this day was going to hold. Amid post-exam blues and papers, we were greeted to a surreal performance and discussion Karan Singh – brilliant magician, mind reader and psychological illusionist. Introduced as a threat to national security, he showcased his skills through a variety of tricks, guessing virtually everything ranging from pass codes to ATM pins.

He presented a fresh and unique spin on the quintessential image of a “magician” and relegated the story of his struggles, from performing at birthday parties to selling out theatres. Karan Singh stated that the main principle behind his tricks is that because most people claim to be different, they end up thinking along extremely similar patterns. The trick lies in manipulating these patterns to influence their responses and behaviour. His illusions equal parts amusing and inexplicably mind numbing. He guessed the name of students’ childhood friends, predicted the position of a card in a deck without once touching it as well one randomly chosen word among a million from a book, went from guessing students’ cell phone passwords to making students guess his. It was truly a novel experience and more than lived up to the be pleasant surprise that our principal, Ms. Aditi Misra had planned for us.

For his final and most logic-defying trick, he had a volunteer student calculate 4 sets of numbers given by our four head teachers- Arpna ma’am, Satvna ma’am, Sapna Ma’am and Aditi Ma’am – which were completely random, such as the date of their marriage anniversary or license plate and added them to a number given by the volunteer them. In a very dramatic reveal, he presented to the audience the rolled-up piece of paper he had initially brought with him to the show. The number written on it was the number of what this paragraph started with – today’s date. He received rounds of applause, hoots, cheers, and a very well-deserved standing ovation from a completely baffled yet awestruck audience.

In all, the students who otherwise would’ve sulked over having to attend school a day after exams, would now agree that it was undoubtedly worth it.

SHIRIN KUMAR, SUKRITI MATHUR

XII-C

