

Interview with James Randi



by Richard Saunders
September 2006



1
00:00:05,349 --> 00:00:03,350
good morning good evening and good

2
00:00:08,150 --> 00:00:05,359
afternoon james randy

3
00:00:09,910 --> 00:00:08,160
good morning uh it is morning it's just

4
00:00:11,749 --> 00:00:09,920
8 30 in the morning and

5
00:00:13,669 --> 00:00:11,759
sun is shining brightly and we haven't

6
00:00:16,150 --> 00:00:13,679
got a hurricane at the moment so

7
00:00:17,189 --> 00:00:16,160
let's move on while we can things are

8
00:00:19,109 --> 00:00:17,199
looking good

9
00:00:20,550 --> 00:00:19,119
uh now if you don't mind randy i'll ask

10
00:00:22,470 --> 00:00:20,560
you right at the start

11
00:00:24,710 --> 00:00:22,480
how's your health because i know you had

12
00:00:28,070 --> 00:00:24,720
a few problems earlier in the year

13
00:00:30,310 --> 00:00:28,080

well very good actually richard i am

14

00:00:31,990 --> 00:00:30,320

making a remarkable recovery i

15

00:00:33,510 --> 00:00:32,000

just had the privilege of speaking with

16

00:00:36,630 --> 00:00:33,520

a an md

17

00:00:38,549 --> 00:00:36,640

uh who happened upon me the other day it

18

00:00:41,190 --> 00:00:38,559

had a triple bypass mine was only a

19

00:00:44,869 --> 00:00:41,200

double so he had one bypass on me

20

00:00:46,950 --> 00:00:44,879

and he said that uh looking at me since

21

00:00:47,910 --> 00:00:46,960

this happened to me the beginning of

22

00:00:52,229 --> 00:00:47,920

february

23

00:00:53,910 --> 00:00:52,239

that i was doing remarkably well and he

24

00:00:58,470 --> 00:00:53,920

was quite amazed at a guy

25

00:01:01,510 --> 00:00:58,480

78 years of age i i liable my age

26

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:01,520

that i was doing as well as i am and

27

00:01:05,030 --> 00:01:03,440

i am recovering very nicely and i'm

28

00:01:06,789 --> 00:01:05,040

rather surprised myself but i'm doing

29

00:01:09,270 --> 00:01:06,799

the regular workouts at the gym

30

00:01:11,270 --> 00:01:09,280

i i recommend exercise i've never

31

00:01:14,550 --> 00:01:11,280

involved myself in it before

32

00:01:16,789 --> 00:01:14,560

but now a mild sweat is not all that bad

33

00:01:18,469 --> 00:01:16,799

and not too difficult to work out

34

00:01:19,830 --> 00:01:18,479

that's that's fantastic i'm delighted to

35

00:01:21,429 --> 00:01:19,840

hear that i'm sure our listeners are

36

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:21,439

delighted to hear that too

37

00:01:24,870 --> 00:01:24,240

now let me um concentrate for the moment

38

00:01:27,270 --> 00:01:24,880

on your

39

00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:27,280

adventures your various adventures here

40

00:01:31,030 --> 00:01:28,720

in australia for our

41

00:01:32,710 --> 00:01:31,040

australian listeners you've had many

42

00:01:33,910 --> 00:01:32,720

visits to australia and we're always

43

00:01:36,550 --> 00:01:33,920

glad to see you

44

00:01:37,510 --> 00:01:36,560

i think your first if i'm not mistaken

45

00:01:40,149 --> 00:01:37,520

was around about

46

00:01:42,630 --> 00:01:40,159

1980 where you conducted some very

47

00:01:45,109 --> 00:01:42,640

famous water divining tests

48

00:01:47,830 --> 00:01:45,119

yes that was at the invitation of our

49

00:01:50,550 --> 00:01:47,840

good friend dick smith of course and

50

00:01:52,069 --> 00:01:50,560

in the sydney area we we set up some

51
00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:52,079
we're a little bit naive in those days

52
00:01:57,830 --> 00:01:53,520
richard i must say

53
00:01:58,230 --> 00:01:57,840
um but uh not naive enough that we did

54
00:02:00,230 --> 00:01:58,240
bad

55
00:02:01,510 --> 00:02:00,240
tests it's just that we could have done

56
00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:01,520
tests which were more

57
00:02:06,630 --> 00:02:04,320
um produced more evidence i always like

58
00:02:08,229 --> 00:02:06,640
to design tests that show more than they

59
00:02:11,750 --> 00:02:08,239
were designed to show

60
00:02:13,750 --> 00:02:11,760
in the first place uh and uh i'm

61
00:02:15,430 --> 00:02:13,760
rather on to that now i know how to go

62
00:02:17,910 --> 00:02:15,440
about it but uh

63
00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:17,920

dick said oh there were some fabulously

64

00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:19,440

funny things that happened that

65

00:02:22,949 --> 00:02:21,280

i don't know if they're on record

66

00:02:25,430 --> 00:02:22,959

anywhere and

67

00:02:27,670 --> 00:02:25,440

i'll share one of them with you if i may

68

00:02:31,750 --> 00:02:27,680

uh dick

69

00:02:33,910 --> 00:02:31,760

smith now uh

70

00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:33,920

well you know dick very well yeah all of

71

00:02:39,350 --> 00:02:35,440

australia knows him and

72

00:02:42,309 --> 00:02:39,360

and dick gathered with me uh

73

00:02:44,470 --> 00:02:42,319

at his office we were at his office and

74

00:02:46,710 --> 00:02:44,480

we had i believe 11 dowsers in the

75

00:02:48,869 --> 00:02:46,720

office all of whom had participated

76

00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:48,879

and we laid out the charts and we

77

00:02:54,150 --> 00:02:51,280

revealed to them that they had

78

00:02:56,070 --> 00:02:54,160

failed grandly and there was much

79

00:02:58,309 --> 00:02:56,080

shaking of heads and

80

00:03:00,229 --> 00:02:58,319

astonishment that they hadn't succeeded

81

00:03:03,430 --> 00:03:00,239

in winning the prize and

82

00:03:06,070 --> 00:03:03,440

coming up for uh worldwide notoriety

83

00:03:07,910 --> 00:03:06,080

and uh so dick and i looked at one

84

00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:07,920

another as if to say oh these poor chaps

85

00:03:12,229 --> 00:03:09,760

you know which which is true they're

86

00:03:13,270 --> 00:03:12,239

they're genuinely interested and

87

00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:13,280

generally convinced

88

00:03:16,869 --> 00:03:15,760

that they can do this sort of thing and

89

00:03:19,030 --> 00:03:16,879

um

90

00:03:20,710 --> 00:03:19,040

they were they were just dismayed rather

91

00:03:23,110 --> 00:03:20,720

than angry i think

92

00:03:25,270 --> 00:03:23,120

and shaking their heads and dick asked

93

00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:25,280

them the critical question

94

00:03:30,470 --> 00:03:28,480

he said uh of all of you here how many

95

00:03:31,589 --> 00:03:30,480

still believe you have the power to

96

00:03:34,149 --> 00:03:31,599

douse now

97

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:34,159

i must interrupt here the fact that they

98

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:36,080

had failed on this test

99

00:03:41,750 --> 00:03:39,120

doesn't mean by by any means that they

100

00:03:42,550 --> 00:03:41,760

can't do it it just meant that at this

101
00:03:44,309 --> 00:03:42,560
time

102
00:03:46,550 --> 00:03:44,319
this particular example in this

103
00:03:49,190 --> 00:03:46,560
definitive test they couldn't do it

104
00:03:50,789 --> 00:03:49,200
so they all shot their hands up right

105
00:03:52,470 --> 00:03:50,799
away no hesitation

106
00:03:54,630 --> 00:03:52,480
and dick sort of looked at me and raised

107
00:03:56,149 --> 00:03:54,640
his eyebrows as if to say well

108
00:03:58,630 --> 00:03:56,159
sort of what we expected then one

109
00:04:01,910 --> 00:03:58,640
gentleman started to draw his hand down

110
00:04:04,070 --> 00:04:01,920
slowly and dick pointed at him and said

111
00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:04,080
you there he said that why have you

112
00:04:07,030 --> 00:04:05,360
withdraw on your hand

113
00:04:09,750 --> 00:04:07,040

and the fellow said quite honestly

114

00:04:12,149 --> 00:04:09,760

looking around little um easily he said

115

00:04:14,149 --> 00:04:12,159

well i'd have to reconsider now perhaps

116

00:04:15,429 --> 00:04:14,159

i just don't have the ability that i

117

00:04:17,670 --> 00:04:15,439

believed i had

118

00:04:19,270 --> 00:04:17,680

and the rest of them were a little

119

00:04:21,990 --> 00:04:19,280

grumpy looking at that

120

00:04:23,510 --> 00:04:22,000

and uh dick turned to me they left short

121

00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:23,520

very shortly after that

122

00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:25,680

and dick turned to me and he he giggled

123

00:04:31,510 --> 00:04:29,040

in his way as only dick smith can do

124

00:04:32,390 --> 00:04:31,520

a serious giggle of course uh and he

125

00:04:34,629 --> 00:04:32,400

said

126

00:04:36,390 --> 00:04:34,639

we got one out of 11. we've never gotten

127

00:04:36,870 --> 00:04:36,400

a score like that before he said you

128

00:04:39,510 --> 00:04:36,880

said we

129

00:04:40,629 --> 00:04:39,520

we get zero out of eleven zero out of

130

00:04:42,230 --> 00:04:40,639

any number

131

00:04:43,670 --> 00:04:42,240

and i said ah dick give him a chance

132

00:04:45,030 --> 00:04:43,680

give him a week or so

133

00:04:47,990 --> 00:04:45,040

and he'll get in touch with you and

134

00:04:49,990 --> 00:04:48,000

he'll have a reason for having failed

135

00:04:51,430 --> 00:04:50,000

that that won't encompass the fact that

136

00:04:53,590 --> 00:04:51,440

he can't doubt

137

00:04:55,430 --> 00:04:53,600

and i was wrong on that however he

138

00:04:57,350 --> 00:04:55,440

called back within the hour

139

00:04:59,749 --> 00:04:57,360

uh this in the days before mobile phones

140

00:05:01,909 --> 00:04:59,759

and such and he called

141

00:05:03,990 --> 00:05:01,919

from a public phone somewhere down the

142

00:05:06,070 --> 00:05:04,000

road and he said uh

143

00:05:07,909 --> 00:05:06,080

mr smith mr randy i figured out why it

144

00:05:09,590 --> 00:05:07,919

was it was because of the walkie-talkies

145

00:05:11,909 --> 00:05:09,600

that you used at the time

146

00:05:13,430 --> 00:05:11,919

they gave out radio frequencies you see

147

00:05:14,070 --> 00:05:13,440

and that interfered with their power to

148

00:05:17,590 --> 00:05:14,080

doubt

149

00:05:20,469 --> 00:05:17,600

and he sighed and hung up the phone uh

150

00:05:21,909 --> 00:05:20,479

so we had scored zero on that and dixor

151

00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:21,919

looked at me blankly and i said dick

152

00:05:25,189 --> 00:05:23,360

didn't i tell you i was wrong on the

153

00:05:27,189 --> 00:05:25,199

estimation of the amount of time

154

00:05:28,469 --> 00:05:27,199

but there you are but doubters are

155

00:05:31,029 --> 00:05:28,479

unthinkable they

156

00:05:33,830 --> 00:05:31,039

really are yeah yes dick did a very good

157

00:05:37,110 --> 00:05:33,840

job that phil adams was in on it and uh

158

00:05:39,590 --> 00:05:37,120

it it was very well done i i thought and

159

00:05:41,670 --> 00:05:39,600

and you do see uh dick had his giggling

160

00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:41,680

best in there i must say

161

00:05:47,670 --> 00:05:45,440

yes another man who fronted up with some

162

00:05:50,230 --> 00:05:47,680

money to support you at the time

163

00:05:51,670 --> 00:05:50,240

uh was the late richard carlton from our

164

00:05:54,150 --> 00:05:51,680

version of 60 minutes

165

00:05:55,670 --> 00:05:54,160

very sorry and very sad to hear that uh

166

00:05:58,870 --> 00:05:55,680

he died a few months ago

167

00:06:00,710 --> 00:05:58,880

my yes and so unexpected i i would have

168

00:06:02,469 --> 00:06:00,720

given him a vitality that would carry

169

00:06:05,590 --> 00:06:02,479

him another 30 or 40 years

170

00:06:07,350 --> 00:06:05,600

myself and he was of course and

171

00:06:08,870 --> 00:06:07,360

here we come back to another adventure

172

00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:08,880

with you in australia

173

00:06:11,909 --> 00:06:10,960

he was of course uh one of the people

174

00:06:15,990 --> 00:06:11,919

behind the famous

175

00:06:16,710 --> 00:06:16,000

carlos hoax yes yes he was in fact uh

176

00:06:21,270 --> 00:06:16,720

that was

177

00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:21,280

essentially richard's idea uh to

178

00:06:25,749 --> 00:06:24,240

sum it up very quickly uh i got a call

179

00:06:27,990 --> 00:06:25,759

from um

180

00:06:28,950 --> 00:06:28,000

i guess it was channel nine was it uh

181

00:06:30,870 --> 00:06:28,960

yeah that's right

182

00:06:32,469 --> 00:06:30,880

and they said they were interested in

183

00:06:34,550 --> 00:06:32,479

investigating the channelers that were

184

00:06:38,150 --> 00:06:34,560

infesting australia at the time

185

00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:38,160

and may still be for all i know and he

186

00:06:43,029 --> 00:06:41,360

the first on the phone said can you

187

00:06:45,430 --> 00:06:43,039

prove that the channelers are fake i

188

00:06:46,390 --> 00:06:45,440

said no but i can indicate that anyone

189

00:06:48,710 --> 00:06:46,400

can do it

190

00:06:49,909 --> 00:06:48,720

and that should go a long way to which

191

00:06:52,150 --> 00:06:49,919

towards showing that it's not

192

00:06:53,909 --> 00:06:52,160

necessarily a supernatural event

193

00:06:56,070 --> 00:06:53,919

and the fellows seem quite interested in

194

00:06:58,550 --> 00:06:56,080

that and uh i enlisted

195

00:06:59,189 --> 00:06:58,560

my good friend jose alvarez the artist

196

00:07:00,629 --> 00:06:59,199

who was

197

00:07:02,790 --> 00:07:00,639

right there in the room with me at the

198

00:07:05,589 --> 00:07:02,800

time and uh

199

00:07:07,189 --> 00:07:05,599

several other people gathered uh not to

200

00:07:08,950 --> 00:07:07,199

expect the phone call it came right in

201
00:07:09,670 --> 00:07:08,960
the middle of our supper as a matter of

202
00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:09,680
fact

203
00:07:13,110 --> 00:07:11,520
uh i said jose you want to go to

204
00:07:13,510 --> 00:07:13,120
australia and do this and the other

205
00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:13,520
thing

206
00:07:16,629 --> 00:07:14,960
he thought about it for a minute he said

207
00:07:17,350 --> 00:07:16,639
yes sounds like an interesting project

208
00:07:22,710 --> 00:07:17,360
and

209
00:07:24,790 --> 00:07:22,720
i must say that jose did a beautiful job

210
00:07:27,589 --> 00:07:24,800
of it again that's another famous

211
00:07:29,270 --> 00:07:27,599
report and again listeners can see that

212
00:07:32,070 --> 00:07:29,280
whole incident online

213
00:07:32,870 --> 00:07:32,080

can see what effect the famous carlos

214

00:07:34,790 --> 00:07:32,880

the

215

00:07:36,790 --> 00:07:34,800

channeled spirit from thousands of years

216

00:07:37,270 --> 00:07:36,800

ago had on the australian public in fact

217

00:07:41,350 --> 00:07:37,280

you

218

00:07:43,510 --> 00:07:41,360

people well i wouldn't say phil

219

00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:43,520

we had a substantial crowd there filling

220

00:07:46,869 --> 00:07:45,280

the sydney opera house is a little

221

00:07:49,670 --> 00:07:46,879

little more ambitious than we wanted to

222

00:07:51,510 --> 00:07:49,680

get but no it we had a substantial crowd

223

00:07:54,070 --> 00:07:51,520

of believers there were fingering their

224

00:07:56,150 --> 00:07:54,080

beads and they had amulets on

225

00:07:57,110 --> 00:07:56,160

all kinds of things strange looking

226

00:07:58,629 --> 00:07:57,120

folks i mean

227

00:08:00,070 --> 00:07:58,639

by and large there were some skeptics

228

00:08:01,189 --> 00:08:00,080

there too were looking a little grumpy

229

00:08:03,830 --> 00:08:01,199

about the whole thing

230

00:08:04,710 --> 00:08:03,840

but uh by and large they were a bunch of

231

00:08:08,710 --> 00:08:04,720

flakes it was

232

00:08:10,790 --> 00:08:08,720

very strange uh i must say that um

233

00:08:13,029 --> 00:08:10,800

you know dick is such a moving dick

234

00:08:13,990 --> 00:08:13,039

smith is such a moving power behind this

235

00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:14,000

kind of thing

236

00:08:17,029 --> 00:08:16,080

we owe him a great uh debt of thanks

237

00:08:19,670 --> 00:08:17,039

because he

238

00:08:20,629 --> 00:08:19,680

he was in there uh he and richard carl

239

00:08:23,830 --> 00:08:20,639

and carlson

240

00:08:25,670 --> 00:08:23,840

were in their feet first right away they

241

00:08:28,710 --> 00:08:25,680

didn't hesitate whatsoever

242

00:08:29,510 --> 00:08:28,720

and uh and phil adams says well uh these

243

00:08:31,430 --> 00:08:29,520

have been people

244

00:08:33,350 --> 00:08:31,440

to whom the australian public i think

245

00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:33,360

owes a debt of thanks

246

00:08:36,790 --> 00:08:35,120

oh absolutely right of course dick is

247

00:08:38,550 --> 00:08:36,800

still carrying on with all sorts of

248

00:08:40,870 --> 00:08:38,560

amazing adventures and

249

00:08:42,310 --> 00:08:40,880

uh campaigns and he's a man who puts

250

00:08:44,870 --> 00:08:42,320

australia first which

251
00:08:46,550 --> 00:08:44,880
endears him to many australians i think

252
00:08:48,710 --> 00:08:46,560
oh yes indeed and uh

253
00:08:50,630 --> 00:08:48,720
what what better cause can we think of

254
00:08:52,949 --> 00:08:50,640
than putting your country first

255
00:08:54,710 --> 00:08:52,959
on your various adventures to australia

256
00:08:57,110 --> 00:08:54,720
i must get to this one and i think it

257
00:08:59,509 --> 00:08:57,120
was around about the same time as

258
00:09:00,150 --> 00:08:59,519
the 1980 water divining test was your

259
00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:00,160
famous

260
00:09:03,829 --> 00:09:03,200
incident on the don lane show don lane

261
00:09:07,430 --> 00:09:03,839
had

262
00:09:09,750 --> 00:09:07,440
met with me this was when the doris

263
00:09:10,550 --> 00:09:09,760

still sing was very active and don lane

264

00:09:13,110 --> 00:09:10,560

had

265

00:09:14,150 --> 00:09:13,120

completely collapsed into her lappy he

266

00:09:17,750 --> 00:09:14,160

thought she was the

267

00:09:19,430 --> 00:09:17,760

the best thing since sliced bread and

268

00:09:21,590 --> 00:09:19,440

he certainly advertised that on his

269

00:09:24,310 --> 00:09:21,600

program um

270

00:09:25,590 --> 00:09:24,320

he called me and uh asked if i would be

271

00:09:27,509 --> 00:09:25,600

on the show and

272

00:09:28,870 --> 00:09:27,519

i said yes but we have to have a bit of

273

00:09:31,430 --> 00:09:28,880

a conference first well

274

00:09:33,190 --> 00:09:31,440

uh so i went to melbourne on the plane i

275

00:09:34,949 --> 00:09:33,200

met a number of people who

276

00:09:37,110 --> 00:09:34,959

recognized me because i'd been on tv

277

00:09:38,710 --> 00:09:37,120

quite a bit and i said i was going to do

278

00:09:41,430 --> 00:09:38,720

the don lane show and they all

279

00:09:43,110 --> 00:09:41,440

were highly amused at that and i didn't

280

00:09:45,750 --> 00:09:43,120

quite know why but when i got there i

281

00:09:48,070 --> 00:09:45,760

met with don lane in his office

282

00:09:49,590 --> 00:09:48,080

with this producer and i said now mr

283

00:09:51,670 --> 00:09:49,600

lane i'm not here

284

00:09:53,670 --> 00:09:51,680

to be a clown i'm not going to go in and

285

00:09:55,509 --> 00:09:53,680

do the spoon bending thing and the key

286

00:09:56,550 --> 00:09:55,519

bending thing and the reading the sealed

287

00:09:59,269 --> 00:09:56,560

envelope thing

288

00:10:00,070 --> 00:09:59,279

as erie geller does uh we're here to

289

00:10:02,150 --> 00:10:00,080

talk about

290

00:10:03,750 --> 00:10:02,160

doris stokes i believe he said oh yes

291

00:10:06,310 --> 00:10:03,760

yes yes no problem no problem

292

00:10:08,150 --> 00:10:06,320

i said because doing these tricks just

293

00:10:09,030 --> 00:10:08,160

shows that anybody can do these tricks

294

00:10:11,670 --> 00:10:09,040

that they have a

295

00:10:12,389 --> 00:10:11,680

modicum of skill in conjuring techniques

296

00:10:14,870 --> 00:10:12,399

and he said

297

00:10:16,710 --> 00:10:14,880

oh yes yes yes agreed with that and i

298

00:10:18,230 --> 00:10:16,720

said fine okay then let's get down to it

299

00:10:19,350 --> 00:10:18,240

and we discussed what we were going to

300

00:10:21,910 --> 00:10:19,360

talk about

301
00:10:23,190 --> 00:10:21,920
concerning doris stokes so i went back

302
00:10:25,910 --> 00:10:23,200
to the hotel

303
00:10:27,750 --> 00:10:25,920
uh roughed it up and prepared myself for

304
00:10:30,230 --> 00:10:27,760
the program went to the studio

305
00:10:32,069 --> 00:10:30,240
and i got there a bit early and i was

306
00:10:32,790 --> 00:10:32,079
wondering about backstage and the prop

307
00:10:35,269 --> 00:10:32,800
man came over

308
00:10:36,069 --> 00:10:35,279
well mr magnificent will these spoons be

309
00:10:38,150 --> 00:10:36,079
sufficient

310
00:10:39,430 --> 00:10:38,160
and he showed me a collection of spoons

311
00:10:42,470 --> 00:10:39,440
and keys

312
00:10:42,870 --> 00:10:42,480
and i said yes that appears they'll be

313
00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:42,880

just

314

00:10:48,389 --> 00:10:45,760

fine thank you of course i knew now that

315

00:10:50,710 --> 00:10:48,399

lane was trying to pull a fast one on me

316

00:10:52,870 --> 00:10:50,720

and indeed that's exactly what he did i

317

00:10:54,790 --> 00:10:52,880

appeared to be very surprised and

318

00:10:55,990 --> 00:10:54,800

even reminded him that he had said we

319

00:10:59,829 --> 00:10:56,000

weren't going to do any

320

00:11:01,910 --> 00:10:59,839

spoon or key bending but this was his uh

321

00:11:04,389 --> 00:11:01,920

little trick that he was playing on me

322

00:11:05,590 --> 00:11:04,399

tricking the magician you see how clever

323

00:11:07,990 --> 00:11:05,600

he ended up

324

00:11:08,710 --> 00:11:08,000

really angry as you will see from the

325

00:11:12,230 --> 00:11:08,720

results of the

326

00:11:15,269 --> 00:11:12,240

the videotape he was infuriated i mean

327

00:11:17,670 --> 00:11:15,279

he turned white right in front of me

328

00:11:18,949 --> 00:11:17,680

because i was able to get away with it

329

00:11:21,590 --> 00:11:18,959

there's no question of it

330

00:11:22,230 --> 00:11:21,600

i got away with it he was either quite

331

00:11:24,790 --> 00:11:22,240

uh

332

00:11:26,150 --> 00:11:24,800

taken aback and stormed off the set et

333

00:11:28,230 --> 00:11:26,160

cetera well we'll let people look at the

334

00:11:31,030 --> 00:11:28,240

video it's very amusing it is

335

00:11:33,190 --> 00:11:31,040

it is indeed and still as i say it still

336

00:11:35,750 --> 00:11:33,200

uh invokes a lot of comment and in fact

337

00:11:37,670 --> 00:11:35,760

it was rebroadcast only about two or

338

00:11:39,910 --> 00:11:37,680

three weeks ago on australian tv as one

339

00:11:41,590 --> 00:11:39,920

of the great famous moments in the last

340

00:11:43,030 --> 00:11:41,600

50 years of television so

341

00:11:44,790 --> 00:11:43,040

i would wonder whether you have very

342

00:11:46,470 --> 00:11:44,800

many famous moments in australian

343

00:11:49,430 --> 00:11:46,480

television that i don't know i

344

00:11:50,790 --> 00:11:49,440

i trust other things came before it but

345

00:11:54,870 --> 00:11:50,800

i must say

346

00:11:58,389 --> 00:11:54,880

also um richard i was called into

347

00:11:58,949 --> 00:11:58,399

well i think i did it by remote control

348

00:12:01,350 --> 00:11:58,959

here

349

00:12:02,790 --> 00:12:01,360

from florida but uh when they did some

350

00:12:04,629 --> 00:12:02,800

sort of a thing like

351

00:12:06,310 --> 00:12:04,639

online revisited or something they did

352

00:12:07,829 --> 00:12:06,320

some sort of a tribute to them

353

00:12:10,550 --> 00:12:07,839

and they called me and asked for my

354

00:12:12,790 --> 00:12:10,560

contribution and my closing line on it

355

00:12:14,150 --> 00:12:12,800

uh after saying that you know there was

356

00:12:16,310 --> 00:12:14,160

a misunderstanding and

357

00:12:17,350 --> 00:12:16,320

we had a good time after all and i said

358

00:12:19,030 --> 00:12:17,360

oh by the way don

359

00:12:20,470 --> 00:12:19,040

and then i gave him the two-word command

360

00:12:24,150 --> 00:12:20,480

that he had given me

361

00:12:26,150 --> 00:12:24,160

and i had i had to get the dig in and

362

00:12:27,590 --> 00:12:26,160

uh your listeners will appreciate that

363

00:12:28,230 --> 00:12:27,600

if they take a look at the page they'll

364

00:12:31,269 --> 00:12:28,240

see his

365

00:12:33,110 --> 00:12:31,279

parting words an amazing coincidence

366

00:12:33,990 --> 00:12:33,120

happened to me a few years ago with don

367

00:12:37,350 --> 00:12:34,000

lane i was

368

00:12:39,110 --> 00:12:37,360

at a venue for unrelated reason and don

369

00:12:41,269 --> 00:12:39,120

lane was there and he's a very

370

00:12:42,870 --> 00:12:41,279

outgoing man and he was running around

371

00:12:44,870 --> 00:12:42,880

shaking everybody's hand and

372

00:12:46,230 --> 00:12:44,880

saying how do you do he came up to me

373

00:12:49,190 --> 00:12:46,240

and shook my hand and then he

374

00:12:50,310 --> 00:12:49,200

looked at my jacket and there on my

375

00:12:53,030 --> 00:12:50,320

lapel

376

00:12:53,990 --> 00:12:53,040

was the james randy educational

377

00:12:57,269 --> 00:12:54,000

foundation's

378

00:12:57,910 --> 00:12:57,279

pegasus and i told him what it was

379

00:12:59,829 --> 00:12:57,920

because he was

380

00:13:01,509 --> 00:12:59,839

curious about it and uh he had a very

381

00:13:02,550 --> 00:13:01,519

good laugh so i think he has some good

382

00:13:05,829 --> 00:13:02,560

memories of the time

383

00:13:07,350 --> 00:13:05,839

as well our encounter is remembered so i

384

00:13:10,710 --> 00:13:07,360

guess he has good reason to

385

00:13:13,590 --> 00:13:10,720

remember it well i guess he does

386

00:13:15,430 --> 00:13:13,600

i i now i'd like to touch just briefly

387

00:13:17,190 --> 00:13:15,440

if i may on

388

00:13:18,710 --> 00:13:17,200

what has been a great influence for me

389

00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:18,720

and i'm sure many other people

390

00:13:23,350 --> 00:13:21,680

are simply the uh the number of books or

391

00:13:24,870 --> 00:13:23,360

the quality of books may i say that

392

00:13:27,190 --> 00:13:24,880

you've produced from

393

00:13:29,350 --> 00:13:27,200

the truth about yuri gala or originally

394

00:13:31,910 --> 00:13:29,360

the magic of irigella i think

395

00:13:33,430 --> 00:13:31,920

to flim flam to the mask of nostradamus

396

00:13:35,509 --> 00:13:33,440

to the faith healers

397

00:13:37,590 --> 00:13:35,519

i i couldn't pick a favorite amongst

398

00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:37,600

those but i think flim flam is

399

00:13:41,350 --> 00:13:39,600

often tagged as one of the the

400

00:13:43,829 --> 00:13:41,360

highlights

401
00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:43,839
well flimflam was my second book uh the

402
00:13:47,189 --> 00:13:45,920
the magic of regular or the truth about

403
00:13:49,829 --> 00:13:47,199
her yeller as it was

404
00:13:51,509 --> 00:13:49,839
subsequently called in a later edition

405
00:13:53,990 --> 00:13:51,519
uh with my first book

406
00:13:54,550 --> 00:13:54,000
and uh flimflam followed then

407
00:13:57,829 --> 00:13:54,560
immediately

408
00:13:59,430 --> 00:13:57,839
on that flimflam i think was my most

409
00:14:02,710 --> 00:13:59,440
successful book i

410
00:14:03,750 --> 00:14:02,720
couldn't do a count on it but uh i know

411
00:14:05,670 --> 00:14:03,760
that it sold

412
00:14:06,870 --> 00:14:05,680
something like 200 and something

413
00:14:08,870 --> 00:14:06,880

thousand copies

414

00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:08,880

uh in the years that it's been in print

415

00:14:14,389 --> 00:14:10,560

and it's used in

416

00:14:17,189 --> 00:14:14,399

many college courses as required reading

417

00:14:18,870 --> 00:14:17,199

and suggested reading uh because it

418

00:14:20,629 --> 00:14:18,880

pretty well covers the whole field

419

00:14:23,269 --> 00:14:20,639

everything from ufos through

420

00:14:24,710 --> 00:14:23,279

uh crops well no crop circles weren't

421

00:14:27,990 --> 00:14:24,720

around it at that time

422

00:14:31,590 --> 00:14:28,000

uh but through um the von daniken uh

423

00:14:33,590 --> 00:14:31,600

farce and and it just

424

00:14:36,310 --> 00:14:33,600

the the scope of the book is rather

425

00:14:37,829 --> 00:14:36,320

large i rather stretch myself out thin

426

00:14:39,269 --> 00:14:37,839

there i had to

427

00:14:41,110 --> 00:14:39,279

keep a lot of material but i thought the

428

00:14:42,949 --> 00:14:41,120

book would have been far too thick i

429

00:14:45,269 --> 00:14:42,959

really want to redo it but one of these

430

00:14:47,030 --> 00:14:45,279

days it needs to be redone

431

00:14:49,350 --> 00:14:47,040

but i'm trying to get the rights to the

432

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:49,360

book back so that i can do it on my own

433

00:14:53,350 --> 00:14:51,040

and at my own speed

434

00:14:54,629 --> 00:14:53,360

yeah a marvelous book if if listeners

435

00:14:57,670 --> 00:14:54,639

haven't read that i certainly

436

00:14:59,910 --> 00:14:57,680

sincerely recommend flim flam if i was

437

00:15:02,150 --> 00:14:59,920

to choose a personal favorite however

438

00:15:03,030 --> 00:15:02,160

uh flim flam certainly am up there

439

00:15:05,509 --> 00:15:03,040

amongst them

440

00:15:07,829 --> 00:15:05,519

but i particularly enjoyed the mask of

441

00:15:09,430 --> 00:15:07,839

nostradamus and i got particularly angry

442

00:15:11,110 --> 00:15:09,440

whilst reading the faith healers you

443

00:15:12,629 --> 00:15:11,120

must still get a lot of correspondence

444

00:15:14,470 --> 00:15:12,639

over these things

445

00:15:15,990 --> 00:15:14,480

uh not all the faith healers the faith

446

00:15:17,910 --> 00:15:16,000

healers

447

00:15:19,269 --> 00:15:17,920

didn't make any excitement whatsoever

448

00:15:21,590 --> 00:15:19,279

because

449

00:15:22,470 --> 00:15:21,600

people already knew that the faith

450

00:15:24,629 --> 00:15:22,480

haters

451
00:15:27,110 --> 00:15:24,639
couldn't do what they said they could do

452
00:15:29,350 --> 00:15:27,120
uh read it and said yeah okay

453
00:15:30,389 --> 00:15:29,360
uh you know it was no revelation to them

454
00:15:33,189 --> 00:15:30,399
but the faithful

455
00:15:34,310 --> 00:15:33,199
uh rejected it completely of course i i

456
00:15:36,069 --> 00:15:34,320
occasionally get

457
00:15:37,350 --> 00:15:36,079
some male saying that i'm going straight

458
00:15:38,949 --> 00:15:37,360
to hell because of that

459
00:15:40,470 --> 00:15:38,959
and i always write back and say well

460
00:15:42,470 --> 00:15:40,480
i'll be with friends anyway

461
00:15:43,670 --> 00:15:42,480
the the hatred that was worked up for me

462
00:15:45,910 --> 00:15:43,680
because i was

463
00:15:47,670 --> 00:15:45,920

calling this good man of god this

464

00:15:49,990 --> 00:15:47,680

swindler peter popoff

465

00:15:51,350 --> 00:15:50,000

uh for what he really was he's back on

466

00:15:54,150 --> 00:15:51,360

television you know and

467

00:15:54,710 --> 00:15:54,160

uh they come right back because people

468

00:15:56,870 --> 00:15:54,720

don't

469

00:15:57,910 --> 00:15:56,880

want the kind of thing that i outlined

470

00:16:01,350 --> 00:15:57,920

in

471

00:16:03,350 --> 00:16:01,360

flimflam

472

00:16:05,749 --> 00:16:03,360

as a matter of fact they don't want it

473

00:16:08,870 --> 00:16:05,759

they prefer to have the woo-woo

474

00:16:11,430 --> 00:16:08,880

and that that comforts them in some way

475

00:16:12,389 --> 00:16:11,440

so people can't be educated in certain

476

00:16:13,910 --> 00:16:12,399

directions and

477

00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:13,920

once they've reached a certain point

478

00:16:18,550 --> 00:16:15,600

that's a point of no return

479

00:16:19,509 --> 00:16:18,560

and they will never drop back into the

480

00:16:20,949 --> 00:16:19,519

rational world

481

00:16:23,269 --> 00:16:20,959

if they were ever in there in the first

482

00:16:25,670 --> 00:16:23,279

place uh now i see the next

483

00:16:28,230 --> 00:16:25,680

amazing meeting will be coming up in

484

00:16:31,269 --> 00:16:28,240

january of next year in las vegas

485

00:16:33,590 --> 00:16:31,279

this is number five

486

00:16:34,550 --> 00:16:33,600

when you held the amazing meeting number

487

00:16:36,069 --> 00:16:34,560

one

488

00:16:37,749 --> 00:16:36,079

did you think that would be the only

489

00:16:38,870 --> 00:16:37,759

meeting or did you think there would be

490

00:16:40,629 --> 00:16:38,880

more

491

00:16:42,389 --> 00:16:40,639

well as soon as we started to get the

492

00:16:43,350 --> 00:16:42,399

reaction and the registration started to

493

00:16:45,990 --> 00:16:43,360

pour in

494

00:16:46,710 --> 00:16:46,000

um i felt that it had to be an annual

495

00:16:49,269 --> 00:16:46,720

event and

496

00:16:50,949 --> 00:16:49,279

it certainly is from now on as long as

497

00:16:52,230 --> 00:16:50,959

we can run it as long as i can run it

498

00:16:55,670 --> 00:16:52,240

that is and um

499

00:16:57,829 --> 00:16:55,680

my successors as well because um we had

500

00:16:59,749 --> 00:16:57,839

over 800 people this uh

501
00:17:02,710 --> 00:16:59,759
this last year and richard i must say

502
00:17:05,909 --> 00:17:02,720
that uh was most edifying uh

503
00:17:06,630 --> 00:17:05,919
they they tore down the the casino and

504
00:17:09,189 --> 00:17:06,640
hotel

505
00:17:11,270 --> 00:17:09,199
after we left not because we were there

506
00:17:13,829 --> 00:17:11,280
uh they were already planning to do that

507
00:17:16,069 --> 00:17:13,839
but we had to uh scurry around to find a

508
00:17:17,990 --> 00:17:16,079
place big enough to accommodate our

509
00:17:19,189 --> 00:17:18,000
next audience and registrations are

510
00:17:21,590 --> 00:17:19,199
happening at a good rate

511
00:17:22,470 --> 00:17:21,600
and we always have had people from

512
00:17:25,110 --> 00:17:22,480
australia

513
00:17:26,230 --> 00:17:25,120

uh in some cases like two to four of

514

00:17:28,789 --> 00:17:26,240

them or whatever in

515

00:17:30,230 --> 00:17:28,799

some cases larger contingents and of

516

00:17:32,950 --> 00:17:30,240

course always welcome

517

00:17:34,549 --> 00:17:32,960

uh it's very uh flattering to think that

518

00:17:36,950 --> 00:17:34,559

we can draw people from

519

00:17:39,110 --> 00:17:36,960

those distances uh in past years we've

520

00:17:42,070 --> 00:17:39,120

had people from japan and china

521

00:17:43,990 --> 00:17:42,080

uh as well as australia and people from

522

00:17:45,990 --> 00:17:44,000

south america from peru

523

00:17:48,230 --> 00:17:46,000

from all over europe we always have a

524

00:17:50,630 --> 00:17:48,240

large uk contingent coming in

525

00:17:51,350 --> 00:17:50,640

and many of our speakers are from the uk

526

00:17:54,230 --> 00:17:51,360

as well

527

00:17:54,789 --> 00:17:54,240

particularly um richard wiseman of

528

00:17:57,510 --> 00:17:54,799

course

529

00:17:58,870 --> 00:17:57,520

a wonderful gentleman i mean without him

530

00:18:01,190 --> 00:17:58,880

i don't think

531

00:18:02,470 --> 00:18:01,200

the amazing meeting as we call it tam

532

00:18:04,470 --> 00:18:02,480

would be complete

533

00:18:05,590 --> 00:18:04,480

yes and it's often said that richard

534

00:18:08,870 --> 00:18:05,600

wiseman is

535

00:18:10,390 --> 00:18:08,880

dr phil plates evil clone

536

00:18:13,110 --> 00:18:10,400

well you know we did have a good stunt

537

00:18:15,750 --> 00:18:13,120

this last year

538

00:18:16,470 --> 00:18:15,760

it was pretty funny uh wiseman and

539

00:18:19,029 --> 00:18:16,480

kimono

540

00:18:20,470 --> 00:18:19,039

was introduced came out on stage uh he

541

00:18:23,909 --> 00:18:20,480

had a dark red shirt on and

542

00:18:25,430 --> 00:18:23,919

uh beige uh slacks i believe and

543

00:18:27,350 --> 00:18:25,440

he went to the podium he started his

544

00:18:28,789 --> 00:18:27,360

talk and he went into powerpoint

545

00:18:31,029 --> 00:18:28,799

and there were some illustrations a bit

546

00:18:33,909 --> 00:18:31,039

of video on the screen and he stepped

547

00:18:35,430 --> 00:18:33,919

aside and at the end of the powerpoint

548

00:18:37,190 --> 00:18:35,440

he got a round of applause and

549

00:18:38,950 --> 00:18:37,200

he walked back on again stepped over the

550

00:18:41,590 --> 00:18:38,960

podium and started speaking

551
00:18:42,789 --> 00:18:41,600
and people said what what's going on it

552
00:18:44,710 --> 00:18:42,799
was phil played

553
00:18:46,470 --> 00:18:44,720
because old blade had gone out with him

554
00:18:46,950 --> 00:18:46,480
and shopped for the same trousers and

555
00:18:49,990 --> 00:18:46,960
this

556
00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:50,000
the same dark red shirt and uh

557
00:18:54,230 --> 00:18:52,400
they looked so identical the audience

558
00:18:55,990 --> 00:18:54,240
was really titillated by that to say the

559
00:18:57,669 --> 00:18:56,000
least they had been deceived

560
00:18:59,590 --> 00:18:57,679
but as soon as they heard richard

561
00:19:00,470 --> 00:18:59,600
wiseman's voice of course the accent was

562
00:19:02,789 --> 00:19:00,480
gone

563
00:19:04,950 --> 00:19:02,799

and they thought that wiseman had uh had

564

00:19:06,789 --> 00:19:04,960

departed his senses in some way

565

00:19:08,150 --> 00:19:06,799

but it was a it was a good stunt and

566

00:19:09,110 --> 00:19:08,160

very funny and the two of them did a

567

00:19:12,549 --> 00:19:09,120

little dance

568

00:19:15,590 --> 00:19:12,559

afterwards uh sort of

569

00:19:17,669 --> 00:19:15,600

acapella and whatever it was fun

570

00:19:18,710 --> 00:19:17,679

and we we try to do that thing at the

571

00:19:21,510 --> 00:19:18,720

amazing meeting

572

00:19:23,430 --> 00:19:21,520

as well as being educational as we say

573

00:19:27,029 --> 00:19:23,440

entertaining as well as educational

574

00:19:30,549 --> 00:19:27,039

i'm sure it is well finally uh

575

00:19:31,270 --> 00:19:30,559

randy what in your opinion is your

576

00:19:34,789 --> 00:19:31,280

greatest

577

00:19:38,230 --> 00:19:34,799

success oh well uh

578

00:19:40,470 --> 00:19:38,240

what happens richard is one just came

579

00:19:42,150 --> 00:19:40,480

in two days ago as a matter of fact i

580

00:19:44,789 --> 00:19:42,160

wish i had it here i might

581

00:19:46,230 --> 00:19:44,799

read a bit of it i get letters every now

582

00:19:48,150 --> 00:19:46,240

and then some of them are on email and

583

00:19:50,549 --> 00:19:48,160

some other actual postal letters

584

00:19:51,270 --> 00:19:50,559

that arrive that usually start out like

585

00:19:53,110 --> 00:19:51,280

uh

586

00:19:54,710 --> 00:19:53,120

you made a big difference in my life mr

587

00:19:56,789 --> 00:19:54,720

randy because at one time

588

00:19:57,830 --> 00:19:56,799

and they go through a description of how

589

00:20:01,029 --> 00:19:57,840

they were

590

00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:01,039

uh deluded by the so-called paranormal

591

00:20:08,710 --> 00:20:04,960

and uh religious claims and whatnot that

592

00:20:11,190 --> 00:20:08,720

that were uh dragging them down into

593

00:20:12,230 --> 00:20:11,200

uh irrationality and they say that they

594

00:20:14,470 --> 00:20:12,240

got a book of mine

595

00:20:15,350 --> 00:20:14,480

i had oh i wish i had it had it just in

596

00:20:17,350 --> 00:20:15,360

the other room

597

00:20:18,470 --> 00:20:17,360

i've forgotten the name of the gentleman

598

00:20:22,630 --> 00:20:18,480

he's a surgeon

599

00:20:23,669 --> 00:20:22,640

now and he dropped by uh a matter of a

600

00:20:25,510 --> 00:20:23,679

few months ago

601
00:20:27,190 --> 00:20:25,520
with a briefcase inside he said mr randy

602
00:20:28,870 --> 00:20:27,200
you don't know me but uh

603
00:20:30,950 --> 00:20:28,880
you know you made a big difference to my

604
00:20:33,430 --> 00:20:30,960
life and he told me the story that uh

605
00:20:33,990 --> 00:20:33,440
he had a copy of flimflam very well

606
00:20:36,630 --> 00:20:34,000
thumbed

607
00:20:38,149 --> 00:20:36,640
i assure you and with with bits of paper

608
00:20:39,909 --> 00:20:38,159
stuck in it all over the place and

609
00:20:41,669 --> 00:20:39,919
comments in the margin some not very

610
00:20:44,149 --> 00:20:41,679
flattering to me

611
00:20:45,909 --> 00:20:44,159
and uh he said you know i got two-thirds

612
00:20:47,430 --> 00:20:45,919
the way through the book and i suddenly

613
00:20:49,909 --> 00:20:47,440

looked at myself in the mirror and said

614

00:20:53,350 --> 00:20:49,919

hey he's right

615

00:20:54,630 --> 00:20:53,360

and that revelation is is something that

616

00:20:56,549 --> 00:20:54,640

hits people sometimes

617

00:20:58,950 --> 00:20:56,559

between the eyes and not always of

618

00:21:01,430 --> 00:20:58,960

course but sometimes it does and he said

619

00:21:02,230 --> 00:21:01,440

i was intending to be a parapsychologist

620

00:21:04,870 --> 00:21:02,240

he said this was

621

00:21:06,390 --> 00:21:04,880

many years ago he said so i decided i'm

622

00:21:08,470 --> 00:21:06,400

going to be a surgeon an

623

00:21:10,070 --> 00:21:08,480

abdominal surgeon and i'm at the local

624

00:21:11,750 --> 00:21:10,080

hospital barry general hospital just

625

00:21:14,070 --> 00:21:11,760

down the street from us here

626
00:21:16,070 --> 00:21:14,080
and he said anytime you want abdominal

627
00:21:16,789 --> 00:21:16,080
surgeries and i i hope you don't have to

628
00:21:19,270 --> 00:21:16,799
have it but

629
00:21:20,789 --> 00:21:19,280
you know i might give you a reduced rate

630
00:21:22,230 --> 00:21:20,799
and so i've taken that

631
00:21:23,909 --> 00:21:22,240
i put his name up on the bullet board

632
00:21:24,630 --> 00:21:23,919
just in case i get appendicitis or

633
00:21:26,230 --> 00:21:24,640
something i'll

634
00:21:28,310 --> 00:21:26,240
give him a call right away no

635
00:21:30,070 --> 00:21:28,320
interestingly enough he changed his

636
00:21:31,669 --> 00:21:30,080
profession his entire profession

637
00:21:33,110 --> 00:21:31,679
he went into science but he went into

638
00:21:35,750 --> 00:21:33,120

science that really works

639

00:21:36,789 --> 00:21:35,760

that's really flattering and very very

640

00:21:39,510 --> 00:21:36,799

satisfying richard

641

00:21:40,630 --> 00:21:39,520

that's that's the victory uh that i have

642

00:21:43,110 --> 00:21:40,640

it's spread out

643

00:21:44,310 --> 00:21:43,120

over many people over many years in many

644

00:21:46,470 --> 00:21:44,320

different countries

645

00:21:47,990 --> 00:21:46,480

and reach being able to reach out and

646

00:21:51,029 --> 00:21:48,000

touch people like that

647

00:21:53,990 --> 00:21:51,039

is a huge measure of success i believe

648

00:21:55,750 --> 00:21:54,000

well long may you be able to continue

649

00:21:58,149 --> 00:21:55,760

doing what you're doing

650

00:21:58,950 --> 00:21:58,159

and i think people will be inspired for

651

00:22:02,230 --> 00:21:58,960

decades

652

00:22:03,909 --> 00:22:02,240

and uh centuries to come well

653

00:22:05,350 --> 00:22:03,919

thank you and my books will stay on the

654

00:22:07,350 --> 00:22:05,360

shelves i hope and

655

00:22:08,470 --> 00:22:07,360

will be perpetuated when the sun goes

656

00:22:11,270 --> 00:22:08,480

nova then

657

00:22:11,990 --> 00:22:11,280

i give up you know james the amazing