

# Criss Angel Mystifies The Book Revue

By Iris Wiener

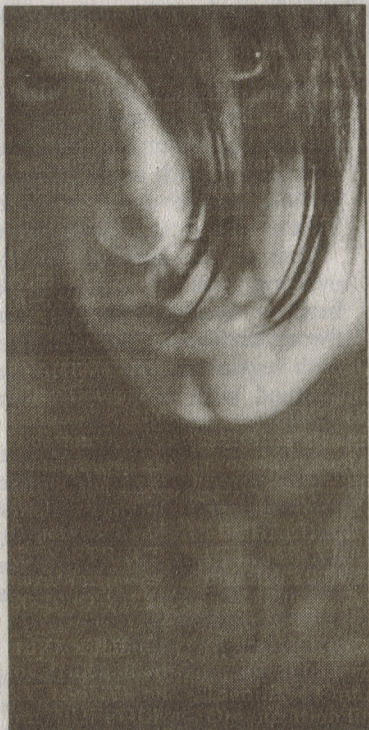
info@longislandernews.com

There was no magic involved on May 9 at The Book Revue, although the lines weaving around the crowded block may have led people to believe otherwise. Criss Angel's book signing event required no illusions.

With the family that he has made famous on the hit A&E series *Mindfreak* in tow, Angel greeted thousands of fans excited about the release of *Mindfreak: Secret Revelations*, his revealing memoir.

No one was more excited to be in Huntington than Angel himself. Although he was born in Hempstead, Angel grew up in Elmont and East Meadow. He now calls Las Vegas his home, but he still owns a place in West Islip.

"Being on Long Island gave me an opportunity to be able to commute into the city which was really where I spent a lot of time developing my craft and evolving as a human being, as well as an artist," he said, recalling one of many fond memories. "Long Island will always be my home, I'm very proud to say I'm from the



**Criss Angel discusses the Long Island road he took to success.**

Island, or as Flava Flav would say, "Strong Island," he laughed proudly, moments before heading into The Book Revue's ecstatic crowd.

"It's so great to be back here. Unfortunately there's not enough time I can spend here because I'm always being pulled in a million different directions." Angel meant this quite literally; seeing as how his demonstrations alone...err...tear him apart. "The support I get all started on Long Island, and so I'm very indebted to all those people that supported me and without their support I wouldn't be here."

Angel has received numerous awards throughout his career, including being chosen as the 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008 Magician of the Year. His career will continue to mystify people with an upcoming stint at The Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Starting in the summer of 2008, Angel will be performing 4,600 shows with *Cirque du Soleil* over the next 10 years!

"It's a very exciting time," he said, reflecting on what lies ahead. The summer of 2007 brings excitement as well. "We're going to kick off the brand new season of *Mindfreak*. I just wrapped my 70th episode in a little more than two years, and that's going to premiere June 5,

at 10 p.m. It's on a new night, Tuesday night."

When asked about the growing skepticism of an illusionist's audience, Angel calmly waved the thought away. "I don't really care about the tricks or anything like that. What I'm more concerned about is connecting to people on an emotional level. I think when you have that connection, when you can make somebody equate what you're doing through your art to their own life, then that's the truest form of magic. And to me it's not about puzzles it's about that connection, and when I have that connection that's the most rewarding thing. That's when you get people to come up to you and say, 'You know, when I saw you do this, it made me realize I should face my own fears, and now I got help and now I'm living life more fuller, more richer.' That's what it's about. Because you know we don't know how much time we have on this wonderful earth, but the important thing is to live each moment like it's your last and enjoy it. And that's what I try to do, and hopefully people will be inspired to do the same thing."

Angel discusses his own road

to success more thoroughly in *Mindfreak: Secret Revelations*, which took him about 16 months to complete.

"The book was put together as an honest reflection of my trials and tribulations. I wanted to show that you should never give up on yourself or your dream. If I'm living my dream, anybody reading the book can live his or hers. It's basically a book to inspire, to motivate, and to tell people that, 'You know what, believe in yourself, have passion, work hard, and you will achieve your dreams.'"

As in everything Angel does, his memoir is like no other out there. It features 40 *mindfreaks* that you can master with household items to shock your friends and family.

"And you know what? If you see somebody of the opposite sex in a bar or club here on Long Island, and you want to break the ice, it's a great way to do it..." he said, winking. Plus, he pointed out, the book includes a *lot* of embarrassing pictures. "I had to be honest and true to myself and that's why I put them in there," he laughed. "I'm very proud of the book."