

## Astoria This Week

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# Pouring Drinks With A Magical Flair

Dave Cremin was destined to be a magician. Since coming to America in 1986, every calling or happenstance of the Astoria resident's life has led him to magic. It's almost as though there was some divine karma that propelled Cremin's life through a bizarre series of coincidences leading to his becoming a magician.

In 1986, a friend of Cremin's was going home to his native Ireland for a few weeks' visit and asked Cremin, then a construction worker and doorman, if he could cover his shifts at the bar where he worked. Cremin, having never bartended a day in his life, agreed.

Later that year, after having shifted to a permanent position at a different bar, he was helping his boss rummage through old boxes in an effort to decorate for Halloween. In one of the boxes, Cremin found trinkets and old magic tricks that he decided to incorporate behind the bar to entertain guests and up his tips.

For Christmas, one of Cremin's regulars gave him a present, a

book titled, "Close up Card Magic." This is the book that Cremin said, "changed his life forever."

Just a few months later, Cremin changed gigs again, placing him at a new bar where a patron asked him to do some card tricks. Pleased with the tricks Cremin executed, the patron, Rick Silvermann, revealed that he was a 20-year magician and immediately befriended Cremin and brought him into his "circle of magic"

"He became my best friend in magic," Cremin said about Silvermann. "He was the guy that guided me in the direction that I am in today."

That same month, Cremin accompanied Silvermann to a meeting of the Society of American Magicians, where Silvermann introduced Cremin to the group of seven or eight magicians as an Irish Magician.

"That kind of freaked me out a little bit cause I only knew like five or six tricks," Cremin recalled. "We're sitting at a table and the

deck of cards is going around to each magician and I start getting nervous because Harry Lorraine is sitting at this table and all the tricks I know are from his book."

Luckily for Cremin, Lorraine appreciated the personal touches he added to make the tricks his own.

Now 23, with a dual career in magic and bartending, Cremin was faced with new challenges — he wasn't a legal resident of the U.S. and he left his childhood sweetheart, Judith, back in Cork County, Ireland.

Judith soon joined Cremin in Astoria, and his mother worked from Ireland to get the couple legal status, which came in 1989.

David and Judith Cremin still reside in Astoria, and have two daughters, Carrie and LeeAnn. David continues to incorporate magic into his bartending and encourages everyone to check it out from Tuesdays to Saturdays at Cronin and Phelans Bar, located at the corner of Broadway and Steinway in Astoria.



Dave Cremin

Cremin also lends his magic to charity work and is available for private contracting through his website, [www.outofthisworldmagic.com](http://www.outofthisworldmagic.com).

"Through magic," he said. "I can make people's good times appear and bad times disappear."

**Iman Khan**