

## Hypnotist is mesmerizing

**You've got to wonder what a hypnotist like Jim Spinnato could do for a marriage.**



I only saw a hypnotist's show once and, though I'm not one quickly suckered in by card tricks or séances, he made me a believer in hypnotists.

Spinnato performed at year one and year two of Milford Celebrates, which is Milford's rendition of First Night, an alcohol-free New Year's Eve party.

He's scheduled for this year's party too.

As a sort of *ex officio* member of the Milford Celebrates committee, one of my jobs is to publicize the event.

That said (and therefore any potential hidden agendas out in the open), let's talk more about Spinnato.

Spinnato was one of three performers last year at Milford City Hall, one of about a dozen venues that hosts entertainment at Milford Celebrates.

My job was to man the door, checking that people were wearing their admission buttons (\$5 for children, \$10 for adults at Milford Photo, Shoreline Mortgage and Bella Napoli Pizza). Button-checking is really an awesome job to have on New Year's Eve in a place like Milford. Everyone's in a festive mood, and most faces are very, moderately or at least slightly familiar.

Being at the door left little time to wander in and watch the shows throughout the evening.

I did manage a few peeks, though, one time catching Jonathan Law High School coach and paraprofessional Ted Boynton doing a couple of impromptu impersonations, and the other time - a longer stay at City Hall's center stage - watching nearly all of Spinnato's show.

I've got to say again, this guy (or his talents, rather) could benefit the marriage institution markedly.

He started out by gathering up his "subjects" from the audience. Maybe 20 volunteers stepped forward, willing to sample Spinnato's hypnosis.

They took their seats, introduced themselves, and then went through a quick and efficient elimination - not so drawn out, nor as painful, as on American Idol or The Bachelor.

After a quick relaxation assignment, Spinnato picked out maybe half or more and sent them back to their seats.

He ruled out a few more as "unhypnotisable" as the show moved forward.

The remaining subjects appeared to be fully under his command, some singing or dancing on cue, others walking among the audience.

All this could have been staged, the cynical might argue, but one young lady proved to me it was real.

This young woman apparently "went under" a little too deeply, and Spinnato cut her participation short, instructing her mother to take her outside for a bit of fresh air.

Ever curious, I followed them out. The young woman was fine explaining that she couldn't remember what had just happened.

The others on stage continued their amusing antics, taking directions from Spinnato.

And so, you might ask, what could this skill do for a marriage?

Imagine it. "Honey...you will take over all household chores while I read Mitch Albom's newest book?"

The possibilities seem endless.

So, I'll add, are the chances for entertainment at Milford Celebrates. You can see the entire line-up of acts planned for New Year's Eve in downtown Milford.

*This column reflects the opinion of Editor Jill Kaiser Dion and does not necessarily represent the views of Hometown Publications.*

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Published by Hometown Publications  
1000 Bridgeport Avenue  
Shelton, Connecticut 06484  
(203) 926-2080 FAX: (203) 926-2091  
E-mail: milfordmirror@add-inc.com