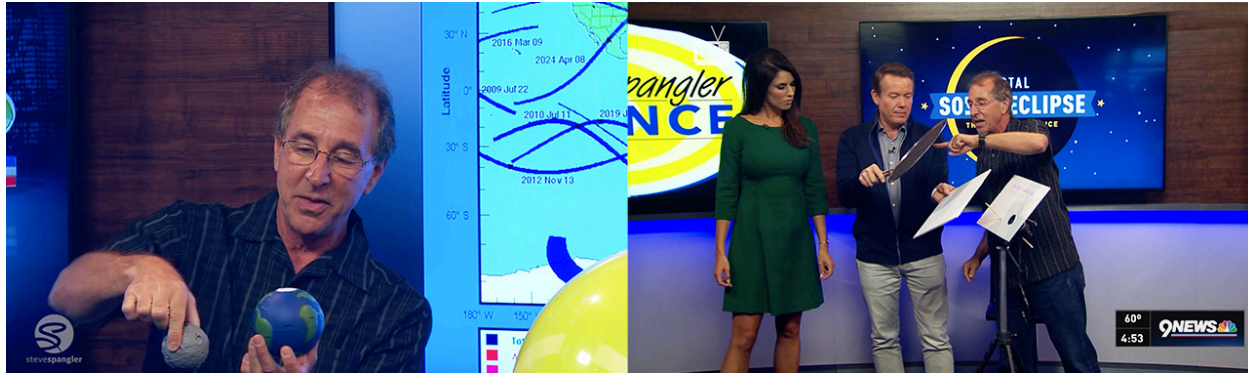


Part 2

The second half of 2017 has been just as exciting as the first half.

As much of the United States eagerly awaited the total eclipse of the Sun, my good friend Steve Spangler invited me onto 9 News to talk about the astronomy of solar eclipses and to demonstrate safe ways to watch it.



When eclipse day approached, my daughter, Star, and I took a road trip to Wyoming to be on the “center line,” the best place to view the eclipse. We were part of a caravan of RVs, campers and tents which formed a small village of excited eclipse watchers. A true science educator at heart, I managed to do a science show for 100 campers.



In September, I traveled to the Ontario Science Center for a special two-day workshop. It was the first time in 25 years that they closed to the public for upgrades, and they invited me to help train their staff on effective science communication and museum presentation techniques — from how to use body language for engaging audiences to explaining the physics of inertia and friction using tablecloths, plates and fun.



Every year, for the past 25+ years, I have been the host of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Live Demonstration Hour. This year I presented the demos about storing energy which I created for the World Science Festival with Alan Alda. That, and showcased some of the best science demonstrators from around the country. Other than the keynote and plenary general sessions, the Live Demo Hour is the most widely attended program at the ASTC convention.



Next stop was back to Hong Kong, for the second time this year! This time to work for the Croucher Foundation. My performing partner, Ana Yau, and I delivered science performing workshops for a group of research scientists. This is a particularly exciting project because these scientists will be going into schools to captivate the kids with a program about what it is like to be a scientist. This is a real stretch for them, and we are there to support them all the way, with script writing, presentation techniques, and plenty of rehearsals. You can watch a short video about this project at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6VW2B7BkGo&feature=youtu.be>



2017 also saw me expand my boundaries for how to deliver workshops long distance. Very often people at a TeleWorkshop feel that they are watching a presenter who is “far away.” Instead, whether it is running auditions with colleagues in Hong Kong or playing improv games with staff at Science World BC in Vancouver, my goal is to use 45 years of theatrical experience so that the participants feel that I am right in the room with them.



In December, I took some time off from my science communication work and switched to my other love: being a magician. I worked for a week during the holiday season at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. It is the premiere magic dinner club in the world, and the pinnacle of any magician’s career. If truth be told, one of my strengths as a science presenter has always been that I have had a second career as a professional performer.



If you like what I do, and want to find out more, please send me an email or give me a call.

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