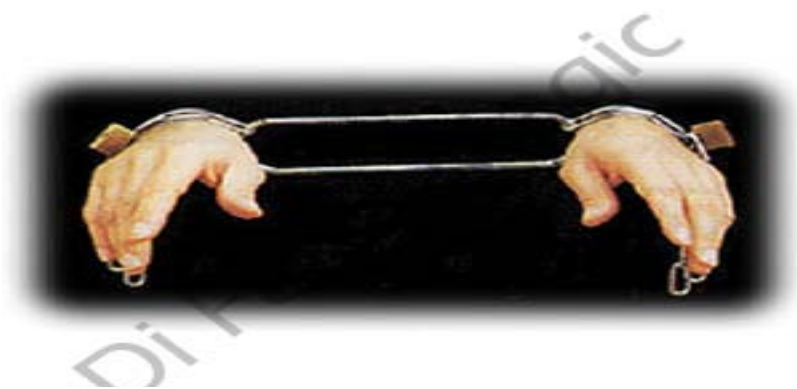
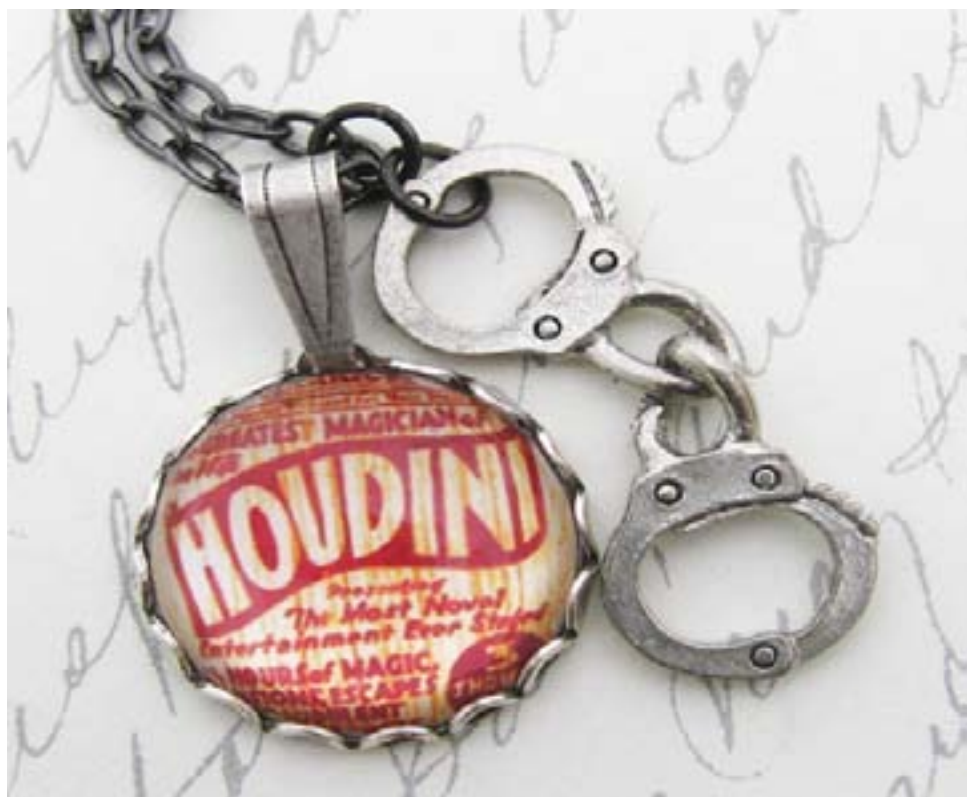


# Harry Houdini



# Contents

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Family
- 3) Career
- 4) Death



Harry Houdini was born as Erik Weisz in a European city named Budapest which is in Hungary. When Erik was four years old, his family immigrated to the United States. Upon arrival, his father changed the spelling of his name to the English version, Ehrich Weiss. He created his new name by altering his nickname "Ehry" to "Harry" and by changing his last name, inspired by the French magician Houdin. Ehrich Weiss dedicated his life to the art of magic, and, through rigorous training and education, he became the man we know as Harry Houdini.



In 1894, Harry Houdini met Wilhelmina Beatrice (Bess) Rahner, who was singing and dancing as part of the Floral Sisters. They were working Coney Island at the time. After knowing each other two weeks they were married in the month of July. When the Houdini married, Beatrice left the Floral Sisters and became her husband's stage assistant. In 1894, Harry Houdini met Wilhelmina Beatrice (Bess) Rahner, who was singing and dancing as part of the Floral Sisters. They were working Coney Island at the time. After knowing each other two weeks they were married in the month of July. When the Houdini married, Beatrice left the Floral Sisters and became her husband's stage assistant.



Harry Houdini with his mother, Cecilia Weiss, and his wife Bess, 1907



Harry Houdini began his professional career at age 17 doing magic shows before civic groups, in music halls, at side shows, and at New York's Coney Island amusement park, where he sometimes performed 20 shows each day. This changed when Harry met Beatrice who was also attempting a career in show business. Later in life, Harry Houdini did escapes from handcuffs, escapes from legions, escapes from straightjackets, escapes from jails and escapes from prison cells, escapes from mail pouches, escapes from packing crates....



On October 31 1926, Halloween, Harry Houdini died. He was 52. Houdini died of peritonitis resulting from appendicitis in Detroit, Michigan at Grace Hospital. He is buried at Machpelah Cemetery in Queens, New York with his family.



by Wong, Yuen Mai

