TOWN HOUSE is proud to present

FORGETFUL FREDDIE

Idea and original model by Milbourne Christopher

Current design by Town House...
where good tricks are made better!

Milbourne Christopher is known for his ideas and we believe this effect that you have just purchased is one of his best. Children audiences are notoriously difficult, and good tricks for the small fry are few and far between.

The important consideration in a child's trick is a simple straightforward story, colorful apparatus, along with some action. And then of course if you can combine all that with just a little audience participation you have something worthwhile. We think Forgetful Freddie fills the bill perfectly and hope you'll enjoy using it as much as we do. At least you'll find it an easy trick to do and one that you'll use regularly.

I don't know how much Milbourne has used his Forgetful Freddie but I do know that before we started writing these instructions we show tested Freddie both at private parties and on television (thanks to Ernie Heldman for the latter) to find out just what we were going to sell. From the results received we feel sure that any magician will find this a sure fire trick whenever he comes up against the younger kids.

As far as the apparatus goes, we've simplified it as much as possible. You can learn all there is to know about it by looking it over. The wire catch that holds the hinged head back may be bent slightly one way or the other until you have the release just as you want it. A straight pin must be placed through this hinged head (notice the tiny hole right at the nose) as this is what bursts the balloon. We thought it best to make this pin interchangable both for better packing and in case you happen to break a pin right before a show you can replace it easily. Keep an extra pin taped to the back of Freddie for just such an emergency! If the pin is loose in the hole a piece of tape over the head of the pin will hold it in place. To remove the pin, push on the point end with the bottom of the base and it will push right out.

The brads at the neck (to hold the balloon) are about as sure as anything we tried. I think you will find that they work perfectly with most any balloon. They can be adjusted slightly with a pair of long-nosed pliers if you find that the particular type balloon you are using doesn't set quite straight.

The basic routine is to first show the boy with his head in place...remove the head and put an inflated balloon where the head should be...and then finally the vanish of the head with its subsequent reappearance back in place as the balloon pops.

The patter can be varied slightly to suit the audience but it too has a basic form. Introduce the boy as Forgetful Freddie or

Forgetful Johnny or whatever name you want to use, and say that he is always forgetting things. "For instance, when his mother sends him to the store he forgets to get some of the groceries, and he always forgets to pick up his toys! Why, would you believe it, one day he even forgot his head. He put it someplace and then just forgot where he put it! Now if you'll watch real closely, I'll show you just what happened that day."

"First we'll take Freddie's head and put it in this handkerchief and ask someone here to hold it. (Get one of the children up to hold the head and handkerchief.) All day poor Freddie ran around the house without his head and he just couldn't find it anyplace. Finally his mother decided to teach him a lesson, so she blew up a balloon and put it on Freddie's shoulders, like this. And that really made Freddie unhappy because all the other children called him Balloon Head!

"That night when Freddie went to sleep he had a dream... a dream in which a great magician found his head and put it back for him! Now I'm a magician and so let's see if I can't help him out. First I want you to be sure that the head is still there. Are you still holding it tightly? That's good. Well now, when I count 'three' I want you to let go of the head. I'll hold the corners of the cloth so it won't fall. Ready now...one, two, three! And it looks like Freddie's head has vanished!"

At this point if you have an assistant, he or she can be holding Freddie and trip the lever...or you can have a length of thread fastened to the catch. A slight tug will release it. Otherwise you can go over to Freddie with the balloon still on his shoulders and have the kids count three and ""Bang", there's the missing head!

For the vanish of the extra head Milbourne suggests using a heavy cardboard fake in a double handkerchief and stealing out the real head as you take it to the child to hold. You can ditch the head as you reach for the magic wand. However, just as practical and even easier to do is to use one of the handkerchiefs especially made for vanishing different items. We recommend Grant's Devil Napkin because of the excellent no bulge feature. Price from most dealers $2.50 or available from Town House.

While Forgetful Freddie is basically a children's trick, some of the boys seem to think it could be used successfully for adult groups. We suggest that for use with a mixed group where there are just a few youngsters present, ask one of them to come up on the stage and have a seat to one side...as you are going to do a trick just for them! And by playing just to that youngster, the adults will enjoy the trick even more than it you showed it to them!

For adult group...you could work up a story about Stagedoor Johnny who lost his head over one of the chorus girls!

Or how about combining it with a card trick. A card is selected but you fail to find it. You've forgotten how to do the trick, which reminds you of a friend...Forgetful Freddie. So you show Freddie... and when the missing head appears, the missing chosen card is stuck to the head!