

SECTION: E
DATE: February 13, 2020

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

HONORARY MASTERS DEGREE RECIPIENT

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents award Franz Harary an Honorary Masters degree in Humane Letters-Theatre.

STAFF SUMMARY

Franz Harary is an internationally acclaimed illusionist best known for breaking boundaries across mediums and redefining the art of magic. He is best known for designing and performing illusions entirely of his own creation worldwide. His technical achievements in the world of magic are respected throughout the industry and his productions have broken attendance records across the globe including in Peru, Taiwan, and sold-out performances in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Thailand, Japan, and the United States.

As a college student at Eastern Michigan University in the 1980s, Mr. Harary was already creating halftime illusions for several university marching bands. His pre-CGI-era illusions led to wider recognition, in particular, work commissioned for Michael Jackson's *Victory Tour*, and his own "mega magic" stunts including making the Taj Mahal levitate and the NASA Space Shuttle disappear. His modesty and lack of an "over-the-top" persona prevent him from being easily identified as a celebrity offstage. As one publicist states, "The most famous magician on planet Earth is a guy you've never heard of."

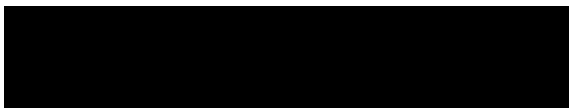
For his world-wide innovations and contributions to the discipline of entertainment design and technology – integral components of EMU's theatre program – and for his identification and promotion of Eastern Michigan University's contribution to his lifelong journey, we are proud to recommend Franz Harary for an Honorary Masters degree in Humane Letters-Theatre.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



University Executive Officer
Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.

1/08/2020
Date