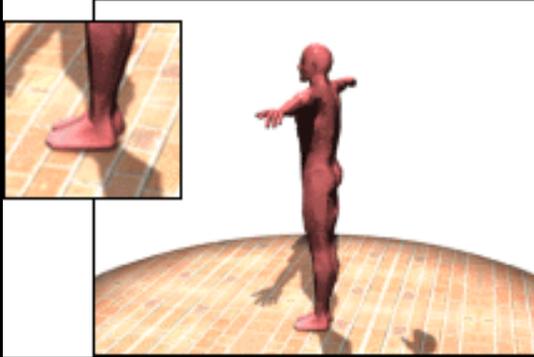


# The Balducci Levitation

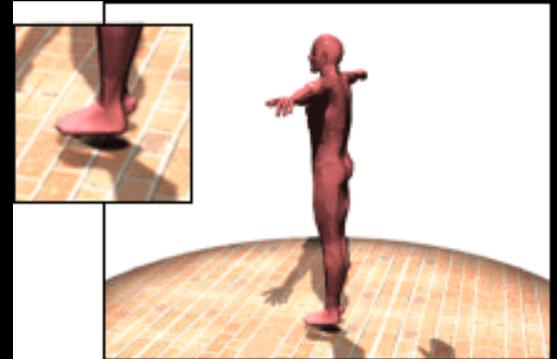


## Intro

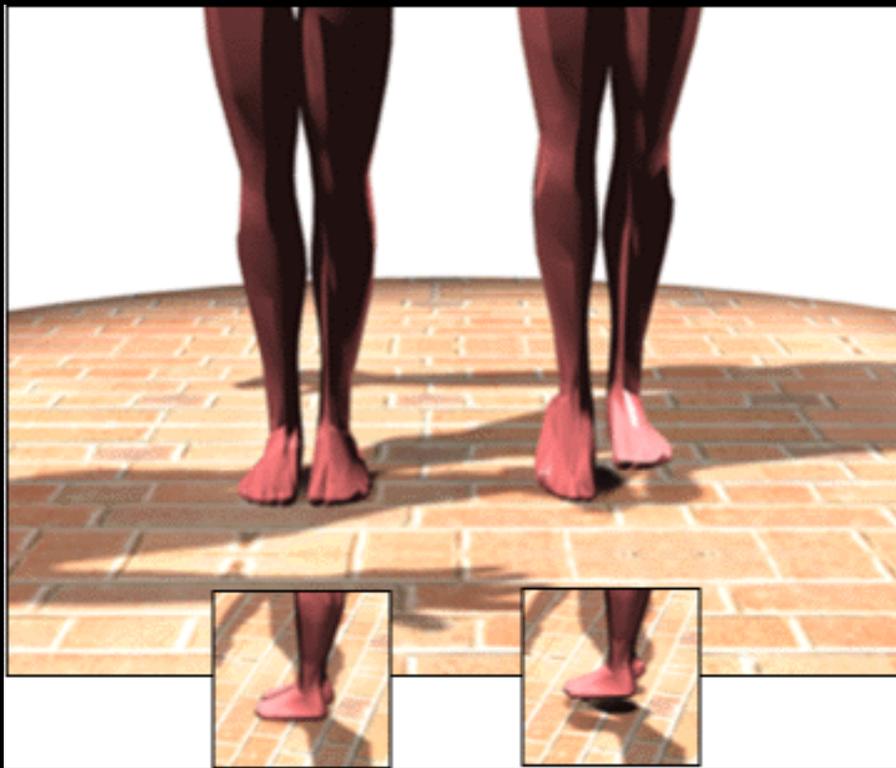
The Balducci Levitation is an illusion that can be performed anywhere, anytime. The illustration to the left show you the audience point-of-view. Stand about 8 to 10 feet away from the audience at a 45° 'backward' angle. This is an angle sensitive trick. You have to practice your angles over and over to get used to them. One bad angle or position and the illusion is blown!

## The Secret

All there is to do is pretend to "float off of the ground while you tippee-toe on just one foot (the foot furthest from their view) as shown to the right and below. The audience can not see your supporting foot because it is hidden by three things: your pants, the angle of the trick and your closest shoe (which hides their view of the foot being used to "levitate" you.) You might only rise 3 or 5 inches off of the ground, but it's all in the presentation! You will want to slowly rise off of the ground . . . wait a few seconds and then drop fast. Stay up too long and they will probably figure it out.



## Different Views



Showing an exposed view and two audience views before and during the levitation.

### Performance Animation

This is what it should look like if done right.  
Good luck and enjoy the illusion!



### Zero Gravity

A different levitation!

## David Blaine

David Blaine is not the originator of this illusion. He has made the illusion popular, once again, with his recent television special, "David Blaine: Street Magic." But, we never really get to see Blaine performing the Balducci Levitation. We watch several times as Blaine performs it for others, but we never get to see the Balducci Levitation for ourselves.

For the television special, Blaine performed the Balducci levitation in front of several hundred different groups of people, and the camera was angled only to catch their reactions. The method he used for this is the Balducci method, described above. While taping all the hundreds of performances, the producers keyed in on the audience members with the most visual reaction. After the Balducci levitation, the producers of the show had these same people stand by for another taping of the illusion, this time the camera would shoot from behind the audience members to get a clear view of Blaine in action.



The audience members were told that this second performance was to show them how magicians could use wires to levitate. And this is exactly what happened. A small harness and rig (just out of camera view) was set up and Blaine performed a standard wire-suspension. What Blaine did was a camera trick - known as a post-production edit. The audience at home watched the second (wire suspension) levitation performance, with the audience reaction of the Balducci levitation edited in.

