



# Working magic at the Pleasant Home in Oak Park



By **Doug George**  
Chicago Tribune

## SHARELINES

🐦 Jeanette Andrews' show "Thresholds" will work its magic in the Pleasant Home in Oak Park.

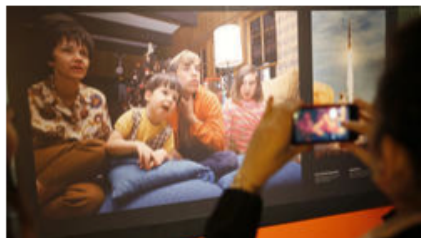
APRIL 15, 2015, 12:31 PM

Jeanette Andrews is the magician and the Pleasant Home mansion in Oak Park will be her volunteer from the audience, of sorts, for "Thresholds," evenings of performance magic Wednesday through April 26.

"Thresholds" was created as a site-specific show; parts of the 30-room Prairie Style landmark are incorporated into the act.

Andrews' theme, she said, is the five senses, and the audience will move with her through five different parts of the home over the course of the evening.

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"This is a very different take on magic," she said.

Expect to pick up a little science and psychology along the way. For example? "After-image," that effect on your eyeballs from staring at an orange sphere, only to see it go blue once you look away. Without wanting to reveal too much about her illusions, Andrews said, she plans to mess with your after-image, transforming that blue sphere into something she can hold in her hands.

You'll also get some history of the home, built in 1897 by architect George W. Maher as the

John Farson house and now open as a museum run by the Pleasant Home Foundation in a parklike setting just south of downtown Oak Park. The foundation invited her to create a show unique to the house as part of its 2015 performing arts series.

Speaking of volunteers, since there will be an audience of just 30, you can probably expect to get called on. "Thresholds" is recommended for ages 12 and older, Andrews said, not because of anything disturbing but because of the more cerebral content. She calls the show "contemplative."

The mansion itself, it should be said, is a stunner, holding its own against the nearby, better-known Frank Lloyd Wright creations — not a bad setting for a show about senses.

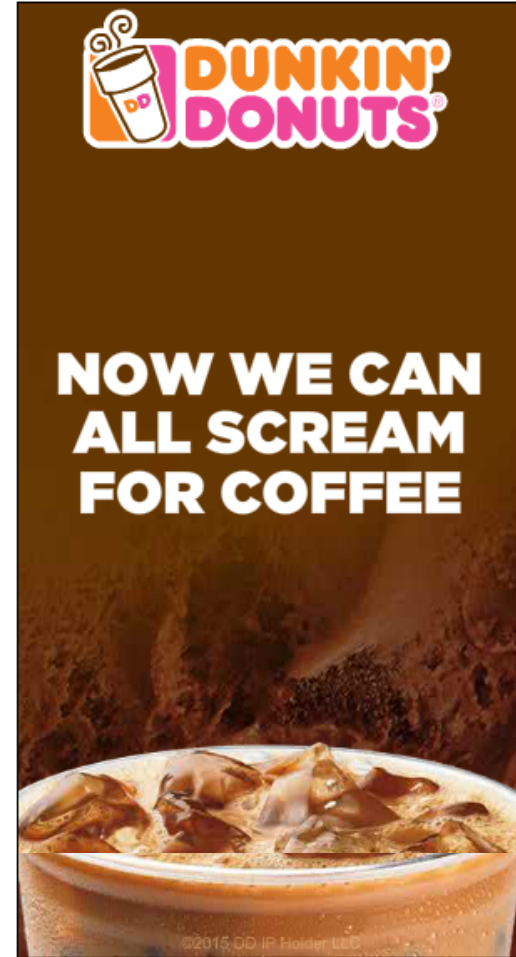
[ctc-arts@tribpub.com](mailto:ctc-arts@tribpub.com)

'Thresholds'

**When:** 7:30 p.m. April 22-26

**Where:** Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave., Oak Park

**Tickets:** \$25 (recommended for ages 12+) at [pleasanthome.org](http://pleasanthome.org)



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