



Wayne Dobson was a magician who rose to fame in the late 1980s and early 1990s through numerous television appearances. He became especially well known for his ITV series *Wayne Dobson – A Kind of Magic*, which drew audiences of up to 11 million viewers. Wayne was also recognized for his advocacy for multiple sclerosis (MS) charities, following his diagnosis with the condition in 1988.

Early Life and Magic Career

Born in Leicester, Wayne developed a passion for magic at an early age, inspired by a children's party entertainer and TV magician David Nixon. A David Nixon magic set given to him at age nine marked the beginning of his journey in magic. During his teens, frequent visits to the Davenports magic shop in London led to a mentorship with magician Pat Page. Other key influences included Roy Johnson, Ken Brooke, and Dai Vernon.

By age 16, he had become the youngest ever member of the Leicester Magic Circle and began working semi-professionally. In 1977, he won joint first prize in the close-up competition at the International Brotherhood of Magicians British Ring Convention, leading to his television debut on *Blue Peter*. At 21, he became a full-time professional magician.

Known for his fast-talking, comedic style, Wayne toured with performers like Freddie Starr and Dame Shirley Bassey and gained exposure on various UK television shows. A pivotal moment came in 1989 when he performed at the Royal Variety Show alongside Frank Bruno and Harry Carpenter, leading to his own ITV series *Wayne Dobson – A Kind of Magic*. The show ran for three series and a special in 1995.

Later Career

As MS progressed, Wayne scaled back live performances but remained active in the magic community. He lectured widely, developed and marketed magic tricks through his company DTRIK, and participated in media appearances, including the Channel 5 series *Top of the Box* in 2018. In 2022, he returned briefly to the stage with a live show at Haslemere Hall in Surrey.

Personal Life and Death

Wayne was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1988 and later became an ambassador for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre. He passed away on 7 July 2025 at the age of 68.