

Video Guide

Secrets of the Psychics

(30 minutes, NOVA Series on PBS, 1993)

Have you experienced any psychic experiences? Do you know about other psychic experiences? How do you explain those experiences? If you don't believe in psychic experiences, what evidence would convince you?

“According to a 1990 survey (Gallup & Newport, 1991) of over 1,000 adult Americans, 93% believe in at least one paranormal (literally ‘beyond normal’) or psychic phenomenon, and almost half believe in five or more. Belief in such phenomena is wide-spread among college students (Messer & Griggs, 1989).” (Davis & Palladino, 1997, *Psychology*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, p. 126)

“Throughout history various people have claimed extrasensory perception, the ability to perceive stimuli from the past, present, or future through a mechanism beyond vision, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Alleged forms of extrasensory perception (ESP) [parapsychology] have included clairvoyance (perceiving objects obscured **from** view or out of earshot), telepathy (‘reading’ another person’s thoughts, for example), and psychokinesis (involving not perception, but the moving or controlling of dice or other objects through mental **effort** alone. Proponents of ESP are asking you to believe that information can be transmitted **from** the outside world to the brain (and back again, in the case of psychokinesis) without using traditional sensory receptors.” (Bernstein, Clarke-Stewart, Roy, & **Wickens**, 1997, *Psychology*, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, pp. 131 - 132)

Are psychic experiences what they appear to be? The magician James **Randi**, *The Amazing Randi*, provides examples of psychic experiences and possible explanations which do not involve the paranormal or supernatural or special powers.

What is the psychic event? How would you describe it? How does it appear at first? What explanation does **Randi** provide? What do you think?

The Major Categories of Psychic Events **Randi** Discusses

Mind Over Matter (psychokinesis)
spoon bending and breaking - Uri Geller

Reading another’s mind - Uri Geller

Faith Healing - The events of Peter **Popoff**

Psychic Surgery - surgery without a knife

Fortune Telling - Astrology Demonstration With College Class

Palm Reading by the psychologist Hyman

