Table 9.1 Ten-Year Itinerary of Showman, Puppeteer, and Actor Samuel Jameson Maginnis

Peter Benes

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Table 9.1

Ten-year itinerary of showman, puppeteer, and actor Samuel Jameson Maginnis, also called James Maginnis (1772–1805), in North America, 1795–1805.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Date of Departure</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newburyport, Mass.</td>
<td>1 Oct. 1795</td>
<td>1 Nov. 1795</td>
<td>Union Hall</td>
<td>Broken Bridge; Babes in Wood; Sea</td>
<td>From Sadler’s Wells, London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portsmouth, N.H.</td>
<td>27 Oct. 1795</td>
<td>31 Oct. 1795</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
<td>Grand Medley</td>
<td>“Mr. M’Gennis”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem, Mass.</td>
<td>8 Nov. 1795</td>
<td>11 Nov. 1795</td>
<td>Washington Hall</td>
<td>Grand Medley; Broken Bridge; Whittington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>12 Nov. 1795</td>
<td>11 Dec. 1795</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; comic figures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>14 Dec. 1795</td>
<td>17 Dec. 1795</td>
<td>Commodious room at Theater Alley</td>
<td>Grand Medley</td>
<td>From London</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>26 Dec. 1795</td>
<td>13 Jan. 1796</td>
<td>Mr. Dearborn’s new building, Milk Street</td>
<td>Grand Medley; tumbling</td>
<td>Mr. Bailey</td>
<td>Sadler’s Wells, London</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>26 Dec. 1795</td>
<td>1 Jan. 1796</td>
<td>Exhibition room, Theater Alley</td>
<td>Destruction of the Bastille</td>
<td>Durang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>14 Mar. 1796</td>
<td>26 Apr. 1796</td>
<td>Federal Street Theater</td>
<td>Pantomime</td>
<td>Williamon’s Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>28 Apr. 1796</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Rice’s new ballroom</td>
<td>Sea engagements</td>
<td>Superior to Jonias</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>27 June 1796</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Angus’s Assembly Room</td>
<td>Babes in Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>12 Oct. 1796</td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>27 Apr. 1797</td>
<td>11 May 1797</td>
<td>Mr. Hidden’s ball chamber</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; Broken Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newport, R.I.</td>
<td>13 June 1797</td>
<td>20 June 1797</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Grand Medley</td>
<td>From London</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>28 July 1797</td>
<td>31 July 1797</td>
<td>Porter’s enclosure, near observatory</td>
<td>Medley of Entertainments Babes in Wood</td>
<td>Mr. Hackley</td>
<td>Not connected with Salenka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>23 Aug. 1797</td>
<td>26 Aug. 1797</td>
<td>Aaron Parling’s house on Holiday’s lot</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; artificial figures</td>
<td>Mr. Hackley?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>2 Nov. 1797</td>
<td>8 Dec. 1797</td>
<td>Dearborn’s Academy, Milk Street</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; slack rope</td>
<td>Harrington</td>
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<td>Salem, Mass.</td>
<td>20 Feb. 1798</td>
<td></td>
<td>Washington Hall</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; Old Jonathan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newburyport, Mass.</td>
<td>2 Mar. 1798</td>
<td></td>
<td>Union Hall</td>
<td>The Launch; American Tar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portsmouth, N.H.</td>
<td>14 Mar. 1798</td>
<td>28 Mar. 1798</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; Noah’s Ark</td>
<td>Don Pedro</td>
<td>Complains of imposters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Performance Details</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>28 May 1798</td>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
<td>Sea engagement</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Newfane, Vt.</td>
<td>13 Aug. 1798</td>
<td>Mr. Stowe’s Hall</td>
<td>Babes in Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>1 Jan. 1799</td>
<td>Commodious room at Mr. Grant’s, Water Street</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; Scaramouch figures</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>3 June 1799</td>
<td>20 June 1799 Rickett’s Amphitheater</td>
<td>Babes in Wood; sea engagement; Old Jonathan</td>
<td>Macdonald, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Coffee</td>
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<td>Newport, R.I.</td>
<td>24 Sept. 1799</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>The Launch; songs</td>
<td>Mrs. Maginnis</td>
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<td>Charleston</td>
<td>11 Nov. 1799</td>
<td>28 Feb. 1800 Jessop’s Ballroom</td>
<td>Siege of Gibraltar; automaton figures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>26 Dec. 1799</td>
<td>Large Building, 111 Broad Street, near Beef Market</td>
<td>Experiments; deceptions; Babes in Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>1 Mar. 1800</td>
<td>3 Mar. 1800 Mr. Casey’s Coach Maker</td>
<td>Grand Medley; automaton figures</td>
<td>From Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>9 Dec. 1800</td>
<td>8 Jan. 1801 Hay-Market Theater</td>
<td>Tumbling; Babes in Wood</td>
<td>Robinson Venitian Moor</td>
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<td>Salem, Mass.</td>
<td>1 Jan. 1801</td>
<td>Washington Hall</td>
<td>Tumbling; Babes in Wood; Old Jonathan</td>
<td>Don Pedro</td>
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<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>6 Apr. 1801</td>
<td>11 May 1801 Mechanic Hall, Water Street</td>
<td>Battle of Nile</td>
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<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>6 May 1801</td>
<td>New Assembly Room, Fore Street</td>
<td>Babes in Wood slack wire</td>
<td>Robinson, Don Pedro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>21 Aug. 1801</td>
<td>27 Aug. 1801 Hay-Market Hall, adjacent to theater</td>
<td>Entertainments</td>
<td>Summer theater</td>
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<td>Albany</td>
<td>18 Nov. 1801</td>
<td>Mr. Angus’s Assembly Room</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>14 Mar. 1803</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fantoccini; Old Jonathan</td>
<td>Reported in New York City paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>12 Mar. 1804</td>
<td>Grove Theater, Bedlow Street</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<td>New York City</td>
<td>18 Apr. 1804</td>
<td>25 Apr. 1804 Mechanic Hall, Broadway</td>
<td>Philosophical experiments; slack wire</td>
<td>Othello from Venice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>16 Nov. 1804</td>
<td>17 Dec. 1804 Theater</td>
<td>Fireworks; Brilliances of Perrico</td>
<td>Intending for Europe, disposing of “Apparatus”</td>
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<td>Alexandria, Va.</td>
<td>10 Apr. 1805</td>
<td>Wareroom over Mrs. Myer’s porter cellar, Union Street</td>
<td>Artificial comedians</td>
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<td>Leonard-Town, Md.</td>
<td>9 Oct. 1805</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Died aged 33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: “Early American Newspapers”; Mudd, “Early Theatres in Washington City.”