

As our teacher Cesareo Pelaez (1932 - 2012) told the story, our group was in Chandolin in the Swiss Alps in the summer of 1975 for a week long retreat led by Michel and Josée de Salzman. In a private conversation Michel asked Cesareo, When are you going to get a place of your own?

Cesareo had been talking to members of our group for some time about acquiring a physical space near our homes in Massachusetts where we could work together at creative activities as a way of studying the ideas and applying the methods of Gurdjieff's 4th Way.

In the summer of 1976, we purchased the old Cabot Cinema in Beverly, Mass. Though it had opened as an opulent vaudeville theater in 1920, by the mid-seventies the Cabot was a rundown auditorium in need of massive refurbishment.

It took six months of intensive labor — painting, carpentry, sewing, as well as organizing a business, while showing feature films in the evening — before we opened our stage magic show, *Le Grand David and his own Spectacular Magic Company*, a live theatrical production of classic stage illusions and variety entertainment that ran for over 2,600 performances until May 2012.

For over 35 years, this was the principal outer expression of our group work. As Nathan Cobb wrote in *Smithsonian* magazine (November 1981), “this enterprise could just as easily have been Marco the Manager's production of David the Chef and his own Spectacular Seafood Restaurant. Or almost anything else. ‘My question is not what to do or why,’ Pelaez says, ‘it's how.’”

Cesareo repeatedly emphasized optimal functioning — “Make an appointment with your best self” — in order to receive the finer influences of Intelligence beyond thought.