



Clearwater Beach to Host First-Ever Live Broadcast of A&E's *Criss Angel*
'Mindfreak' illusionist to escape nighttime implosion of former resort; world watches live

St. Petersburg/Clearwater, FL (July 29, 2008) – All eyes will be on “America’s Best Beach” as world-renowned illusionist Criss Angel performs his most daring stunt yet: escaping the implosion of the historic Spyglass Resort, on the first-ever live episode of *Criss Angel Mindfreak*, airing on A&E at 10PM EDT, Wednesday, July 30.



The implosion of the famed, nine-story, 64-room Spyglass Resort will make way for the \$100 million, 250-room Clearwater Beach Resort and Hotel. The resort is part of a \$1 billion redevelopment of Clearwater, including the recently completed \$30 million Beach Walk pedestrian thoroughfare.

“We’re delighted that Criss and A&E chose Clearwater for this television first,” said DT Minich, executive director of Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater. “It’s a unique and exciting way to showcase the many new developments taking place in the St. Pete/Clearwater area.”

The hour-long episode will feature shots of Clearwater and the surrounding area, including two beaches voted as America’s best in 2008: Caladesi Island, topping the 2008 annual ranking by Dr. Stephen Leatherman (a.k.a. “Dr. Beach”), and Fort De Soto, ranked tops by TripAdvisor, the world’s largest online travel community.



Restricted areas north and south the implosion site will be setup for public viewing, complete with Jumbotron-size video monitors that will enable onlookers to see what the magician says is his “last escape attempt” ever.

Criss Angel Mindfreak’s “Building Implosion Escape” episode will air on A&E in North America, Latin America and on FOX8 in Australia, complemented by live video feeds on aetv.com and crissangel.com.

Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater is the official destination marketing organization for Pinellas County, Florida.

For more information: www.FloridasBeach.com
Contact: PR Director David Downing: David@Floridasbeach.com
Phone: 727.464.7213

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