Your Age, Sir

THE TRICK: The magician asks for a volunteer from the audience. When a boy or girl comes forward, the magician tells the child that he can guess the volunteer's age through the use of a secret mathematical formula.

THE FORMULA: The child is given a pencil and paper and is told to list the following:

- His age: 11
- Multiply by 3: 33
- Add 6: 39
- Divide by 3: 13

The magician then asks the child for the last figure and subtracts two: the result is the volunteer's age. It doesn't matter how old the volunteer is. The answer will be correct.

VARIATION: In How Old Are You? a volunteer's age is revealed through a different formula.

- His age: 12
- Double it: 24
- Add 1: 25
- Multiply by 5: 125
- Add 5: 130
- Multiply by 10: 1300

Now the magician asks the child for the answer. The magician subtracts 100 from this figure giving him 1200. Then he drops the last digits, and the result—12—is the child's age.