



ILLUSION



Captain

Toby Boone

Nationality: British

Languages: English

Birthday: 5th April 1978

Joined Illusion: October 2010

Bio: Born in the UK and raised on a farm, Toby spent his formative years on the North Norfolk coast. Aged 15 he was sent out to live with his uncle in Kenya, time out there was split between sailing on the East African Coast and playing rugby at school, club and under 21's national level for Kenya.

Aged 18, Toby moved to France where he split his time between Skiing in the winter and yachting in the summer, by the time he was 21 Toby had set his mind on a yachting career and completed his Master 3000 yachts by 26. Toby has extensive experience from years of cruising the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Pacific.



ILLUSION



Captain

Just Vriesendorp

Nationality: Dutch

Languages: English, Dutch, French

Birthday: 8th August 1983

Joined Illusion: October 2012

Bio: Born in the Netherlands. Moved to India from age 2 for a few years and back to the Netherlands where he was raised on a house boat on the lakes. That's where his passion for boats started. From a very young age he was a very competitive dinghy racer with one world cup race in the 5.5m class. He left home from age 18 to live on the Ilse of White to obtain his yacht master and ocean master. After his gap year he studied Engineering, Design and Innovation in Amsterdam where he finished his Bachelor of Engineering. In 2009 he started yachting and knew this was his career path. In 2016 he completed his master 3000.



ILLUSION



Chief Engineer

Justin Williamson

Nationality: **British**

Languages: **English**

Birthday: **11th January 1970**

Joined Illusion: **October 2013**

Bio: Justin has been a Marine Engineer longer than most of the crew have been alive and has continued to enjoy life at Sea, and the challenges it supplies, since he completed an extensive apprenticeship with the Royal Navy which he joined at 17. As a result he has sailed most seas and considers Antarctica to be the best place he's ever visited. He lives in St. Ives, Cornwall with his Canadian wife and is a proud father to a ridiculously adorable toddler called Kai. In his spare time, he has no spare time, having undertaken a complete ground up renovation of their 1830's Cornish home, which has been ongoing for the past 4 years...He loves hand making jewellery, sculptures and alternately wine or his replica 1957 356 Speedster.



ILLUSION



Chief Engineer

Wes Jones

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 22nd September 1981

Joined Illusion: September 2012

Bio: 99% of engineers are just engineers... except this one, oh he is so much more. Wesley of Africa hails from Durban South Africa where he grew up and was schooled. Born to Mauritian parents he now lives in Antibes, France and still struggles to speak the French language and occasionally asks his mother to interpret his mail.

After High School Wesley attended University in Australia on a swimming and water polo scholarship before studying Law at University in South Africa and after 6 years at Uni realized Law had too many books to carry and headed out to sea. For the past 10 years he has been at sea and decided engineering was his passion and is now in charge of everything that turns and goes bang.



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Second Engineer

Drew Trout

Nationality: Scottish

Languages: English

Birthday: 4th April 1988

Joined Illusion: April 2019

Bio: Drew was born in the small Village of Kyle of Lochalsh the northwest coast of Scotland, on Isle of Skye. Now recently engaged, he resides with his fiancé in the town of Woodstock, located Northwest of Chicago. He grew up as a very competitive athlete, delivering desired results in anything he put his mind to. His main focus was competitive swimming, which saw him compete at National level for a number of years. He frequently competed in running events and Triathlon's till the end of his teens, however the commitment was no longer practical whilst pursuing a seafaring career. Now he enjoys the outdoors and being able to spend time freshwater fishing throughout the season and snowmobiling in the winter months, in Illinois, Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan. His career started with Disney Cruise Line, having been selected as their first ever Cadet back in 2008. After successfully completing his courses and gaining his Engineering License he was positioned on Disney Magic till 2015. Following his cruise ship career, he fell lucky and was employed on M/Y ICE, a 90m Lürssen, where he spent three years.



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Second Engineer

Eddie Epps

Nationality: English

Languages: English

Birthday: 4th October 1991

Joined Illusion: January 2019

Bio: Born and raised in the maritime town of Portsmouth, south coast of England, Eddie spent his younger years studying mechanical engineering, alongside playing county rugby for Hampshire until the age of 22. His career started in the Aerospace industry before moving to marine engineering, after delivering and contracting for UK built yachts such as Sunseeker and Princess, he joined a 70m yacht as full time 3rd Engineer. Eddie now reside in Cork, Ireland with his Danish Fiancé. He still enjoys rugby just as much but is watching it with a beer in hand instead of playing it.



ILLUSION



Chief Officer

Jason Pearce

Nationality: English

Languages: English

Birthday: 1st November 1990

Joined Illusion: December 2016

Bio: Jason grew up in the coastal city of Durban, South Africa where most of his days were spent down at the beach and this is where his love for the ocean first began. After High school he wanted to branch out and pursue a career further afield, this is what lead him to a career on the high seas. He had been in the industry since 2010 and is currently studying for his Master 3000-ton license. Jason is a sports fanatic and enjoys a game of golf, tennis or any other sport where a ball is involved. In his spare time most of his trips consist of a mission in search of waves, great dive spots or the next snowboarding destination.



ILLUSION



Chief Officer

Grant Du Preez

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 12th April 1994

Joined Illusion: September 2019

Bio: Grant grew up along the coast of Durban in South Africa. Where he was involved in water sports from a very young age. He competed in SA champs for lifesaving in Cape town and further on becoming a qualified Dive master. His passion for the ocean lead him onto pursuing yachting as a career. After 7 years in the industry he now holds a Chief mate 3000gt ticket. Grant has crossed the Atlantic ocean several times and travelled throughout the waters of Norway, Mediterranean, West coast Pacific, Canada, Mexico, Atlantic East coast as well as the Caribbean and Bahamas. He enjoys interacting with guests and ensures they have the most enjoyable time possible. Grants hobbies include Surfing, Running, Triathlons, Swimming, Fishing.



ILLUSION



Second Officer

Rachel Bernhardt

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 4th May 1992

Joined Illusion: December 2018

Bio: Rachel grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. She comes from a very large and extended family of journalists and politicians. Having fallen very far from the tree, she set off in search of something that would set her soul on fire. She found the ocean. Rachel started her career on the water as a dive instructor on the Great Barrier Reef 9 years ago. Since then she has worked hard to grow in a personal and professional capacity on board yachts. After completion of a circumnavigation last year, Rachel took a few months off to study for her Officer of the Watch exam. A long time dream. Rachel now serves as Second Officer on board.

Rachel is a down to earth, kind natured, family girl. She loves nothing more than to hang out at home annoying her brother, pestering her mom and dad, cooking, and getting cuddles from her oversized pup. Outside of work, you can find Rachel darting away for a beautiful weekend with her boyfriend, talking about food and travel or, as a last resort, she will likely be underwater, blowing bubbles while coaxing a shark A little closer for a tickle.



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Chef

Kdn Lyne

Nationality: Australian

Languages: English

Birthday: 22nd June 1983

Joined Illusion: March 2017

Bio: Blurb Grew up on a hippy community in the Sunshine coast hinterland of Australia. There was no electricity or television which may explain why he has five brothers. It does not however explain why all his brothers have vowels in their names and he doesn't? Kdn's love of healthy cooking began at an early age using many organic vegetables from his parent large organic garden. At age fourteen Kdn left school because he didn't like it and began his apprenticeship to become a chef. After ten years of working in some of Australia's top restaurants Kdn started his first yacht job at age 24 and has spent the last 12 years traveling the world and working on a plethora of vessels. During this time Kdn has lived in Sri Lanka, Costa Rica and Bali but now lives back in Byron Bay on the east coast of Australia. When Kdn is at home he spends his time surfing, trying to convince his 2 daughters to surf and trying to convince his wife that he doesn't get to surf enough. Kdn also wants to buy a surf resort in Indonesia but is still not sure how to tell his wife?



ILLUSION



Chef

Clement Brasseur

Nationality: French

Languages: French/ English / Spanish / German

Birthday: 27th November 1987

Joined Illusion: October 2017

Bio: Clement was born in the North of France where chefs use a lot of butter and cream to make the winter more bearable. As he was turning 5, he made his birthday cake to bring to school ... A revelation!!! Since then, Clement has had one passion: making people happy with food. At the age of 17 this passion became a vocation, so he signed up for “Le Touquet” catering school. After a few years working in Michelin star restaurants, he started his yachting career, travelling all around the world, discovering new products and techniques everywhere he went. In 2011, the yacht on which he was working touched land in Costa Rica and he met his future wife. After a few years living in Spain and France and after the birth of their two daughters, Clément’s family moved to Costa Rica. When he is at home, Clement splits his time between his family and the development of his own bakery: Madame Baguette



ILLUSION



Chief Stewardess

Shannon McAlister

Nationality: South African/Irish

Languages: English

Birthday: 18th November 1986

Joined Illusion: November 2017

Bio: Shannon comes from a small town in the Drakensberg, a mountain range in South Africa where her thirst for adventure stemmed from. Although growing up inland she craved life near the ocean, this led her to yachting at a very young age. Her drive and challenge seeking personality allowed her to progress quickly. In between stints on various sized yachts she found her other passion and completed her advanced Yoga Teacher training in India, which she eagerly offers to guests. In her own time, you will find her doing yoga, immersing herself in surf culture or trying something new. With her skills, experience and creativity she will ensure that your time on board Illusion V is unforgettable.



ILLUSION



Chief Stewardess

Nicola Vessey

Nationality: New Zealand

Languages: English

Birthday: 2nd December 1991

Joined Illusion: March 2016

Bio: The combination of being the youngest in her family and her cheeky smile, Nicola learnt at a young age she could always wriggle her way out of trouble. In school she focused a lot of her time and energy into Water polo where she played in the national New Zealand team for numerous years. Still to this day she uses this as her claim to fame as the most successful sibling in the Vessey family. Her time in yachting has been short but sweet. In the six years of working in the industry she has been lucky enough to work on three well used private/charter motor yachts. During her holidays, she loves to throw herself into cultured experiences; often going on solo adventures, back packing through Central and South America, volunteering in Africa or signing up to surf camps in Sri Lanka. With her infectious smile and bubbly persona, she loves meeting new people and having a good time.



ILLUSION



Second Stewardess

Chloe Hopcraft

Nationality: New Zealand

Languages: English

Birthday: 25th January 1994

Joined Illusion: January 2018

Bio: Chloe is Australian born and New Zealand bred. She spent her younger years running around her parent's kiwifruit orchard, attending countless dance lessons and sport practices and long summer holidays down the east coast of New Zealand. After graduating high school, Chloe couldn't leave the country quick enough, so off she went to chase those postcard picture dreams. Feeling as though she had rid the travel bug Chloe returned home to study a Bachelor of Communications degree in Auckland. After three years at university, intertwined with an internship at a boutique communications agency, Chloe was ready to spread her wings again. Chloe began her yachting career in 2016 and has worked on some of the largest and most current super yachts to date. You will find Chloe chasing the summer sun and soaking up everything each country she visits has to offer.



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Second Stewardess

Nicola Vessey

Nationality: New Zealand

Languages: English

Birthday: 2nd December 1991

Joined Illusion: March 2016

Bio: The combination of being the youngest in her family and her cheeky smile, Nicola learnt at a young age she could always wriggle her way out of trouble. In school she focused a lot of her time and energy into Water polo where she played in the national New Zealand team for numerous years. Still to this day she uses this as her claim to fame as the most successful sibling in the Vessey family. Her time in yachting has been short but sweet. In the six years of working in the industry she has been lucky enough to work on three well used private/charter motor yachts. During her holidays, she loves to throw herself into cultured experiences; often going on solo adventures, back packing through Central and South America, volunteering in Africa or signing up to surf camps in Sri Lanka. With her infectious smile and bubbly persona, she loves meeting new people and having a good time.



ILLUSION



Stewardess

Courtney-Sue Robertson

Nationality: New Zealand

Languages: English

Birthday: 21st October 1994

Joined Illusion: January 2019

Bio: Courtney is born and bred from the land of the long white cloud Aotearoa. She was an active child attending netball games, dance lessons, surf lifesaving and ski holidays. After school Courtney headed to the South Island and without losing too many brain cells along the way, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition. Eager to see more, she then backpacked around South America for 3 months before ending up in the South of France to start her yachting career.

When she's not getting abused by the Engineering department on Illusion V you can find her on the beach with a glass of wine.



ILLUSION



Stewardess

Kirsty-Lee Hopwood

Nationality: South African

Languages: English and Afrikaans

Birthday: 26th January 1993

Joined Illusion: March 2019

Bio: Growing up in beautiful Cape Town, Kirsty completed high school and decided to take a gap year and set off to Antibes to see what the whole yachting thing was about. Having not been able to purchase a yacht at the time due to unforeseen circumstances, she settled for working on one. Five years later and she's still loving it and swept up in all.

If not working, you can find Kirsty at the nearest beach or enjoying some good local food and wine at a nearby restaurant. She has a massive passion for animals and loves meeting new people.

Kirsty hopes to pursue her dream of being either a psychologist or occupational therapist in future, for now she's enjoying the wonderfully exciting lifestyle that she leads.



ILLUSION



Stewardess

Nina Sinclair

Nationality: Australian

Languages: English

Birthday: 23rd September 1994

Joined Illusion: October 2019

Bio: Growing up in a small quiet beach town near Wollongong, Australia, Nina was always eager to explore more of the world. After finishing school and working corporate, she realised the office life was not for her. She then began to pursue her traveling journey ticking off one country at a time. After spending numerous summers in the Greek islands and Portugal working at popular bars and restaurants, Nina then decided to pursue her yachting career in Nice and has never looked back. In her free time you will find her swimming at the beach and enjoying a margarita or three.



ILLUSION



Deckhand

Mike Whelan

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 15th June 1991

Joined Illusion: March 2018

Bio: Mike hails from the sunny seaside and mountainous town of Cape Town, South Africa. After completing his schooling with no clue on what to do next Mike decided to embark on a journey through parts South East Asia, to recreate his favourite character Scuba Steve and become a PADI Diving Instructor. It was through this, his love for the ocean became his passion.

After a short stint of studying copywriting and advertising, and an even shorter stint working behind a desk with big boy pants on, he decided to leave the real world behind and take on the seven seas.

Since then, he has worked on some of the biggest yachts in the industry. With his childish and outgoing persona, Mike works to ensure all guests have an unforgettable experience onboard.



ILLUSION



Deckhand

Tim Spence

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 23rd January 1992

Joined Illusion: March 2019

Bio: Growing up in sunny Durban, Spence spent his school years playing South African schools' hockey and provincial cricket. Upon completing his degree in management and economics, he moved over to Scotland to play a season of semi-professional cricket.

Spence then relocated to Asia where he was a regional manager for a language company in Northern Vietnam. In 2018 he left his corporate job to set sail in remote Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

In his spare time, you can find Spence taking long walks on short beaches, surfing waves around the world or playing a casual round of golf.



ILLUSION



Deckhand

Travis Poland

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 7th March 1997

Joined Illusion: October 2019

Bio: Travis grew up on Durban's Golden mile situated in South Africa. Growing up in the outdoors and on the sports field most of his time was spent at the beach with family and friends. Travis played provincial crickets at School level as well as state level in Australia. At the prime age of 17 he and his family immigrated to Australia where Travis lifeguarded on local beaches for 4 years. Moving back to South Africa in 2017 Travis was unsure of what to do with his future career so putting his love for the ocean and meeting new people together he decided to pursue life on the water. Travis has completed level entry courses to become a deckhand but it looking to climb the ladder. He holds an open water dive certificate . Travis is a peoples person who is always driven to reach his goals. In Travis's spare time he enjoys a game of cricket, a round of gold with the boys as well as spearfishing and finding some empty surf break along any coastline where him and his close friends can paddle out and have a good time.