

**Dave Calzaretta**  
**Magnificent Events**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dave Calzaretta graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Accounting in 1996. He worked in Minneapolis at General Mills where he passed the CPA Exam. In 1998, he returned to Chicago, as a financial consultant. On the side, he started a band called Maggie Speaks. Their first gig in June 1998 paid \$100. Over the next 22 years, Dave grew Maggie Speaks and scaled the enterprise to include 5 additional bands (Spoken Four, Final Say, Shout Out, Enough Said and Talk of the Town Big Band). To date Maggie Speaks has performed in 13 countries and 33 different states. Collectively, the bands have performed over 8,000 shows since 1998.

People constantly called Dave for referrals. Realizing his services were in demand, he opened Magnificent Events in 2000, becoming one of the top event producers, talent buyers and creator of custom solutions in the Chicagoland market. In 2007, he joined IACEP (International Association of Entertainment Professionals), growing his network to include the top corporate producers across the country. He served on the Board of Directors from 2008-2010.

He joined ILEA in 2012, winning the Rising Star Award. He served on the Board of Directors from 2013-2014. Currently Dave serves on the Board of Directors for WIPA Chicago.

Dave has always been an innovator. Maggie Speaks began as a nightclub band. Dave saw a hole in the private market for a young modern band that was compact in size that could deliver high quality entertainment without needing 15 people on stage. He quietly slipped away from the club market, turning Chicago's private event band scene on its side. Performing over 200 shows a year, Maggie Speaks began to scale between 2006 and 2015, adding 5 more bands to their roster while employing over 30 full time musicians. They were right sized and right timed and actually thrived during the economic recession of 2009 while others struggled. Through Dave's vision he provided many people with stable income during the most unstable of times.

As a producer, he works tirelessly with Fortune 500 companies to provide everything from local to celebrity talent.

Known for his creativity and attention to detail, his track records at the NICE Awards is unprecedented. Magnificent Events has won 6 consecutive Best Entertainment and Best Festival Awards between 2014 and 2019.

This year, Dave has grown another program he began in 2017 called Celebrity Sit-In where he pairs famous singers from bands like Journey and Lynyrd Skynyrd with Maggie Speaks as the house band for private events. Dave was once just a face in a crowd of 20,000 cheering on these singers at stadiums. Now he employs them, produces the show and shares the stage across the country with his former idols.

Dave is a generous entertainment sponsor for industry events. He participates in a mentorship program on the Southside where he helps African-American Entrepreneurs grow their businesses. Over the past 22 years, few people have had more of an impact on our industry than Dave Calzaretta.

**Dave Calzaretta**  
**Magnificent Events**  
**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Awards**

- NICE AWARDS (Magnificent Events)
  - 2014–2019 Best Entertainment
  - 2014–2019 Best Festival
  - 2018 - Best Wedding
  - 2017 – Best NICE Team Event
  - 2012 – Rising Star Award
- 2009 American Entertainment Magazine Best Music Group (Maggie Speaks)
- 2009 Keep Chicago Beautiful Recycling Hall of Fame (Maggie Speaks for their Green Efforts)
- 2010 Event Solutions Spotlight Award – Entertainment Ensemble of the Year (Maggie Speaks)
- 2015 Best of Illinois – Best Entertainment (Magnificent Events)
- 2019 Daily Herald Entrepreneurial Excellence Award