

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2006
Volume 1, Issue 7

March Meeting

We were pleased to present a lecture in March by "**Wij** the Magician: - a former member of the London Magicians Guild, who has made quite a name for himself in the Toronto area. And he certainly didn't disappoint!

Wij started the lecture with his famous "It's in your hands/It's on the table", which he presented at the CAM convention several years ago. It's an incredible routine where the spectator helps produce 2 of the aces, and the performer produces the last two - with the final ace appearing right on the spectator's palm!

Next was his outstanding "Only four, nothing more" reverse coin matrix - using only 4 coins and 4 cards. He followed that with a thimble manipulation called "Johnny Ace Stands Up" was next, which ended with the production of an eight-ball!

He demonstrated two marketed effects - a knot-jumping rope effect, and a great routine for a steel ball & tube called the "Jumping Ball of Pakistan". An impromptu mental effect called "WijCraft" had Wij predict the chosen invisible coin & how it landed after being flipped. He finished the night with the "World Famous Red Card Trick", where the red cards individually turned black, with the red back turning blue!

Wij's misdirection and technique were exceptional and baffled even the most seasoned magicians in the crowd. His routines were very funny and entertaining. He thoroughly impressed all those who attended - it was a most enjoyable night of magic! Thank you, Wij!

- Mark Hogan

Next Meeting:
Wed. April 12, 7:00 pm
Beal Secondary School,
Room 225
525 Dundas St., London
Topic: Auction

April's Meeting

Wed. April 12, 2006

April is our annual magic auction! All members are welcome to bring in any magic props, books, videos, magazines and collector's items that you want to sell. These items will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

There are always some great deals at these auctions and some unusual items. Make sure you come prepared with cash.

For those of you who want to sell something, remember items can be sold individually or several items

can be packaged together into a lot. You can also set a minimum bid on items if you prefer. Come prepared with a description of the items you wish to sell that can be displayed with the item. Even better, come ready to perform what you are selling! Everyone is welcome to perform any item that is being sold.

The club gets 10% of all selling prices.

Attending the auction is free for members, \$5 for guests. All items must be paid for in cash at the end of the evening. To get a copy of the auction sheet for items being sold, visit:

http://www.geocities.com/magic_london/auction.html

Hope to see you there!



Word from the Sergeant At Arms

I'm glad to have this opportunity to debunk the myths and mystery of my highly publicized and largely misquoted private life. Ladies and gentlemen, brace yourselves as I peel back the layers and expose myself in what I like to call...

Sergeant at Arms - secrets revealed!

Hi. I'm Andy. I like magic. Unlike every magician I've read about, I don't remember when I was first bitten by the magic bug. But I can remember my dad and I learning and building magic tricks way back when I was 5 years

old. I did my first performance at 6 years of age (for my whole school!) and I was known around Byron Northview as the magical kid from that day on.

I started out performing card & close up magic. Since I joined the London Magicians Guild, I've been fascinated by mentalism and mathematical magic. I also enjoy making my own props based on my interests - some of my favourite show pieces are the ones I've created myself. But for the last few years, I've been developing myself as a children's entertainer, because you can't get hired to do math and mentalism for kids' parties. ("Alright, Billy, think of a number between 1 and 20. Now multiply it by pi and subtract your age. Stop crying!")

The first magician I ever saw live was **Doug Henning**. What a night! He put on a fantastic show, AND I got to meet him afterwards for a picture and autograph! I still have the picture - and I'll never forget the words of wisdom he shared with me: "Excuse me, I have to go meditate." More recently, I saw **David Copperfield** at Alumni Hall, and two outstanding - yet completely different - Las Vegas shows (**Sigfried and Roy** in 1999, and **Mac King** in 2003).



This is my 6th year as a member of the London Magicians Guild, and I've held executive positions for the last 5. I'm proud to say I'm a member of Ring #265 - I've made friends of all ages, learned so much about our art, and developed as a performer. We have

great talent within our club, and some keen minds with great ideas for our future.

In other magical news, I'm happy to announce Angie and I are expecting a child! We are adopting a baby girl from China within the next year. We're both very excited about being parents - but if anyone would like to tip some secrets on raising a child, I'm willing to learn!

- Andy Parr



London Magicians' Guild Makes a Wish

On Saturday, March 25, several members of the London Magician's Guild volunteered at the Covant Garden Market to raise funds for the Make a Wish foundation. Our members took a central location in the Market and busked for the patrons. We all had a ton of fun, enjoyed the day and each other's company, improved our performances and raise a lot of money!

There were two shifts, one in the morning and then the afternoon. Each shift routinely gathered large crowds and made quite an impression. Our new club banner was used as a backdrop to promote our club. I routinely heard people state how impressed, and surprised they were. Another routine comment throughout the day was that many people were unaware that we existed. A sort of added bonus to our day was the many contacts we made. Besides receiving many inquiries about our club ~ many of our members handed out business

cards to potential clients during the day.

I would like to thank all the members of the London Magician's Guild who so kindly came out and gave their time to raise funds for the London Make a Wish foundation. The grand total raised came to an incredible \$283.00!! The London Make a wish foundation also extends their thanks and hopes that we consider doing this again next year!

I must say that I am really proud to be part of a club that so energetically responds to charitable events. When I first brought these events to the executive, I was unsure as to how the club would respond. Thank you for showing London that we are a very caring and giving club.

- Mike Fisher

We Want Your Reviews! Please send any reviews of magic tricks, books and videos to:
Steve_Seguin@hotmail.com



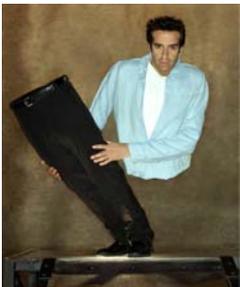
News Of Interest

David Copperfield: Destination Moon.

Illusionist David Copperfield is to team up with **Sir Richard Branson** www.virgingalactic.com on the inaugural flight of Branson's Virgin Galactic SpaceShipOne in 2008, the world's first

affordable space tourist flight. David Copperfield will be aboard the inaugural flight in his own "egg pod" that will leave the mother ship and head towards the dark side of the moon. At this time, during a live transmission that will be seen by many millions across the globe, David will make the moon disappear. Viewers will

simultaneously be invited to watch the moon's disappearance using normal telescopes directed at it, from their homes - ruling out once and for all the "it's all done with camera tricks" line that has plagued magicians since the early days of televised magic in the 50's. "We still have a few small technical issues to overcome, but we're nearly there and it's all very exciting; I'm thrilled



to have been invited 'on board' by Sir Richard Branson."

David Copperfield will start his training mid 2007 in both



the USA and France and the whole project will culminate in a major three-hour TV special *David Copperfield: Destination Moon* in 2008. Branson, a magic fan for many years, said: "We hope to create thousands of astronauts over the next few years and bring alive their dream of seeing the majestic beauty of our planet from above, the stars in all their glory, and the amazing sensations of weightlessness and space flight. The development will also allow every country in the world to have their own astronauts rather than the privileged few. What a wonderful way to launch my dream." One small step for man - one large step for David Copperfield.

Channing Pollock Passes

Channing Pollock, age 79 died of cancer. He was one of the most influential magicians of our time. When he walked out on stage his charisma



electrified the audience. Handsome and with his technical perfection, he began the trend of dove magic as we know it today. He became a movie star in Europe and later retired in California where he mentored some of our best magicians, like **Shimada** and **James Dimmare**. He was a strong influence on **Johnny Thompson**, **Lance Burton** and so many others. His impact on the world of magic will last forever. He is survived by his wife, Joann and his son, Russell.

Conjuring Arts Research Center Opens in NYC

The "only publicly accessible, fully staffed, nonprofit magic library in America opened in February in New York City. The new library is set just south of historic Herald Square in the heart of the city that never sleeps.

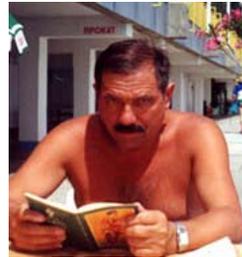
The center boasts over 9,000 volumes covering magic history, biographies, even fiction works related to magic. Want to know which illusionist first sawed a person in half or which Albany-born magician performed for Abraham Lincoln's guests at the White House? You now have a central place to find answers to such questions, after making an appointment to visit.

Its founder, **William Kalush** said he hopes the center will draw writers, historians, collectors, scholars, enthusiasts, film producers, and performers who are seeking to study the history of magic and its vibrant connection to the present.

You can see the collection online at <http://www.conjuringarts.org>.

Russian White Magician – Claimed Immortality - Died

From [Moscow News](#):



Yuri Longo - Dead Now

Russian white magician **Yuri Longo**, who became famous in Gorbachev's times for raising the dead, has died much to his few fans' surprise, local media reported. He died of an aorta aneurism, while his fans claim it was an "energy stroke".



Resources

When I first got interested in magic, the first place I looked for magic tricks was the London Public Library. I think it's too easy to get caught up with buying expensive books and videos from magic stores. We forget to look at what is available to us in our own community. Here's a partial list of some of the items available:

The art of magic [videorecording] TV series documenting the history of magic and featuring performances by Siegfried and Roy, Lance Burton, the Pendragons, Eugene Burger, Max Maven, James Randi and Jamy Ian Swiss.

Grand illusions [videorecording (DVD)] : The story of magic Explores the evolution of magic from the automata of Robert-Houdin to the elaborate illusions of Penn and Teller.

Amazing magic tricks anyone can do! [videorecording (DVD)]

Conceived, written and produced by Jay Sankey

Dai Vernon [videorecording] : The spirit of magic

[Houdini] [videorecording] : [The great escape] A&E documentary on Houdini

The mysteries of magic [videorecording] : 3 volume series featuring Jeff McBride, Eugene Burger, Penn & Teller, Lance Burton and more.

Hiding the elephant : How magicians invented the impossible and learned to disappear by Jim Steinmeyer

Mark Wilson's complete course in magic Now you see it, now you don't!; Lessons in sleight of hand by Bill Tarr

Scarne's magic tricks by John Scarne

Also books by Jeff Sheriden, James Randi, Kirk Charles, Patrick Page, Ormond McGill, Walter Gibson, Paul Daniels, Jon Tremaine, Kreskin, and David Pogue.



Tricks

The Great Pretender, by Devon Elliott

This was an idea I had after reading a method that I really liked by **Eddie Joseph** in SWAMI magazine. I haven't actually performed, so caveat emptor (but the price is right).

You need a sheet of "Hello My Name Is" nametags, perforated around each tag, a marker, and a clipboard or something to write on.

The words below would be said in a self-aggrandizing but self-deprecating way... It shouldn't actually be said like you mean, or you will most likely come across as a jerk.

The audience is asked to think of a celebrity.

People are invited up, one by one, by asking the name of their celebrity. "Who did you pick? --- Great, <write it down> would you please just stand up there? Thanks. ---- And how about you?"

Ideally, you'll pick a guy, and he'll say some actress. Hopefully you can joke about this. "Revealing? Perhaps. -- Actually, these are going to be name tags, though..." and reveal sheet of "Hello, My Name Is" peel-and-stick name tags that you're writing on.

As they come up, they form a line. You end up standing slightly behind the line, just beyond the end of it.

Fill out six of the nametags. You'll have six people standing in a line with you. Ask someone else to come up to help, as they're going to keep things fair from here on in.

"Thank you all for helping out. Folks, we've got a number of celebrities up here tonight, including one of the greatest of them all -- ME! THE GREAT ZAMBONI!! <take an exaggerated bow>" Write down your name on one of the tags. Tear them all apart and set them in a pile. You can now think of this pile like a packet of cards.

Have your helper mix them up.

Have them spread the pile out a little bit so the helper can see them all, but have them not show anyone else.

"I'm still in there, right? Count down how far I am in there... I usually like top billing, but you mixed them up so where ever I am will have to do this time... You know where I am in there? Good. Tell you what - let's mix things up a bit more so even you don't know where I am... You know where I am now - the number - move that many people, one at a time, from the top to the bottom of the pile..."

To the audience, "Maybe I'll end up with top billing yet..."

"Ok, done? Good job. Here, since you knew the number, let's add another... Move one from the top to the bottom."

"And, what the heck, move another one from the top to the bottom..."

"Ok, now hand them out, to everyone in line. Once you get your name tag, stick it on."

Direct the person doing the mixing to stick on the last one and stand at the end of the line.

"We've got a bunch of mixed up celebrities (and we're not even in Hollywood) - one of whom is pretending to be the greatest of all - ME! THE GREAT ZAMBONI!!! <take an exaggerated bow>"

You're still behind the line up, and you start tapping people on the shoulder asking them to take their seat. They announce who they are based on their nametag, and take

their seat. Make dismissive comments about some as you send them back.

Tap just one, then two together, then one more. This leaves three up there - the one with your name, and two others.

Tap the two "others" simultaneously and send them back, "...leaving the ONE, and ONLY... ME! THE GREAT ZAMBONI!!!" Take back their nametag, send them back to their seat, stick the nametag on yourself, and take your exaggerated bow.

The secret to this is that your nametag will always end up on the fifth person when the directions above are followed. You note the fifth person in the line up, and as the routine goes on, you're dismissing everyone but them.

Shell Game Vol. 1, Issue 7 April 2006

Steve Seguin, Editor

The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Content and opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magic Guild.

This month's contributors:

Devon Elliott
Mike Fisher
Mark Hogan
Andy Parr
Steve Seguin

Contributions may be emailed to:
Steve_Seguin@hotmail.com

Photos



