



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2009 Volume 4, Issue 8

March's meeting

March's meeting was All About Ropes – time for the club members to get a little “knotty”. (Sorry about that!)

In an attempt to feed the starving masses until the “Guest of Honour” arrived, Mark Hogan tried his best to pass a rope through a handkerchief tied to his wrists. (It was as painful to watch as it was to do!). Finally – and – thankfully, Andy Parr (see “Guest of Honour” above) came to show us some of his favorite rope effects - and there was lots of rope available for all to experiment with each move.

First, Andy showed a simple and fun Lie Detector, where a knot would appear in the spectator's rope if they were telling the truth. Next was an impromptu version of the Grandmother's Necklace, followed by a thorough discussion of the Hunter impossible knot. Andy then performed his famous Jumping Knot of Pakistan routine, and ended the night with the Knot of Enchantment.

Peter Mennie was asked to show his counting moves for his version of the Professor's Nightmare (which he graciously did for us), and also showed us the 3-in-1 rope trick. Mark Hogan was back to show the Kellar rope escape, and Ron Keller tied two rings onto a rope in one move!

Impressive stuff! After a full night of rope magic like this, it was time to “tie one on”. (See “Sorry about that” above!)

Mark Hogan

Next Meeting(s):

Wednesday, April 8 7:00PM

Topic: PERFORMANCE BY THE HAMILTON CLUB!

Beal Secondary School
255 Dundas Street, London
T-253

April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 8
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

Topic: PERFORMANCE BY THE HAMILTON CLUB!

Since we went to Hamilton back in November to perform for the Hamilton Club, it's time they returned the favour. And that time has come! This month, some of our friends at the Hamilton Club (Ring #49 – The Doug Henning Magic Wand Club) will be coming to our next meeting. Their mission: to entertain us!

So tell your friends - we'd like to have a big crowd out to watch them perform for us. Please come out and be entertained by some great magic from our fellow club from down the 402.

>>> IMPORTANT NOTE: BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE HAMILTON CLUB PERFORMANCE - NO GUEST FEES ON APRIL 11 !! <<<

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!
Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:
magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Niagara Comedy & Magic Seminar 2009

There only days left to register for the Niagara Comedy & Magic Seminar from April 3-5, 2009 at The Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls.

Guest performers include Michael Finney, Mike Caveney, Lawrence Haas, Greg Frewin, David Merry, James Biss, Brian Roberts & Dick Joiner.

Early Bird registrants (\$125 for those registering by March 29th) receive:

- Preferred front row seating for the Laughing Matters public show on Friday April 3/09
- A FREE ticket to Greg Frewin's Beyond Belief illusion show on Saturday April 4/09

The retail value of these two show tickets (including taxes and service charges) exceeds \$90.00!

Complete information at www.ComedyMagicSeminar.com

Magician's self-shipping claim a hoax

(from KABC-TV, Los Angeles)

A magician who posted videos online detailing a "trip" he made in a crate aboard a cargo plane from upstate New York to Las Vegas admitted Tuesday that it was an elaborate hoax.

"It was a publicity stunt right from the start," said Wade Whitcomb, of North Syracuse, after federal officials declared the event a hoax. "If that's what they say, that must be the truth."

"The FBI spoke to Whitcomb; he did not ship himself anywhere. We have no further interest in this," FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said Tuesday.

Whitcomb had claimed he folded himself into a cramped wooden crate for the 26-hour trip on a United Parcel Service truck and a UPS plane. He posted a series of videos online of the purported trip shot with tiny cameras pointed out of the crate and one inside focused on him.

Magic helps senior couple find love

(from UPI.com)

An 81-year-old magician says he is deeply in love with his new 79-year-old wife, who he met during a magic show in Florida.

Magician Joseph Marker said he met Camille Lewis last May at Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines when he asked her to serve as his show assistant, and less than a year later the couple married there, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported Sunday.

"We just fell in love and are always telling each other that we love each other," Marker said. "It's so nice to be together."

The senior couple will always have a little mystery in their relationship as Marker refuses to share his magic secrets with his bride. "I don't want to know. I like the surprise," Lewis said of those secrets. "I just can't figure it out."

The Sun-Sentinel said the two seniors are now set to disappear for their honeymoon, taking a road trip that will take them to Delaware, Georgia and Ohio.



Review: The Great Buck Howard

(from laist.com)

Showmanship in the long-held traditional sense just keeps getting moved more and more to the fringes of contemporary entertainment. Circuses, for all of the revelry and majestic wonder they inspired only a decade ago, are in serious decline. David Blaine and Criss Angel are the magicians and mentalists of our day. Indeed the horizon looks bleak.

That is, unless you ask the Great Buck Howard. Or, rather, see the film. [The Great Buck Howard](#) follows a single mentalist (NOT magician, as he is quick to point out), as he tours the country playing third-tier cities that still look favorable on his dusty old illusions and mental feats. He predicts, he hypnotizes, and he even has a stand up and singing portion of the show. This is the type of

entertainer that you just don't see anymore. The problem is, it may be for good reason. The Great Buck Howard (played by John Malkovich) is comedically oblivious to his own irrelevance, which leads to any manner of social faux pas and moments of stifled chuckling. But it's not until he gets a new assistant, played by the where-have-you-been Colin Hanks, that Buck is able to come to terms with himself, and in the process find the success that has left him for the past several decades.

The Great Buck Howard, more than anything else, combines great casting with middle-of-the-road writing and directing. The smaller character choices by Malkovich, and the sadness in his eyes at the right times, really help to bring life to the pieces that would otherwise be flat. Hanks, for his turn, is steady and comfortable, showing a presence that is neither overdone or too understated. He is the sort of charming go-lucky guy you would expect to have the unenviable job of being an assistant to a traveling has-been mentalist. Emily Blunt, as the PR lady turned love interest, is a bit forceful but not in an uncharming way. However, the true scene-stealer of the film, as usual, is Steve Zahn in the role of Cincinnati ultra fan to Buck Howard. He drives Buck around, he arranges plans, all with the worst outfits you've ever seen and a mustache-to-sideburns combo that just won't quit. It's just so easy to love Zahn, and yet again he steals the show.

The Great Buck Howard is a playful film that doesn't really add up to much more than Sunday afternoon fare. The actors, with the notable exceptions of the always great Malkovich and Zahn, are serviceable, and often pick up the pieces of a script that could use a little more pull in one direction or another. By not venturing too far from center, relatively unknown writer / director Sean McGinly staves off embarrassment, but he doesn't get many accolades, either. Ultimately, The Great Buck Howard is a watchable and enjoyable film, but don't be surprised if you don't hear anything about it six months from now.

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

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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