



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
April 2011

Volume 6, Issue 7

## March's meeting

Silk magic isn't something that a lot of people do any more – but that may be changing after the demonstration given to us in March by Jon Akrey!

Jon demonstrated a host of different silks and silk effects – and the silks just kept coming! He first started with a number of "Blendo"-type effects, where multiple coloured silks blend into one large multi-coloured one (e.g. "Blendo Supreme", as well as his own handmade version). He then showed the use of a "hank ball" to change silks into flags. He also introduced a beautiful Antique Production Box that was shown empty multiple times during the night, but kept producing huge numbers of silks!

He then explained his technique for the Thumb Tip vanish, and introduced quite a number of different Die Tube effects and gimmicks (e.g. standard Die Tube; Vernet Die Tube; "Palmo"), as well as a silk winder and a couple of different silk pokes, using a pencil and magic wand to assist in a silk's vanish!

Jon showed a sash with a tube that could hold a knotted silk behind the neck, and both a large and small silk fountain (he also showed us how to create a silk fountain!). The inside of your shirt is a great place to produce and vanish silks, and Jon highlighted a silk dropper and a hank vanisher.

Folding a 36 inch silk for a smooth production is not easy, but Jon demonstrated his folding technique for such a large silk, where the production is flawless! He gave us a "sucker" silk effect, where the audience thinks the magician is showing them the secret of producing a silk, but leaves the real magic for the end!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 20 7:30PM

Topic: PRESIDENT'S CHOICE Lecture!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

A silk production from a dove pan, some color changing handkerchiefs, and an impressive folder and bottle production using Italian production handkerchiefs ended a very interesting night! Jon covered all the bases – and it was hard to see him over the huge pile of silks at the end of the night!

Many thanks to Jon Akrey for opening our eyes to the wide range and impressive presentations that make up silk magic!

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## April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 20 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
T-253

Topic: PRESIDENT'S CHOICE Lecture!

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Next month will be a special one indeed, as our prez Steve Seguin has graciously offered to perform a lecture on effects that have no unifying theme.

These are effects that have caught Steve's interest over the past few years. And when an effect catches Steve's interest, you know it's got something good!

So come out for a special lecture from our prez that's sure to entertain!

Upcoming lecture – May 4

Jon Allen

For more info on Jon, visit:

<http://www.close-upmagician.com/>

## News Of Interest



### Harry Houdini honored on Google

(eCanadaNow)

March 23rd would have been magician Harry Houdini's 137th birthday and Google gave him a special logo to celebrate.

Houdini is known for being an escape artist and the logo has a picture of him handcuffed getting ready for an escape.

People were able to see this logo on most of Google's home pages all day on March 23rd in honor of Houdini.

Houdini's real name is Eric Weisz; he was born in 1874 and died in 1926 at the young age of 52.

He was also a successful actor and film producer in addition to being a legendary escape artist

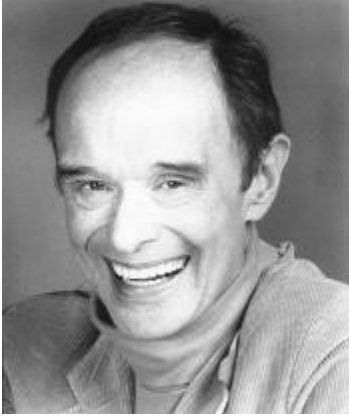
## Browser's Den auction on April 10

On Sunday, April 10: a veritable Browser's Den institution - the AUCTION. which will take place from 11am until about 4:00pm.

This is the time when people like us have the opportunity to buy magic at awesomely low prices, as well as being a memorable and entertaining event, especially when Jeff's doing the auctioning. And get this: all three events are FREE to attend - no charge, even the auction, would you believe.

You will find full details about the on the homepage of their website: [www.BrowsersDen.com](http://www.BrowsersDen.com) or call them at 416-783-7022, if you're not a netizen, as yet.

Browser's Den address: 875 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Bathurst), Toronto.



## Bob Fitch Performance Workshop

Friday May 6 & Saturday May 7

BOB FITCH has coached FISM winners Shawn Farquhar, Paul Gertner, Timo Marc, and Arthur Trace, and so many other of the greats: Bill Malone, Gene Anderson, Giovanni Livera, Stephen Bargatze, Karen Beriss, Mar-garet Steele, Docc Hilford, Alain Nu, Jeff McBride, Eric DeCamps and David Copperfield. Two of his teenage students, Ashley Springer and Winston Helling, went on to win the SAM & IBM youth national contests and appeared on Lance Burton's TV special.

But who is Bob Fitch? Bob has worn many hats in his lengthy professional career: actor, director, magician, singer, and dancer. A show business legend himself, Bob has worked alongside Katharine Hepburn, Angela Lansbury, Mickey Rooney, Steve Martin, and Liza Minnelli and many others. He has starred in twenty-seven Broadway Shows, including, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum with Whoopi Goldberg, received Broadway's Burns-Mantle Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his villainous portrayal of Rooster Hannigan in the original Annie, and has appeared in several Hollywood films. He has appeared in dozens of TV commercials utilizing his skills in magic, juggling, fire-eating, dance and physical comedy. As a magician, he is well known for his coin, topit and holdout work.

He was consultant, coach and writer for PHENOMENON, the NBC Reality series, as well as for Alain Nu's four one-hour Discovery Channel specials (The Mysterious World of Alain Nu). . He created the coffee cup illusion for the second David Blaine TV Special also coached David Blaine for his second TV Special. His Fitch/Kohler Holdout was utilized for several effects by Criss Angel.

In this two full day workshop Bob will only have time to critique four to five people's routines, and use these as a teaching vehicle for all of the participants. He will also do substantial work on theatrical techniques, posture, voice, movement, etc.

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We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!  
Please send any original reviews, magic  
tricks or routines to:  
[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)

Bob Fitch Performance Workshop  
Friday May 6 & Saturday May 7

Two ways to attend:

Full Registration - \$300 with performance critique (limited to 6 people)

Non-Critique Registration - \$100 for two full days

Your cheque (non-refundable) made payable to "The Hat and Rabbit Club" reserves your spot.

Location: Holy Trinity Church, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Road, Scarborough  
TTC stop at the corner, Guildwood GO station close by

Contact: Stephen Kirkegaard : kirkegaard@rogers.com - (416) 266-8386  
Ron Guttman: ron.guttman@sympatico.ca - (905) 889-5113

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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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