



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2019 Volume 14, Issue 8

March's meeting

It was a good group who came out in March, and they were witness to the third-meeting performance from one of our recent guests. **Jason Holmes** showed us several effects: "*My uncle cheats at cards*", where he dealt poker hands and ended up with a Royal Flush; "*Sharpie thru card*", where a Sharpie not only penetrated a card but could move around it; and 3 selected cards were found in a variety of ways. The vote wasn't even close – **Welcome to the club, Jason!**

This month's theme was very unique: *Blind Magic!* **Mike Fisher** showed us a **Tommy Edison** video where he, as a blind person, said that magic was only for sighted people, and then another video where two magicians did tricks for him that changed his mind.

Mike did a few tricks that worked well for blind people: A solid block was placed in a matchbox (all in the blindfolded spectator's hand) and needles penetrated the matchbox; a *guillotine thru the finger* effect; and a *double wrist chopper* (that freaked out **Vito D'Amico!**). All of the props could be examined by the blind spectator and used without them breaking their connection to the props, so no switches are done.

Mike also had some Braille playing cards, and **Peter Mennie** was able to have a blindfolded spectator perform **Jim Steinmeyer's** "*Nine Card Trick*", where the spectator spells to his selected card. It showed that with a Braille deck, and the spectator doing all the work, even card tricks can work for the

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, APRIL 10

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: CARD FORCES!
Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253

blind!

Mark Hogan did two card tricks with the performer blindfolded. First, a version of the "Clock" effect from **Larry Becker**, where a blindfolded performer revealed the time a spectator was thinking of, and a card shown at the time. Then he showed **Simon Aronson's** "Self Control Lie Speller", where the spectator does all the work, can lie whenever they like, and their chosen card is still found! And a blindfolded **Malachi Davey** was able to expertly and visually find all four Aces in a shuffled deck!

Thanks to all who came out and shared some effects that can make magic happen even for those cannot see.

Mark Hogan

April's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, April 10
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253

TOPIC: CARD FORCES!

Almost nothing is better in card magic than finding a good card force! With it, you are light years ahead of the spectator without them realizing. We've all seen "Force a card using your favorite method" in books and DVD's – can't we see a bunch of different methods to help us choose our favourite?

So let's see how many card forces we can come up with. If you have a card force (or two or three ...) that you like, show us!

"Force yourself" to come out in April and learn some card forces (old and new) that will help you with many of your favorite card effects.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Browser's Bash 2019 - Mini sessions

(Browser's Den)

Tickets for the 2019 Browser's Magic Bash are still available.

VIP Platinum and Gold tickets were *sold out after one day!* But there are still *Silver* (\$129 + HST) and *Bronze tickets* (\$99 + HST) available. And prices include meals!

For those who will be attending, *for no extra charge*, the magicians below have agreed to contribute to the day by offering *Free Mini Classes* during the lunch or dinner breaks.

CHRIS BRUCE - False Shuffles, Top Change, Classic Force

ANDREW WOO - How To Create Easy & Memorable Magic, 5 Steps to Go from Amateur to Pro

CHARLIE MCBURNEY - Crimp & Key Cards, Methods of Deployment

WIJ - Card fundamentals (Top Change, Double Lifts, False Shuffles, The Pass, Side Steal)

CHRIS WESTFALL - Routine your Magic

JONAH BABINS - Any Card at Any Number

DAVID BARRETT - Biddle Count Procedures

ROBERT & SCOTT PRESSWOOD - Seminar in outside side lobby on Kid/Family Shows

Bronze tickets (\$99 plus tax) and silver tickets (\$129 plus tax) are still available for the 'Bash'. You may buy online or if you wish just call (416-783-7022) or visit <https://www.browsersden.com/bash>

Magic at the Marienbad - coming April 5

(Mike Fisher)

Mike Fisher will be performing as the *Amazing Corbin, the Charming Cheat* at "Magic at the Marienbad" – starting a monthly event which will be held

on the first Friday of the month starting on **April 5** at the *Marienbad Restaurant & Chancer's Pub* (122 Carling St, London).

Cocktail hour starts at 6:30pm with strolling magic from local magicians.

Magic at the Marienbad is "An incredible evening of mind-bending magic and hilarious comedy. *Magic at the Marienbad* presents a carefully selected duo of professional stand-up comics and world class magicians."

The **Amazing Corbin** will be the magic performer for the first event, along with comic **Dave Sokolowski**. Dave performs all over Ontario and New York. He is also a professional actor on television and movies.

Tickets are \$24 each, To purchase tickets, visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/magic-at-the-marienbad-tickets-54645853218>

Magician Matt Vizio is different

(Inside Magic)

First published in 2018 but still accurate. Matt is amazing.

How is magician **Matt Vizio** different than other magicians?

We watched him tonight at the *Peller Theatre at the Magic Castle* and sensed something was different than others we had seen in the same venue over the years. Somehow, he was different, better than those we have seen before.

We learned more about what made him different after the show when we discovered the front row consisted of people who did not speak English all that well. Actually, it appeared they did not speak English beyond a few polite phrases.

Mr. Vizio is an accomplished magician and stand-up comedian and one of those two talent sets require the ability to communicate effectively with the audience generally and with the volunteers specifically. So what would he do? How do you do a *Confabulation* routine if your volunteer doesn't speak the language of the routine?

If it had been us, we would have just plowed along hoping to get some words we could use. But then again, we are not Mr. Vizio.

He was able to change his act immediately and present a parlor show using volunteers from the audience (2 out of 3) who didn't use English as a primary language. He did it with class and kindness and though he knew they



could not understand him, he performed with them as perfect partners in a very entertaining act.

It was an act different in content than what he had planned but no one noticed. Not even our trained eyes saw that he was changing his presentation to meet the situation.

We supposed that all true professionals of our Art could do the same. But the fact that we have seen it so rarely happen demonstrated how few true professionals there are in our Art.

We have seen alleged professionals lose their temper, curse, and call the audience volunteer a liar as a trick goes wrong. And these performers are the putative top of our pack.

But Mr. Vizio didn't need to attack the volunteers. He worked with them, silently when necessary, to perform effects he thought or hoped might work in that situation. And last night, at one particular show, he was correct. It is a small sample size – one show – but we bet he would succeed in a similar situation virtually every time. He is focused, polite and clearly involved with his audience.

Mr. Vizio is professional to the core, never embarrassing his volunteers specifically or the audience generally, but always ready to craft the show to meet the audience on their terms.

We could talk about the tricks he performed but they may be different from those you see when you visit the *Peller Theatre* this week. The magic you will see is all Mr. Vizio.

Inside Magic Rating: Five out of Five. Our Highest.

Magic and psychology

(The Atlantic)

Good news for magicians!

According to newspaper reports — in *Variety* and the *New York Times* — the entertainment giant, *Cirque du Soleil*, has purchased the company which produces "The Illusionists."

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group has announced it has purchased *The Works Entertainment*, the production company behind the touring magic show, "**The Illusionists.**"

This is the third acquisition by the group in the past three years. Earlier the company purchased the **Blue Man Group** in 2017 and *VStar Entertainment Group* in 2018.

The deal allows the company to expand beyond its current touring footprint. Currently *Cirque du Soleil* shows tour to over 450 cities around the world.

The format of "*The Illusionists*" — five magicians sharing the same stage — could easily expand to two-to-five or more touring shows.

The Works also produces other live touring shows like "*Now You See Me Live*" — based on the 2013 motion picture — and "*Circus 1903 — The Golden Age of Circus*." They also produce cabaret-type shows and musical productions. VStar focuses on kid and family live entertainment shows.

According to President and CEO of *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* **Daniel Lamar**, his company is going to leave the new company alone. There is no intention of mixing formats. Each has its own strengths and the intent is to help each show get better.

The purchase price of *The Works Entertainment* was about forty million dollars, according to the articles.

Simon Painter, co-founder of *The Works*, said that he told a journalist back in 2011, when they started the company, that they wanted to do for magic what *Cirque du Soleil* has done for circus. Now he and his investors are a part of that team.

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Vol. 14, Issue 8
April 2019

Concept by: Steve Seguin

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.

London Magicians Guild web site:
magiclondon.brinkster.net

London Magicians Guild e-mail:
magic_london@yahoo.ca