

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2025 Volume 18, Issue 8

March's meeting

In March we were blessed to have not one but two lectures: *Levitations and Escapes*. **Scott Hood** was going to show us his *Floating Hank*, and **Christoper Campbell** graciously offered to share with us some of his extensive knowledge of *Escapology*.

First up was **Scott Hood**, who performed his entire *Floating Hank* routine, complete with music. First, he tied two blue handkerchiefs together and placed them in a glass. A red hanky was put in a bag, then vanished, only to be found tied between the two blue ones! He then magically removed 3 knots from a hanky, placed the knots in a bag, then showed the holes in the hanky where the knots came from, and then vanished the knots!

The finale was the "piece de resistance": He placed a hanky in a large glass bottle, and on Scott's command, the hanky started to dance. It playfully jumped about to the music, even when Scott plugged the top of the bottle! He was even able to give it to members of the audience! It is really a beautiful thing to witness up close. Finally he unplugged the bottle and the hanky jumped into Scott's hat!



Next Meeting:

Date: WED. APRIL 9

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: CLOSERS!

**Location: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

It was an incredibly entertaining piece of magic. Scott then detailed the routine, including an in-depth discussion of "*Corky*", which made much of the magic happen. He explained all the programming of the trick in detail – the technology of this effect is quite impressive, and Scott did a marvelous job explaining it to us.

Andrew Olmstead also performed a levitation effect – after showing how difficult it is to pick up individual grains of rice with chopsticks, he then took a clear jar of rice, jammed one of the chopsticks into it, and lifted the jar – then poured out all the rice showing everything was ungimmicked! Very cool!

Christopher Campbell (a well-known and respected escape artist and sideshow performer) then demonstrated for us some introductory escapes, as well as showing us some of the items he used in his work. He started by showing and explaining the *thumb zip tie escape*, as well as a larger zip tie on his wrists. Next was the *Siberian chain escape*, where his wrists were chained and locked but he easily escaped.

He showed us a gimmicked and ungimmicked set of *straitjackets* and talked about how to escape from them. Various types of *handcuffs* were shown and explained – he picked open one set and even used a dollar bill to open another! He even showed a simple *Rope Escape* (in and out) around his legs and wrists that could easily be incorporated into a comedy routine for a magician's show.

Christopher also explained a frightening episode where one of his water escapes went wrong, and how he overcame that harrowing situation.

Peter Mennie also showed us a rope escape where his wrists were tied and was able to escape. And **Steve Seguin** showed us the set of shackles he escapes from when performing **Anthony Lindan's Incredible Suit Jacket Escape**.

Christopher's expertise in this arena is exceptional, and has assisted many well-known magicians and escape artists with his knowledge and experience. This was a captivating lecture about a specialty of magic that is not well understood by the majority of magicians.

What a terrific night – two tremendous lectures! Thanks to both **Scott Hood** and **Christopher Campbell** for sharing with us!

Mark Hogan

April's meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 9

TIME: 7:00 PM

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

TOPIC: *CLOSERS!*

Back in November, the topic of the meeting was "*Openers*". So after starting a show well, why not jump to the end and talk about the trick you use as *closers*. Do you have some blockbuster-type effects to blow your spectators away? Do you have tricks where you want to leave a lasting impression? We'd like to know your ideas on closing effects.

We'd love to know what effects you leave until the end of your performances. Come out to the club meeting, and if you have any, bring a closer (or two) that you like. Learn how to close your show in a way that packs a punch and leaves them wanting more!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



15 extraordinary artists join FISM Italy 2025

(FISMITaly2025)

The countdown to the most important magic event of the year is on! We couldn't keep these **extraordinary artists a secret any longer**, so here they are!

XAVIER MORTIMER – *Grand Gala Show; Q & A*

A magician who blends theatrical artistry with mind-bending illusions in a truly unique style

CHRIS RAMSEY – *Q & A*

A digital-era magician who has introduced millions to the wonders of modern magic.

LUIS DE MATOS – *Interview*

A leading innovator in modern magic, both as a performer and a visionary director.

DANI DAORTIZ – *One Man Show; Lecture; Close-up Gala*

A genius with playing cards, blending apparent chaos with absolute impossibility.

NORBERT FERRE – *Grand Prix Gala*

World champion magician, famous for his subtle humor and elegant stage presence.

DANIEL GARCIA – *Close-up Gala; Lecture*

A creative force in magic, responsible for some of the most stunning illusions of our time.

LUKE JERMAY – *Close-up Lecture; Mentalism Lecture; Close-up Gala*

A mind reader like no other, performing astonishing psychological experiments.

LAURANT PIRON – *Grand Prix Gala; Lecture*

A theatrical magician who transforms illusions into an unforgettable artistic experience.

ARTHUR BENJAMIN - *One man show*

The mathematical magician who outperforms computers with incredible mental calculations live.

PAUL WILSON – *Exclusive magic clinic*

A master of deception and card cheating, renowned for his impeccable sleight of hand.

VANNI DE LUCA – *Grand Gala Show; Lecture*

A phenomenal mentalist and memory expert, pushing the limits of human cognition

ALAIN CHOQUETTE – *Grand Gala Show; Lecture*

The Canadian master illusionist, known for his engaging and sophisticated performances.

HELGE THUN – *Lecture*

The German artist who seamlessly combines comedy, magic, and ingenuity into a captivating act.

FLORAIN SAINVET – *Grand Gala Show*

A futuristic illusionist blending technology, robotics, and magic in breathtaking performances

MARCO ZOPPI & ROLANDA – *Grand Gala Show; Lecture*

Specialists in bubble magic, turning simple soap bubbles into mesmerizing visual poetry.

For more information, visit <https://www.FISMIItaly2025.com>



Magic and Shenanigans tour in Waterloo

(Magic and Shenanigans)

A unique interactive walking tour exploring secret locations and unexpected venues throughout Uptown Waterloo.

Each tour will be guided by professional comedians who will escort you to experience award winning magicians from all over the world!

This **brand new event** combines 12 of the greatest magicians from 6 different countries along with professional comedians, actors, and improv specialists chosen as our guides to help you navigate the secrets of

Uptown Waterloo.

In conjunction with the limited ticketed tours, you can come and find the best outdoor street magicians, characters and other interactive shenanigans, all free to the public.

Tour dates are:

- **Friday May 23 @ 7PM**
- **Saturday May 25 @ 1PM**
- **Saturday May 25 @ 7PM**
- **Sunday May 26 @ 1PM**

You can choose which of the 2 set of magicians you wish:

- *The Harry Houdini Tour:*
 - **Steve Valentine; Nick Wallace; Laura London; Andrew Eland**
- *The Doug Henning Tour:*
 - **Ondrea Psenicka; Keith Fields; Malin Nilsson; Rachel Wax**

For more information and to get tickets, visit:

<https://magicandshenanigans.com/>



Michigan Magic Day 2025 - May 16-17, 2025

(Detroit Magic Club)

Michigan Magic Day, a celebration of outstanding magic and magicians, has been around since 1971! *The DETROIT MAGIC CLUB (IBM RING 22)* is proud to continue that tradition with an exciting, TWO-DAY MAGIC CONVENTION that promises to be a "MUST SEE" experience for everyone!

Enjoy and experience magic with internationally known magicians and entertainers, **STEVE VALENTINE, DAVID PARR, HOWARD MINCONE, KEITH FIELDS** and **LADY SARAH, PAUL RICHARDS, MICHAEL MODE, BILL**

KALUSH, GEORGE TAIT, BEN BARNES, and more to come!

Check out just a few of our **MMD 2025** convention highlights:

- SIX featured sensational magic events!
- MICHIGAN MAGIC MENAGERIE, parlor presentations featuring some of Michigan's finest magicians!
- TWO special HEADLINE MAGIC LECTURES (presented by **STEVE VALENTINE** and **DAVID PARR**)!
- CLOSE-UP CAROUSEL of MAGIC, providing *everyone* with a ringside seat to FOUR outstanding close-up performances!
- GALA MAGIC SHOW SPECTACULAR, world-class magic performed by our renowned headline entertainers in a full stage review (**special ticketed admission is available for the general public**)!
- Michigan History of Magic Presentation and Discussion with **MICHAEL MODE** and **BILL KALUSH**!
- Official Induction of the NEW *Hall-of-Fame Magician* for 2025!
- Magic vendor displays!
- Complimentary breakfast snacks and coffee!
- Complimentary lunch!
- Additional "NIGHT BEFORE" PARTY, featuring an outstanding Parlor Show, sessions, informal magic/open-mic stage for everyone, pizza, and soft beverages!
- Session time for everyone!
- FREE raffles with prizes!
- Commemorative gift for all attendees!

For more information and to get ticket, visit:

<https://detroitmagic.club/michigan-magic-day-2025/>

Buffalo Magic Club (IBM Ring 12) hosts member induction dinner & gala show

(Karl Norman I.B.M. Ring 12)

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to announce the details of the *George Graham Hare Ball for 2025*, our annual Ring 12 member induction dinner and gala magic show!

Date and Location: Saturday, May 3, 2025, 6:00 PM
Banchetti by Rizzo's, 550 N. French Rd. New.York
14228

Cost: \$50 for Adults
\$25 Children (16 years and younger)

Featuring:

- Cash Bar for alcoholic drinks; unlimited soda and water will be provided with your ticket cost
- Basket Raffle
- 50/50 Split Club
- Buffet Style Dinner: Chef Salad, Rolls & Butter, Baked Penne with Mozzarella, Roasted Baby Red & White Potatoes, Chicken Picatta, Sliced Roast Beef in Gravy, Chef's Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Ice Cream, Coffee, Tea
- New member initiation ceremony
- Fabulous Magic Show featuring local talent and a special guest!

Reservations are due by April 25th.

Call or Text **Jake Weiland** at (716) 946-2798, or email him at weilandjake@gmail.com.

When making your reservation, please let Jake know if you are requesting a vegetarian or vegan dinner or have any dietary restrictions.

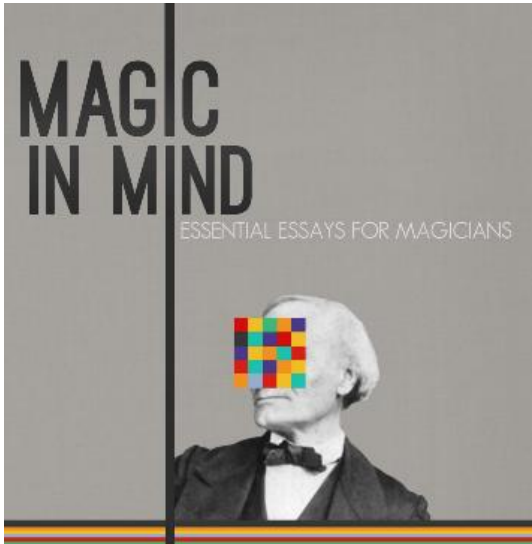
Check or Money Order (US dollars) due by April 25th payable to **Gene Gordon - Karl Norman I.B.M. Ring 12** and mail to

Jake Weiland, 11 Vermont Ave, Lockport, NY 14094 USA.

If you need other payment options such as Stripe (online with credit card), please reply to me and Jake and we can arrange this.

Please feel free to distribute to friends, relatives or others that would like to have a dinner, opportunity to win fantastic prizes with our basket raffle and 50/50 split club, and see a fantastic show

Thank you.



An excerpt from *Magic in Mind: The Illusion of Impossibility*

(*Magic in Mind*)

A few years ago, **Joshua Jay** and **Andy Gladwin** from *Vanishing Inc.* released a collection of essays from some of the world's most famous magicians, called "*Magic in Mind: Essential Essays for Magicians*".

Here is an excerpt from one of those essays:

DRAMA AS MAGIC

Drama, like conjuring, is an art of illusion. A play does not take place on the stage but in the minds of the spectators. What really happens is that a troupe of actors repeats a carefully rehearsed routine before an obviously artificial setting. The audience, however, misinterprets this as a series of exciting events in the lives of the characters.

Forcing spectators to interpret what they see and hear in ways which they know are false comes as close to genuine magic as we are likely to get. The everyday illusions of the legitimate stage put all but the best conjuring performances to shame. Even a second-rate play convinces spectators of "facts" which they know are not true. It can go further and use these imaginary "facts" to wring real tears from the eyes of the audience. Everyone is aware that a leading lady on Broadway receives a salary which puts her in the upper tax brackets. Nevertheless, this knowledge does not keep audiences from sobbing over her poverty when she impersonates a homeless waif.

The magic of drama is infinitely more powerful than the magic of trickery. It is as available to the conjurer as it is to the actor. The only difference is that actors take it for granted, whereas few conjurers are even aware that it exists.

Henning Nelms
Showmanship for Magicians, 1969

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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.

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