



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
December 2012

Volume 8, Issue 4

## November's meeting

The current President's Trophy winner – our very own **Jon Akrey** - graciously volunteered to perform a lecture for us. While not exactly a stellar crowd this night, Jon brought a lot of exciting magic that generated a lot of discussion.

But first, it was meeting #3 for our guest **Jesse Davidson** – so it was his performance to become a member – cheered on by his father **Don**. And what a performance it was! First, Jesse had a chosen card disappear from a separate set of 5 cards, and end up face up in the middle of the rest of the deck! Then he performed his version of the Princess Card Trick. And finally he played a game of “true and false” with a spectator, and a selected card shown to be in one place changed places with another! Jesse put on a terrific performance, and is now our newest club member. Congratulations, Jesse!

That set the stage for **Jon Akrey** to show us his stuff. First up was the “happy and sad face” on a business card, which he later used as a giveaway during a fork bend! He followed that with “Lethal Tender” – a nice transposition effect with a half dollar and Chinese coin – right in the spectator's hands!

### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 12 7:30PM

Topic: CHRISTMAS MAGIC AUCTION!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

He then performed an excellent Linking Rings routine (part of the Ninja Ring routine, using Jesse as a spectator trying to keep up!). He used small rings for this routine and passed around a large magnetic set. “Astral Ball” was demonstrated briefly by Jon - including his very inventive and practical “big fat

guy" hookup – which he also used for a coin floating trick. Next, he brought out a set of new "Vectra thread" – super strong thread that even floated a deck of cards! Jon then showed us some effects using loops (a floating ring and moving a fork), and finished off with a demonstration on tying your own loop using Vectra thread.

Next, he whipped out some elastics to do "Cash Ladder", where a dollar bill wrapped around an elastic jumps to other strands! Jon's version of the famous "Wild Card" effect showed us Jon's affection for packet tricks. An he ended with one of his favorite effect – and one for which he is well known - fork bending!

Jon put on a great evening, with lots of discussion around gimmicks, presentations, and variations on effects. And based on the variety, there was certainly something for everyone!

Many thanks to Jon for performing his lecture for us!

Mark Hogan

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## December's Meeting

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 12  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
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## **TOPIC: CHRISTMAS MAGIC AUCTION!!**

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"So what do you want for Christmas, little boy??" If your answer is "More magic!", then we've got the answer for you!

Come out in December and bring two things:

- Magic items that you would like to see if anyone would like to buy from you
- Some \$\$\$ to get the deals of a lifetime from your fellow club members!

Get Santa to fill your stocking with tricks, books, gimmicks, DVD, ... !  
Come to the Decmeber meeting and make it a magical Merry Christmas this year!

# News Of Interest



## Levitation in England goes viral

15,000 shoppers turned out to see **David Meade** perform a most astonishing feat in the middle of Belfast's busy Victoria Square mall.

Levitating 60 feet from the solid concrete floor below, his record breaking and world beating stunt caused mayhem, and as the story spread through the city every media outlet scrambled to cover the event. Within three hours David's website had nearly 10,000 hits, over 2000 images had been posted to twitter, and in 24 hours one single image (above) reached 1.1 million views on Reddit and other social media sites. He's received media requests from almost 20 countries, and is considering taking the stunt internationally.

How long was he up there?

"In total, almost 7 hours – which astounded us all given we had only hoped for 2."

"Given the secrecy surrounding the stunt, it was impossible to rehearse it fully. To do so would compromise its integrity, and risk details being leaked too early. For this reason we had no idea how long the stunt would actually last, but we hoped it would go on for up to a couple of hours. There were three major factors that had a significant bearing on the length of the stunt: weather, hunger, and....well.....the loo."

"Since the weather was out of our control we just stocked up on thermals and hoped for the best. As for hunger, I had one banana before I went up, and got passed a second one which was duct taped to a stick (this second one was photographed by **Elaine Hill** and has become my favourite image of anything I've ever done). So from 5am to 5pm, all I had to eat was two bananas."

"Finally, the biggest risk as I saw it was needing to use the bathroom. To try and ensure my urges were reduced, I did something I'd never recommend to anyone. I didn't drink any liquids for 24 hours prior to the stunt, and had only a couple of small sips of water just before ascending. So 33-ish hours with no liquids. This was very silly behaviour and very unhealthy, so needless to say I don't recommend it – but it did mean that I had no WC urges."

"I think adrenaline was the most significant factor that lead to the levitation lasting as long as it did. Hundreds of people were filtering through the

mall, tweeting, cheering, and taking photographs. This is like catnip to a performer, and I just couldn't bear to end the experience earlier than I absolutely needed to."

"I didn't know it at the time, but I smashed the world record for levitation – that last longest one being 3.5 hours."



## Magician's head set on fire on National TV

(International Business Times)

A magician almost lost his life when his head was set on fire on national television in the Dominican Republic.

American **Wayne Houchin** suffered severe burns when a man, thought to be the host, suddenly took a handful of cologne, set it on fire and threw it over the entertainer's head.

The show's crew rushed onto the set to douse the blaze, and Houchin was rushed to a nearby medical centre.

After receiving treatment, Houchin used Twitter to reveal his pain.

"While appearing on a TV show in the Dominican Republic, the TV host took a handful of Aqua De Florida, ignited it and intentionally dropped it on my head, setting me on fire. I was not aware he was going to do this," he wrote.

"This was not a stunt or part of an act - this was a criminal attack. The fast actions of the rest of our Curiosidades team saved my life. The fire was put out and I was rushed to the emergency room. I have bad burns on my head, face, neck and right hand.

"I am in pain, but am recovering. I will update you on the situation when I can."

Get well messages from fans inundated the micro-blogging site. Legendary magician **David Copperfield** got in touch to write "My thoughts are with you and your family. Best wishes on a swift and complete recovery."

The substance Aqua de Florida, which Houchin claims was thrown on him, is also a voodoo cleansing agent popular with shamen and witch doctors in the Caribbean.

**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)

## Bar ordered to conjure up magician's lost wages

(Otago Daily Times)

A street magician who quit his day job to perform at an Auckland bar lost out on more than \$2000 in wages when his employer failed to pay him regularly.

**Joseph Chin** had a "regular" day job, but as he was performing street magic during his lunch hour one day met **Tuncer Sakgun** who offered Mr Chin a contract to work an Auckland bar he was opening.

He was offered a job performing at Crow Bar for two hours on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights for \$80 an hour.

After Mr Chin signed an employment agreement he quit his day job so "he could concentrate on doing the work that he loved".

But from its opening in August last year there were difficulties with payments, and by October Mr Chin was being paid only once a fortnight.

By December he was owed \$2000 and started looking for work elsewhere.

Mr Chin went to the Employment Relations Authority seeking reimbursement for lost wages. Mr Sakgun did not show up to the hearing.

Authority member James Crichton ruled that Mr Chin was owed \$2200 in unpaid wages and that Crow Bar must pay him.

But Mr Chin told APNZ he was not sure whether he would see the money or not.

He said as soon as he started the job "it was all downhill".

However, he had not let this experience put him off his magic, and had managed to pick up a lot of corporate work since.

Mr Sakgun did not return calls for comment.

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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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