

**2016/2017 Club Membership Dues are now due!!**

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the next meeting, or mail them to: *Mark Hogan, 21-455 Hyde Park Road, London ON N6H 3R9*



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
December 2016 Volume 12, Issue 4

## December's meeting

Well, this was certainly different! If you showed up at the usual meeting place at Beal, you would have been met by the count of crickets. Because this night we met at the Food Court at White Oaks Mall to talk about ... well, what else ... restaurant magic! Both **Mike Fisher** and **Peter Mennie** have done magic in restaurants for many years and had a wealth of knowledge to share.

Mike showed us his *Shell Game* effect which works very well on a small surface, where space on a restaurant table is always a premium (and makes use of a novel variation of *equivoque*). And Mike also performed his terrific *Benson Bowl* routine using "little jumping limes" and ending with a production of a hamburger (could there be a better restaurant effect ending?).

Both Mike and Peter brought out essentially what he would use for a single evening's performance so we could see the volume of props require for such an evening. It was remarkable how much magic could take up so little space.

**Next Meeting: CANCELLED UNTIL JANUARY**

**Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253**

Peter's effects don't use a table at all (a nice bonus), showing us his versions of **Harry Anderson's** "FAKE" (where cards turn over one at a time and eventually spell the word FAKE), and **Emerson & West's** "The W(hole) thing", where holes in cards turn colour, clone themselves, etc. He also performed **Garrent Thomas's** "3 ball" - a terrific prediction effect resulting in the

production of a solid billiard ball! He ended the night showing a great use of combining the 52-in-1 card with an invisible deck for as killer prediction effect!

We would have done more and stayed long – but the mall closes at 9:00pm! Thanks to everyone who came out to the Food Court – we has a great time!

Mark Hogan

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## December's Meeting

# CANCELLED UNTIL JANUARY

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With a few people not able to meet next week, we're not meeting in December and will start up again in December.

**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)

# News Of Interest



## IBM/SAM Combined Convention July 12-15, 2017

(IBM/SAM)

- A prestigious list of over 24 top performers**
- 10 essential lectures on technique & performance**
- 4 magic shows on 4 nights headlining magicians from around the globe**
- 2 worldwide magic organizations promoting magic**

Here is the list of dealers that have already been booked:

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Haines House of Cards  | Tricksupply            |
| Astor Magic            | Potter Auctions        |
| Kelvin Chun            | Card-Shark             |
| Meir Yedid Magic       | BJW Magicial Jewellers |
| Ronjo Magic & Costumes | Flip Disk Productions  |
| Magic Crafters         | Abbotts Magic          |
| Bob Little             | Mark Mason             |
| Daytona Magic          | Penguin Magic          |
| O'Dowd Magic Books     | Palmer Magic           |
| Magic Stars Studio     |                        |

For more information, visit <http://www.ibmsam2017.com>



## Criss Angel vs David Copperfield

(DailyBeast.com)

When two grown men fight over the title of world's greatest magician, everybody wins. Predominately the purview of children's parties and particularly depressing midlife crises, magic is also the chosen career of a handful of professional illusionists. This 2016 alliance of magicians is helmed by two powerhouses: **Criss Angel** and **David Copperfield**. For years, Angel and Copperfield have maintained a seemingly tranquil relationship as the two most popular magicians on the Las Vegas strip. But according to recent events, it appears that this harmonious relationship was nothing but a perfect illusion.

Particularly bold dye jobs and otherworldly command of supernatural forces aside, magicians are just like us: they're vain, petty, and love to stir up drama on Twitter. Back in May, Criss Angel decided to engage in some light social media PR, retweeting an article deeming him "The biggest name in Las Vegas Magic." The article came courtesy of *Bloomberg Businessweek*, which Angel referred to as "the most respected business magazine." Unfortunately, Angel's self-proclaimed supremacy was short-lived—on Oct. 27, *Forbes* named Copperfield the highest-paid magician in the world. Needless to say, Criss Angel was irked. For a man who has had metal suspension hooks inserted into his back, the magician has surprisingly thin skin. Angel's multi-pronged social media offensive began with him quoting *Vanish*, "*#1MagicMagazineWorldwide*," who crowned *him* the highest paid magician in the world.

Criss Angel's real feud is with *Forbes'* ranking. However, this hasn't stopped him from going after Copperfield every chance he gets. In one tweet, he mused that, "The old school, tired, hokey magic shows of yesterday are done...#POOF." In another, he insisted that "I don't buy my twitter followers, reviews or hair," insinuating that David Copperfield's social media following is as fake as his raven-colored coiffure. And in his latest attack, Angel bragged, "Just hit 1million Real twitter followers. Didn't buy them like DC—who continues to buy all his fake followers. Real fans can't be bought." Meanwhile, Copperfield retweeted a *Forbes* graphic illustrating his status as the world's highest-paid magician. Aside from that tweet, which appears to be a response to Angel's taunts, he's just been sharing glowing reviews from his fans. Either David Copperfield is classy AF, or he's just a 60-year-old man who doesn't actively use his Twitter account.

So, who is Vegas' greatest magician? Having taken the huge logical leap of assuming that magic is both real and worthy of analysis, the first step is [assessing the profitability](#) of Angel and Copperfield's respective shows. Copperfield performs in an MGM Grand Theater that boasts 743 seats. Meanwhile, Criss' Luxor Theater can hold up to 1,533. Therefore, *Forbes'* ranking does seem a tad suspect—it would take a true magical feat for Copperfield to conjure up profits rivaling Angel's, given the size of his venue and

his average ticket price. Official David Copperfield tickets start selling at \$71.37, with Criss Angel seats going for as low as \$64.31.

Profitability aside, the debate over the world's greatest magician ultimately comes down to taste. There are three types of people in this world: David Copperfield fans, Criss Angel fans, and the 95% of the population that doesn't care for magic. Members of the first two groups will likely agree that these illusionists have extremely different styles. Copperfield is old school and classy—his stage name is a freaking Charles Dickens' reference. His television specials have won 21 Emmy Awards. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and is a member of the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He was named a living legend by the U.S. Library of Congress, making him an actual national treasure. Copperfield wows his audiences with an intoxicating cocktail of storytelling and illusion.

Meanwhile, Criss Angel has tapped into the unique desire of many to be simultaneously, awed, scared, skeeved out, and a little bit turned on. Angel became an unlikely sex symbol in the early aughts by closely resembling the hottest scene kid at your local middle school. But his greatest feat was tricking the world into believing that he was a B-list celebrity. From producing some genuinely compelling television to dating **Paris Hilton** and publicly feuding with **Perez Hilton**, Angel knew how to stay in the spotlight. He also co-authored a book, *Mindfreak: Secret Revelations*, which provides step-by-step instructions for 40 of his basic Mindfreaks—and which, if *Arrested Development* has taught me anything, makes Criss Angel a really bad magician.

At the end of the day, mystery and magic go hand in hand. We may never know which illusionist is superior. What we do know is that they both perform at venues that are owned and operated by MGM, making the global entertainment company the real winner of this attention-grabbing feud.



## HIV-positive magician's death-defying escapes

(HoustonPress.com)

Don't call **Daniel Bauer** an illusionist. "The 'i' word is a horrible word, I never use it," says the New York born performer who is coming to Houston. "What I do is I'm a magician, an escape artist and a mind reader."

Bauer, who fancies himself a modern day Harry Houdini, has been pursuing the craft of magic since his youth. "I got a kit at 8-years-old and I suddenly knew what I wanted to do with my life," he says,

admitting to being known as **Dan the Magic Man of Poughkeepsie** for much of his tender years. But after his parents insisted Bauer fetch a “practical job,” he began teaching high school Math and ASL. “After two years, I sacrificed everything to move down to the city and become the new ‘IT’ boy of magic,” Bauer says.

All looked up for Bauer as he began to play bigger rooms off-Broadway, until he got the news that would rock his life: he’d been diagnosed with HIV, a fact Bauer tackles head-on in his act. “This show really is the story of my life,” he says. “Starting with day I escaped my mother’s womb, all the way to the moment I decided to return to stage. His show, *Beyond Belief* is about being diagnosed, the dark days after that, losing everything. But the magic is more layered. You see the first trick I ever learned as a kid, and the magic progresses and gets more intricately confounding, compiling until I do my final death-defying escape: **Houdini’s Mail Bag**, where I have potentially only 90 seconds to escape before I run out of air.”

Bauer, a seemingly normal man, admits that there is an undeniable rush associated with saving his own life with these escapes. “I have been hurt more times than I care to count, but I just love it. Adults forget how to believe in magic, and what I have done with this show is I’ve taken down all the barriers. No smoke, no mirrors, nothing between me and the audience. So I think what the audience is experiencing is what I like to call ‘pure magic’ – very *Harry Potter* sorcery.”

The autobiographical nature of *Beyond Belief* seems unique for shows of this kind, but that honesty, Bauer believes, is a testament to his relationship to his craft. “When I didn’t have a family to believe in,” Bauer says, “when I didn’t have all those people you should have to believe in, an agent, managers, funders – the only thing left was the magic. It was the thing that kept me safe as a kid because there were no ‘I love you,’ no physical emotion or affection. You know, I was a kid who was never wanted. So magic was my safe haven. It kept me safe from bullies, and it’s something I keep going back to.” Bauer hopes his audience will feel the same face-melting pleasure that he does when he pulls off a new trick.

While *Beyond Belief* features a full 90 minutes of original magic, Bauer warned that people wanting to see his most famous escape will have to wait. “My most well-known escape is called *Piranha Peril*, but that’s being saved for *America’s Got Talent*,” the escape artist boasts, mentioning they’ve been after him for a few seasons now. “That’s been quite the negotiation, but I promised I would not show [that escape] anywhere but there.”

If Bauer fulfills all his ambitions and becomes a household name, he’s got big plans for bringing magic further into the mainstream. “I really want to be the **Yanni** of magicians,” he says. “So once a year, whether it’s in the Acropolises or

at the Pyramids, there will be one mega-major escape that I do, where the world just stops for an hour. Everyone forgets their problems, and they only thing on anybody's mind is whether or not I can get out alive."

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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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