

# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
December 2024

Volume 18, Issue 4

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## November's meeting

The November meeting was all about *Openers*! We know we only get one chance to make a first impression, and a lot of folks brought the effects they like to use to start their shows.

**Steve Seguin** showed us the opener he's used for many years – a vanishing hanky, then pulling it from his mouth! **Byron Berry** produced a bill from his empty hands, then changed it into a coin! And Mark Hogan showed his opening effect from the club's Hamilton magic club performance: **Nathan Kranzo's** *The Mind Reading Crotch* – where he pulled a thought-of card from his fly!

**Peter Mennie** performed his opening routine using a taped intro, music and signs used to introduce him in a magical way! He followed that with an Invisible Deck routine utilizing a 52-on-1 card. He also presented an opener he uses in walkaround occasions to gather a crowd: **Jon Allen's** *DoubleTake*, where two cards switch places in the spectator's hands!

**Andrew Olmstead** illustrated his use of a wizard's hat to capture the audience's attention. He then got the crowd engaged with a Lennart Green effect of turning the audience's palms down without turning their wrists, as well as having them all become unable to turn over their wrists!

**Sam General** wowed us with his *Cardini Card Change*, then used it in his opener of finding a selected card while complaining about his failing eyesight!

### Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, DECEMBER 11 (**CHANGE IN LOCATION!**)

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL!**

Location: **CRABBY JOE'S RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN)**  
**276 Dundas Street, London**

**Leonardo Martins** did a great card sandwich opener where a selected card (lost on the middle of the deck) was found on top of the deck between the two red Queens. And Scott Hood presented his stage show opener using music to produce silks from his empty hands, ending with a silk fountain! He also discussed the performances he does for patients at a local hospital.

What a great night seeing and discussing all these different opening effects!

Mark Hogan

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**DATE: Wednesday, December 11**

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**PLACE: CRABBY JOE'S RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN)  
276 Dundas Street, London**

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**TOPIC: CHRISTMAS SOCIAL!**

'Tis the season to be jolly - and to just hang with our fellow magi to throw back a few drinks and enjoy the holidays.

So the December meeting is starting where we usually end the night - at the Crabby Joe's Restaurant downtown (at the corner of Dundas and Wellington). We'll try to get the back room.

Bring whatever you like - maybe something to show, or something you need help with. It's the season of giving ... so you'll get lots of applause and advise.

Come out and start your holidays the best way we know how ... with some magic!

**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



### Buffalo Magic Club lecture on December 9th

(IBM Ring 12 -Gene Gordon/Karl Norman Ring - Buffalo)

### Alyx Hilshey Lecture

**DATE:** Monday, December 9, 2024  
**TIME:** Doors open 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Knights of Columbus  
2735 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
(Enter Justin Hall doors, lounge to the left)

**Alyx Hilshey** is a corporate magician with roots as a full time street performer, family entertainer, and theme park magician. Alyx has been featured on *Penn & Teller Fool Us*, at the *Chicago Magic Lounge*, *The Magic Castle*, and on board the *Princess Cruise Line's Conjuring Cruise* (in partnership with *The Magic Castle*). **Alyx** also regularly headlines her full evening show at the *Philadelphia Smoke & Mirrors theater* (7x performances) and is a frequent guest co-star in Washington DC's number one comedy show, *The Magic Duel*.

With seven years of experience as a college instructor, **Alyx** is a strong lecturer and includes hands-on learning techniques not featured in other lectures.

She will cover:

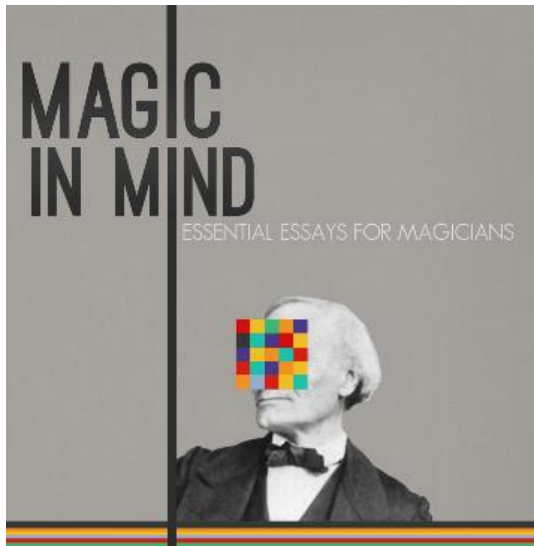
- 1.) routines developed in thousands of street show performances;
- 2.) theories in mis-direction using the body and the gaze to amplify deception with practical examples;
- 3.) methods to easily incorporate highly technical sleight of hand into every day performances without fear (also with practical examples);
- 4.) sleight of hand routines for the real world;
- 5.) easy to perform routines for the family entertainer; and
- 6.) her secret to deceptively producing a massive 7" jumbo coin in any performing situation including street, strolling and stage.

There's something for everyone. Plus, she's just good at entertaining magicians. She performed a 30-minute one woman show at *MAES*, *the Yankee Convention*, and *Kapital convention*. She's performed at the *IBM 100*

anniversary convention, MAWNY and FFFF. She's also booked to perform at Blackpool (with lecture and show) and the brand new Mystify Convention.

We hope you can join us for this special lecture event on December 9! For those of you that attended MAWNY last year, you saw **Alyx** perform in the close-up sessions and she was fantastic!

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:

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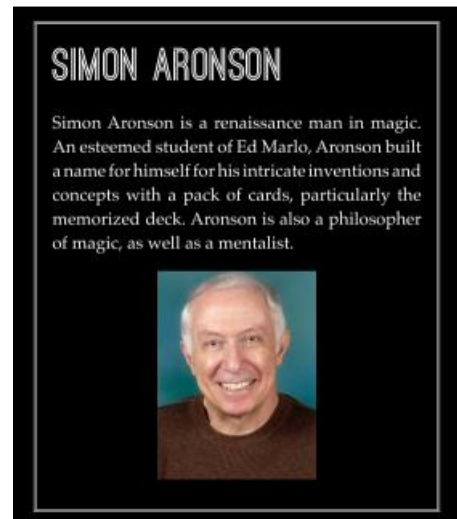
### **The Illusion of Impossibility**

The essence of magic is "*doing the impossible*." The "*doing*" is accomplished by the performer, but the "*impossible*" must ultimately be supplied by the audience.

That one has witnessed the impossible is a conclusion, a judgment, a determination that must be reached by each spectator — and this requires the active participation of a spectator's senses and his mind. A spectator must first be convinced that he is aware of all that has happened: that he has been attentive, that he's followed everything, that nothing has escaped his notice.

That conviction will then be contrasted against the spectator's awareness of the laws of nature and the laws of logic — laws which he "*knows*" like the back of his hand. The resulting dichotomy is the determination of impossibility: he knows what has just happened, and yet also knows that it cannot happen, that it defies the controlling laws that govern our world. And yet, you did it.

A magician's paramount goal is to manipulate the spectator's mind and senses to bring about this state of impossibility. You'll deceive him in any way you can, but you must produce both components, or else the magic will be lost. If the spectator feels he's missed something, or that you're "*quicker than his eye*," or that something was confusing, then he will not reach the certainty, the absolute conviction, that he knows what happened. Alternatively, even when he's convinced that he's carefully followed everything, if he thinks the subject matter is beyond his ken, that it's susceptible of some kind of scientific explanation (even if he himself can't articulate it) — indeed, if he believes there's still any room for possible theorizing — he will not reach the conclusion of impossibility. The magician must affirmatively raise and destroy any hypothetical solution which the spectator might be likely to consider. The spectator must be actively engaged, so that his own mind and senses together eliminate even the possibility that — let alone any explanation of how — the effect could have taken place. There is a world of difference between a spectator's not knowing how something's done versus his knowing that it *can't* be done.



The performance of magic today attempts to accomplish much: entertainment; the creation of beauty; the audience's personal engagement and involvement; the creation of a memorable, unique persona or character; the display of skill, of artistry. All of these are laudable goals. They are certainly necessary if the art of magic is to survive in a competitive, demanding, fast paced world. But they should not overpower or distract from the illusion of impossibility.

The art of magic is limitless. Our creations can be as clever as our intellect, as subtle as our imagination, and as devilish as our will to deceive. The feeling of impossibility is a fragile, ephemeral goal; when achieved, it is transitory, lasting only for an instant. But that sense of impossibility will long be remembered as a uniquely magical moment. It is an ideal for us to strive for in the creation of magical effects. To paraphrase the philosophers, "*the impossible is as wonderful as it is rare.*"

**Simon Aronson**  
*The Aronson Approach – 1990*

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1 SPECIAL ONE MAN SHOW EVENT

PROGRAM

OPENING  
MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY  
AT 8:00 A.M.

CLOSING ON  
SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY  
NIGHT



MAC KING



PETER MARVEY



CHRIS RAMSAY



SHIN LIM



LUIS DE MATOS



ARTHUR BENJAMIN



ALAIN CHOQUETTE



DANI DAORTIZ



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MASTERS  
OF MAGIC

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# Vanishing Inc's Magifest Convention fast approaching

(Vanishing Inc)



Two more names have been announced for the **Magifest Convention** in **Columbus, Ohio** on *January 23-25, 2025*: (Click [here](#) for more info)

## **Javi Benitez**

You're in for a real treat as Spain's Javi Benitez will be joining us for a one-of-a-kind lecture. The Penn & Teller Fooler is one of the finest sleight of hand artists in the world. As the final student of the legendary Arturo de Ascanio, and a current teacher at the iconic Tamariz Magic School in Madrid, Javi is also one of the greatest minds in magic. He inherently understands the small, yet invaluable, details that elevate good magic tricks into unforgettable experiences. Join us as he shares his best secrets during a can't-miss lecture at Magifest.

## **Mahdi Gilbert**

Mahdi Gilbert is not only an extremely-talented technician, but an incredible inspiration. Born without hands or feet, Mahdi has needed to adapt every move he's ever used and, in many cases, has even created his own unique sleights. His ingenuity is unmatched and he's an absolute pleasure to watch in action. We're so excited to welcome Mahdi back to the Magifest stage where he'll once again prove how nothing is impossible.

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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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[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)