



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
February 2015

Volume 10, Issue 6

January's meeting

"*Anything goes*" was the theme for January's meeting, and on this night, anything went!

Matthew Stafford (the newly-proclaimed "*Master of Segways*") brought a number of different effects: he displayed two cards, took one behind his back, and it switched for the other card! He then beat a number of spectators at a game of *High Card Draw*, only to turn the deck into all Aces! He pulled out a green wand, and from it pulled out a blue one, then a red one, then a black one! He had a spectator initial the face of a card and then had the spectator eliminate cards until only one was left – their selection! And he ended with a nice routine where he made his iPhone disappear inside a bag, only to find two sponge bunnies and performed his version of *Multiplying Bunnies*!

Paul French offered us a very visual penetration effect where a red card visually penetrated between two blue cards! And he also showed how he memorized a deck and instantly knew the spectator's selection that was missing from the deck!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 11

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: SPONGE BALL MAGIC!

Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253

Steve Seguin performed **Richard Sanders** "Aces" effect, where four jokers turn into four Aces right in the spectator's hands! He also used the Frixion pen to good effect by having a thought-of pet appear on a business card after it was heated with a lighter! And **Mark Hogan** showed us "", where the magician

predicts a spectator's selected card, then lets the spectator change their card, and the prediction changes as well!

Mike Fisher made nice use of a *Mental Epic* board to play a game of *Clue* with us, and he predicted precisely who, where and what instrument was used in the murder! He also had a comedy escape with a spectator using thumb cuffs! And Jon Akrey ended the night with a *pen thru bill* effect, and then turned the old-style Canadian \$5 ill into a brand new one!

Lots of people performing lots of different effects – which was exactly the plan for “*Anything goes*” night. Thanks to all who came out!

Mark Hogan

February's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, February 11
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: SPONGE BALL MAGIC!

Bring out some sponge balls and learn a new routine! Mark Hogan has put together a routine using sponge balls – and will perform and step through the entire routine. If you don't often work with sponge balls, here's your chance to try it out!

And bring any other effects you may have that use sponges – we'd love to see them!

Hope to see you on February 11!

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 Magic Bash - April 12

(Browser's Den)

Imagine 12 jam-packed hours of magic filled with a plethora of amazing talent, delicious food, and wonderful experiences that you cannot find elsewhere.

Card guys, mentalists, stand-up magicians, stage performers, and everything in-between... there's something for everyone!

You're going to have a fantastic time at the **Browser's Magic Bash**. It might even challenge the way you normally look at magic conventions.

Jeff Pinsky says, "Though in our 39 plus year history in Toronto we have had countless special events, we have never attempted something of this nature. And with your kind participation, we hope this will be the first of many more to come! Save your seat now."

There will be over 10 performers (including **Richard Sanders, David Acer, Greg Frewin**, and more!), with professional lectures, informative mini-sessions, a close-up show and a stage show. And *both dinner and lunch are included* in the ticket price!

Ticket prices are only **\$75 + tax** (with a few *VIP tickets* still available at **\$139 + tax**).

This sounds like a terrific event. Visit www.browsersden.com/bash, or click the link below for more details or to register.

[Browser's Magic Bash -- April 12th, 2015 \(9am - 9pm\)](http://www.browsersden.com/bash)

ISIS beheads a street magician in Syria

(Business Insider)

A street magician in Syria beloved by children was beheaded by militants with the Islamic State group after his performances were deemed to be insulting

to God, the *Daily Mirror* reported Wednesday.

The murder of the magician, who was known as "Sorcerer," was called "barbarism and butchery" by a Syrian activist who knew him but fled to safety in nearby Turkey.

"The magician was a popular man who entertained people with little tricks on the street like making coins or a phone disappear," the activist told the British tabloid. "He was just called *Sorcerer* by people and children loved him. He was doing nothing anti-Islamic but he paid for it with his life."

But to the Islamic State, the group also known as ISIS, the street magician's tricks were anti-Islamic because they were performed through "illusions and falsehood," according to the *Mirror*. They also said the Koran forbids the tricks because the time people spent captivated by them could have been better used by going to a mosque, the tabloid added.

The street magician was a staple in Raqqa, the eastern Syrian city where the Islamic State has its base of operations. He was performing there when he was whisked away by militants and later beheaded in a public square.

"This is the reality of life in Raqqa, murdered in the name of Allah for performing a few tricks," the activist said.



David Copperfield conjures tricks from tech

(azCentral)

We found world renowned magician **David Copperfield** on the floor of the recent *Consumer Electronics Show* here, spending three days looking for the latest tech breakthrough.

Perusing robots, levitating music speakers, virtual pets and so much more, "I look for possible applications that can be used in my work and not be seen as tech," he says.

After meeting at CES, Copperfield, who has amassed an \$800 million fortune performing to sell-out crowds 40 weeks a year here, according to [Forbes](#), invited us to his private *International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts*. The structure, off the Strip, is home to his rare \$200 million collection of magic memorabilia.

Tech and magic

At CES, "over and over, not just the spectators, but all the spokesmodels," demonstrated a product, and said it worked, "just like magic," he says.

Copperfield finds the connection between tech and magic an obvious one. He looks to bring tech dreams to life on stage. "I'm trying to do science fiction live. At CES, I get inspired to do that -- to make things that 10 years from now will be a reality at CES."

E-mail tricks

Copperfield found fame doing TV specials in which he performed illusions such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear and flying across a stage seemingly without wires. Now, his big wow is doing e-mail and Twitter tricks (we promised not to reveal the conclusion, to keep it a surprise), and performing with a tech-savvy alien from outer space.

The e-mail trick is "using things people are comfortable with," he says. On stage, the longtime performer has changed his style due to the second screens out there. "The world has changed," he says. "I used to go out and speak to the audience, and now they talk back to me, they tweet me. Now, it's a conversation."

Magic invented the movies

At Copperfield's museum, he has several vintage automatons from the **Georges Melies** era, little mechanical machines that entertain. Melies was one of the earliest filmmakers, using special effects as illusions to astound people. Copperfield says it was magicians like Melies who invented movies. "Cinema was a magic effect," stripping together singular photos to become a moving picture, he says.

"We invented it as a piece of magic -- then storytellers took it further," he says.

Copperfield's devices

Copperfield walks the CES floor with an iPhone Six Plus in an Otterbox case and the current iPad, the device that the late Steve Jobs introduced in 2010 as "magical." Is it really magical? "Of course," Copperfield says. "It's amazing. I don't know how I lived without it."

The iPad contains his collection of video clips shot by his staff of the stage show the night before. "I'm watching and tweaking my illusions," he says.

"The smoke didn't work here. The illusion got exposed here. Now I can see what I've done, and try to improve."

He also uses the Solidworks *eDrawing* app (\$1.99, Apple, Android.) on both devices, to create 3-D models of potential new illusions. He taps into his webcams that monitor the 11 islands he owns in the Bahamas ("they're cool to have, but I rarely look") and loves the alternative taxi app Uber, which isn't available in Nevada.

As for his Otter case, ever the showman, he throws it on the floor to show how it won't crack. "This is great, but I'm waiting for the water proof case," he says. "It would be great on my island."

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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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