



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
February 2017

Volume 12, Issue 6

January's meeting

The first meeting of 2017 had everyone bring out a little something to show off – and everyone did! The night had to start with **Matthew Stafford**, who did a nice *Multiplying Rabbits* routine, and followed that by hanging the rabbits into a cockatiel! (It was getting pretty antsy, which is why he had to go first!). Matthew also performed **Matt Franco's** *Snowman in a Gift Box* effect which was performed on *America's Got Talent* – that he made himself! Impressive!

Mark Hogan kept the Christmas spirit alive with a trick inspired by Larry Becker's *Power of Suggestion*, where one spectator's selected numbers pointed to the contents of a Christmas present, which also held some change which added up to two other spectators' selected numbers!

We were honoured to be the first to see **Mike Fisher's** new restaurant set using a theme of different countries of the world. First, a country flag on a selected card was shown to match the same card on the back of the Joker! Next, for Egypt, it was a shell game involving the *Egyptian Scarabs of Doom*! We then saw a down-under *Card Warp* effect all the way from Australia! The *Chinese Coins of Doom* proved to be an excellent *Coins & Ribbon* routine. And it ended in Turkey with a *Turkish Cone of Mystery* (Chop Cup) with a final load of an egg! What a well thought out set!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: **HOMEMADE MAGIC!**

Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253

Keith O'Brien showed off his *Psy-Con* effect where a selected card, reversed sticking out of a book, proved to match his prediction. **Huy Ngoc**

demonstrated his own routine, where a card went through the table, and the deck slowly went through the table – all but the selected card!

Peter Mennie showed us **Aaron Fisher's** *Search & Destroy* where two Kings visually moved toward each other in the deck until they sandwiched the spectator's selected card! He ended the night with getting signatures on 2 cards, doing a very nice *Card through Hanky* to find the first signed card, and the second signed card was found on the first one's back!

Mark Hogan

February's Meeting

DATE: **Wednesday, February 8**
TIME: **7:30 PM**
PLACE: **Beal Secondary School**
 525 Dundas Street, London
 T-253

TOPIC: HOMEMADE MAGIC!

You can buy a ton of magic – but nothing feels quite as satisfying as magic you make yourself!

So bring in anything effects, props, etc. that you have made on your own. Or maybe some purchased items that you have enhanced on your own, or with the help of some magical buddies. Let's see your creativity!

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 Bash 2017 talent announced

(Browser's Den)

The lineup for this year's Browser's Bash on April 1 is coming together. Here are the folks who have been confirmed to date:

Michael Ammar:	Everyone's favorite magician
Silly Billy:	Legendary kids magician
Mysterion & Steffi Kay:	The Sentamentalists
Dick Joiner:	The Bash Emcee
Scott Hammell:	Escape artist
Luis Castro:	Nimble manipulation
Buck MacLeod:	Mechanical maestro
Keith Brown:	The needle eater
Adam Grace:	Renaissance man
Atsushi Ono:	Kyoto conjurer
Aaron Fisher:	Card conductor
Rosemary Reid:	Ms. Magic

More great artists will be announced soon.

For more information or to register, visit:
<http://www.browsersden.com/bash/>

The trick to being a magician's assistant

(LakeGenevaNews.net)

Tristan Crist can make a motorcycle appear out of thin air in his magic theatre, but he can't do it by himself.

Instead, he relies on his assistants to help him showcase his mysterious abilities.



Recently, a reporter with the *Regional News* had a chance to talk with **Shannon McGuire**, one of Crist's assistants, to learn what it's like to help create magic for a living.

Q: How did you become a magician's assistant?

A: For me, my story's a little bit different. I actually was working at *Tommy Bartlett's* in the Dells at the time before I met Tristan. I was a professional water skier, didn't really have any idea or any interest in magic, but I actually had a few friends that were a part of *Circus World* and that's where Tristan was performing at the time. We kind of hung out and he was looking for an assistant for the next year. I applied, and kind of have been doing it ever since. Watching Tristan perform magic and watching what he does, it really inspires me to want to continue and want to try to work with him and make it even better.

Q: What was the audition process like for this kind of a job?

A: It kind of comes down to flexibility, height, weight and being able to know how to move on stage and be able to read cues and things like that.

Q: What are some of your main duties in this job?

A: Behind the curtain I'm actually the one who's setting up the props, making sure everything would go right for that time in the performance, changing costumes multiple times, being as quick and quiet and smooth as possible.

Q: What skills are required to do this job?

A: A little bit of acting. Definitely acting, performing, being quick on your feet, there's a lot of movement. Flexibility, of course.

Q: Is it a pretty collaborative job since you have to work with Tristan and the other assistant?

A: Yes, absolutely. Tristan actually performs all the time, and to be able to do this we really have to be able to read each other very well and work with each other so we can kind of do anything on a moment's notice because it is a live show, so we do have to be able to think quick on our feet, and be able to read everyone else's emotions.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

A: My favorite part of the job is probably just being able to be on stage, wearing all of these different costumes, feeling so important being a part of this great show, and it's just so fulfilling. I love it.

Q: Are you in on all of the secrets behind the tricks?

A: He doesn't like to tell me some of it. Some of the stuff that I do I obviously can kind of figure them out, but he doesn't like to tell me everything. So it's kind of frustrating. (Laughs) It gets to the point where I move that prop that I don't know, and I'm just like, I don't get it, but I'm right here.

Magician named UK Wedding Entertainer of the Year (again!)

(GazetteLive.co.uk)

Brides, grooms and their guests think he's magic - and judges of a national award agree.

Teesside magician **Luke Howells** has been named Britain's best wedding entertainer for the second consecutive year.

So to celebrate, like last year, the Acklam trickster dropped in at *The Gazette* to again show us his amazing skills - this time involving **David Beckham**, some playing card wizardry and a twisted fork, no less.

It's been quite a year for Luke who, two months after winning the award last year, married his Estonian sweetheart, singer **Mariliis** when, as well as having two pals perform magic, the married couple also did their own ten minute stage act in front of 130 guests at the *Grinkle Park Hotel*.

In the past year, former lifeguard Luke, 25, has performed at around 90 weddings, as well as corporate events and private parties.

And 2017 could barely have got off to a better start with his national *Wedding Industry Award*, presented at the *Cafe du Paris* in London.

He said: "I was up against six other magicians in the final so to come out on top was amazing, especially as it's the second year in a row.

"I've picked up a few new tricks over the year to keep the act fresh and people seem to still like what I do, which is fantastic."

It's a prestigious prize, especially as it's based on feedback from brides and grooms.

Now Luke just wants to continue honing his skills and using the three card trick he swears by: magic, humour and customer service.

He says: "I don't like massively fooling people, I just like people to enjoy themselves. Making people laugh and having a good time is just as important as 'how did he do that?'".

To see him perform, visit: <http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/teesside-magician-again-named-uk-12474455>

Some really bad magic

(LovinDublin.com)

This 'magician' has been operating on the streets of Dublin recently asking the public to take part in some thoroughly unimpressive feats of magic.

Calling himself '**Magic Mike**', this lad clearly has no clue what he's doing, explaining away any mistakes of prestidigitation by merely saying, "magic".

But then again he's also a member of local comedy group Windup Merchantz, so what do you expect?

Visit <https://lovindublin.com/video/this-magician-has-been-performing-truly-terrible-tricks-on-dublins-streets> to watch some pretty sad attempts at magic.

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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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