

# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
February 2019

Volume 14, Issue 6

## January's meeting

We had quite a crowd out to the January meeting (in the first really bad weather of the year). And we greeted a new guest who found us online – welcome **Jason Holmes!**

**Mark Hogan** lead the way by performing a couple **Simon Aronson** routines: *Mark a Place* (where **Keith O'Brien** found the four Queens) and *"Under Her Spell"*, where Keith lost the love of his life (a selected Queen), then found her by spelling her name, and also found all the other Queens! He also showed us **Robert Bengal's** *"Uncle Joe"*, where five Kings keep reappearing in a hand of Poker, only to turn into the five Aces!

**Mike Fisher** showed us his latest creation – a ladder and springboard for an awesome *Flea Circus!* He also coxed one of his fleas into jumping off the springboard and splashed in the pool – soaking Keith in the process!

**Keith O'Brien** had a number of awesome effects (as usual!). With the wave of his hand, a quarter vanished! A working watch stops at the moment a spectator called "stop". And the piece-de-resistance: **Joao Maranda's** *"Timeless"* – where a ring vanishes from a ring box and ends up inside of a working watch inside of a gift box inside of a UPS delivery box! Amazing!

Keith also had Mark roll a die which showed a card showing he gets a hug, while all other cards showed he would be "killed". Then **Mike Fisher** did the same trick using a totally different method!

### Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, FEBRUARY 13

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: NO TROUBLE WITH TROUBLEWIT!

Beal Secondary School

525 Dundas Street, London

Room 253

**Peter Mennie** gave some tips on the presentation of a hot glass inside of a paper bag for **Bill Abbott's** "*Stabbed and Shot*". And **Dennis Weir** caused two strings to turn into one long string in the spectator's hands. He found where to get the perfect strings for the effect - and then distributed some of those strings to all who wanted them!

There was a lot for everyone! Thanks to all who came out for making the night so enjoyable.

Mark Hogan

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## February's Meeting

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**DATE: Wednesday, February 13**

**TIME: 7:30 PM**

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**

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## TOPIC: NO TROUBLE WITH TROUBLEWIT!

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Our own Mike Fisher has generously offered to teach us the art of the "troublewit", as seen in Mike's "Fair and Foul" lecture. Mike will perform his Troublewit routine, bring some troublewits for us to use (which are becoming more difficult to obtain), and teach us some of the moves.

Troublewit has its origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and is a precursor to today's art of balloon twisting. It is an amazing origami-style presentation using a simple looking pleated sheet of paper, which can be folded and formed into the most amazing objects. It is especially effective when used in storytelling, engaging the audience by seeing objects transformed from one form to the next. And talk about packing small and playing big!

Some come out in February and learn some of this lost art.

**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



## Browser's Bash 2019 - Ryan Brown

(Browser's Den)

Tickets for the 2019 Browser's Magic Bash are now available.

VIP Platinum tickets were already *sold out* after one day! But there are still *Gold* (\$149 + HST), *Silver* (\$129 + HST) and *Bronze* tickets (\$99 + HST) available. And prices include meals!

The 2019 Browser's Bash (the fifth edition of this event) will be held on **Saturday, April 13, 2019** from **9:00am to 9:00pm** at the same location as in past years, the **Montecasino Hotel and Event Venue** (3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto ON M3J 2P6), located just north of downtown Toronto.

One of this year's Bash performers is **Ryan Brown**.

Ryan's interest in magic started at the age of 5 after he witnessed a magic show at a Christmas party. From that moment on, he was hooked.

At the age of 14, Ryan's interest in magic grew after he witnessed **Jeff McBride** on TV. Ryan performed magic at a local summer festival and did so for nearly 10 years.

At the age of 16 Ryan performed at a Toronto rock festival and in 2011, Ryan flew to Las Vegas to meet Jeff and the faculty when he attended the world famous *Magic and Mystery School*.

Ryan immersed his mind in a multitude of magic books and continues to study the craft intensively. In 2012, Ryan was the first to be awarded with *Toronto's Best Magician of the Year* award and currently tours in his own show between Canada, where he currently resides, and the US.



Ryan also developed 3 production style illusion shows. Here is a link to one of Ryan's performances in Las Vegas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2K5zQV8qxOM>

The Browser's Bash is the **biggest one day magic event in North America!** Tickets are selling quickly and we are ahead of last year's sales

For more information on the Browser's Bash or to purchase tickets, visit:

<https://www.browsersden.com/bash>

## Magic at the Marienbad - coming in April

(Mike Fisher)

**Mike Fisher** told us at the last meeting about his latest venture – "*Magic at the Marienbad*" – a monthly event which will be held on the first Friday of the month starting on April 5 at the *Marienbad Restaurant & Chancer's Pub* (122 Carling St, London).

There will be stand-up comedy and a different magic entertainer at each performance.

Tickets are \$24 each – contact Mike for more information.



### Lorne Overholt - magician and gentleman

(Mike Fisher)

**Lorne Overholt** – a founding member and past president of the *London Magicians Guild*, passed away on December 18. He was 97.

Lorne was among the group of initial members of the *London Magicians Guild* and held meetings in his home before meetings were held elsewhere.

He was well known for his dove act, and came to many meetings over the years gladly sharing his magic and his knowledge of the art. He recently offered his vast magic collection to members of our club.

Lorne was honored by the IBM, along with **Max Scott** in 2006, for his many contributions to the *London Magicians Guild* and to the magic community (see photo below).

He was a funny, gracious and generous man and will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Lorne Overholt, Steve Seguin, Max Scott, Andy Parr, Mike Fisher



## Dicky Dean remembered

*"The Dean of Magic"*, **Dicky Dean**, an early member of the *London Magicians Guild*, and a very well-known Canadian magic entertainer, passed away on January 22, 2019.

When Dicky was ten years old he received a small book on magic, by magician and writer **Walter B. Gibson**. It was a present from his aunt and uncle that was about to change his life. At age twelve he entered the entertainment section of the London Hobby Fair and *won first prize*.

The following year when Dicky Dean was **only thirteen years old**, the Kiwanis Club was offering a scholarship for the overall best act in the entertainment section of the London, Ontario, Canada Hobby Fair. Dicky Dean was successful in winning the scholarship.

When **Percy Abbott** of *Abbott's Magic Company* in Colon, Michigan, which is known as the magic capital of the world, heard that Dicky had won the scholarship, he asked his parents if he could perform his magic show at Abbott's annual convention as **Dicky Dean, Canada's youngest magician**. As a thirteen-year-old aspiring magician with a ten-year-old assistant he was well received by the much older and more experienced magicians. He had never been to a magicians' convention before, let alone perform at one.

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At age fifteen Dicky enrolled at the *Chavez College of Magic* in Hollywood, California. He returned again at age seventeen and graduated (see photo).

For ten years he taught school in London, Ontario, then he and his wife, **Marg**, both left teaching determined to fulfil their destiny as *full-time professional magicians*.



Among his achievements, his photograph appeared on the cover of *The New Tops*, a monthly magazine for magicians that was published by Abbott's Magic Company in Colon, Michigan, U.S.A. for magicians around the world (see photo).

Dicky also appeared in the *Tops Pictorial Album of Magicians* along with great magicians such as **Harry Blackstone, Cardini, Okito, Chop Chop, Milbourne Christopher, Dante, Kalanag, Houdini, Jack Kodell, Kellar, Ormand McGill, Nicola, Ovette, Sorcar, Harlan Tarbell, Thurston, Dai Vernon, Mark Wilson** and others.

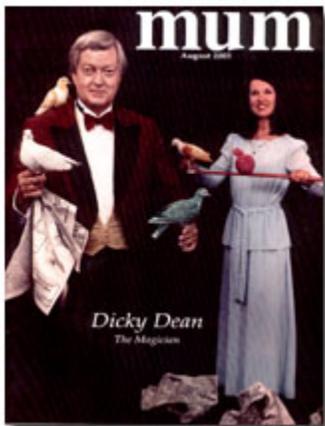
He has been written about in hundreds of newspapers and magazines as he travels across Canada with his amazing show. It is applauded enthusiastically by adults and children alike. He received a huge photo spread in *The Globe and*

*Mail*, Canada's national newspaper, in which the photograph of him covered almost one third of the page. **It is, perhaps, the biggest coverage ever given to a magician in a Canadian national newspaper.**

**Len Vintus**, who was a founder and first member of the I.B.M. International Brotherhood of Magicians, featured **Dicky Dean's** large photograph under *Canadian Magic Busters* in his book *Magicians of the World*.

**Dicky Dean** has made numerous contributions to the art of magic. As well as having been a regular columnist for magical publications (e.g. *The Pentacle*) and newspapers, he has written books: *Magic*, and *Using Magic in Teaching*. He also has invented numerous tricks and illusions that are performed by other magicians around the world. His most popular three are *The Impossible Link*, *The Five to One Sensation* and *Zombie Fire Climax*. His invention of the *Zombie Fire Climax* is now documented in the book "Joe Karson – Beyond Zombie" by Michael E. Rose, 1999.

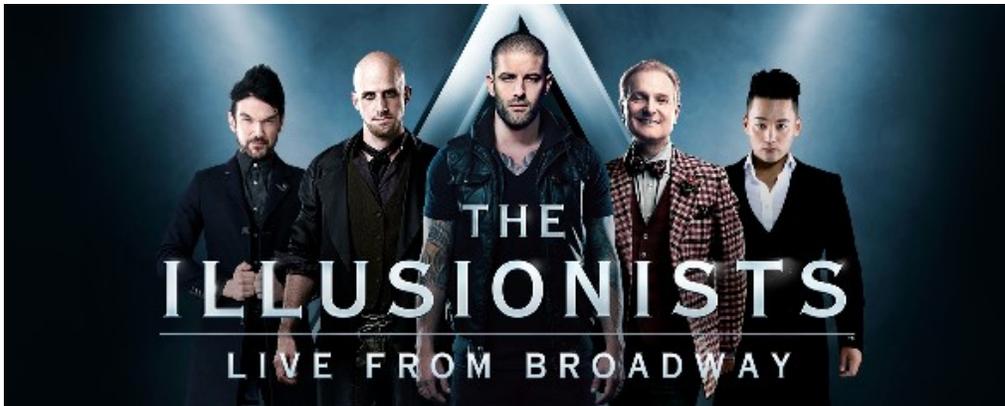
Dicky and Marg set a record in their own career for the number of continuous appearances at a theatre in Quebec. They presented 36 consecutive magic shows at the *Magic Lantern Theatre (Lanterna Magika)* in Montreal. They have performed in every province in Canada with their show from the Atlantic to the Pacific.



August 2003 *M-U-M* editor **David Goodsell** featured a picture of **Marg and Dicky Dean** that appeared on the cover of *The Society of American Magicians' M-U-M* (Magic, Unity and Might) magazine along with a feature article about their magical careers (see photo). Dicky became a regular columnist in *M-U-M*. In his column "Stage Magic" he shares creative stage effects that he has invented with other magicians around the world.

January 2005, **Joan Caesar** featured a picture of **Dicky and Marg Dean** on the cover of Canada's *Northern Peaks*, a Journal for Canadian Magicians.

Dicky will be sorely missed by the Canadian magic community.



**DATE: Sunday, May 26**  
**TIME: 5:00 PM**  
**PLACE: Budweiser Gardens, London**

Direct from Broadway, the world's bestselling magic show is coming to London! This mind blowing spectacular showcases the jaw dropping talents of seven of the most incredible illusionists on earth. **THE ILLUSIONISTS- LIVE FROM BROADWAY** has shattered box office records across the globe and dazzles audiences of all ages with a powerful mix of the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever to be seen on stage. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions.

Tickets are \$45, \$65, \$75, \$85 and \$100. For tickets, visit:  
<https://www.budweisergardens.com/events/detail/the-illusionists>

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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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