



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
January 2011

Volume 6, Issue 5

## December's meeting

Wouldn't you know that the December club meeting would come at the tail end of the worst snow storm in 25 years?

But a few brave souls made it to Peter Mennie's new home to partake in some Xmas cheer, some absolutely fabulous lasagna, a large variety of chocolates, and some cool magic – and a gift exchange!

After a tour of Peter's home (including his huge downstairs office!) and a great dinner, some magic was in order. Peter lead the way with a terrific impromptu "card at any number", and another impressive effect where he finds one spectator's selection, another spectator finds their own selection, and they both reverse themselves in the deck!

Mark Hogan demonstrated two of the greatest games of "Magician's Poker" ever played. That was followed by a Lennart Green interpretation of one of the first tricks Mark ever learned – where Numerology (and a wee bit of cold reading) was used to determine a spectator's selection.

Mike Fisher brought out a set of Trick Bolts which he got at Lee Valley, where the nuts can't be removed from the bolts unless you know the "secret". He also showed his Time Machine Watch, and told us the excitement that an expert watchmaker got when Mike needed it's battery replaced!!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 12 7:30PM

Topic: ROUTINING A SHOW – TEACH-IN!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

There were other tricks, too – but a bit too much Xmas cheer is clousing my memory!)

Then it was time for the gift exchange! Everyone seemed very happy with their selection. Santa came early this year!

Many thanks to Peter and his wife Millie for a wonderful dinner and being such gracious hosts. Here's hoping we do this again – maybe next time when there's less than 4 feet of snow on the ground!

Mark Hogan

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As they say, timing is everything. And at this time, Peter Mennie is creating a new magic show. So the time is right, and Peter has offered to not only talk about how to put together a show, but to lead a session for each of us in structuring our own show during the club meeting!

Peter is asking that each of us bring:

- A list of current routines that you either do regularly or can do now
- A Post-It-Note pad
- A pen or marker
- A binder to stick notes to

So come to the club meeting in January and walk out with an entire show!

## News Of Interest

### Criss Angel to appear on TV's "Engagement"

(UPI.com)

Illusionist Criss Angel has signed up to guest star on the U.S. sitcom "Rules of Engagement," CBS said Thursday.

He is to play himself and perform an illusion on the episode scheduled to air Jan. 17, the network said.

Angel is best known for his successful television series, "Criss Angel Mindfreak," now in its sixth season. He also is currently in the midst of a 10-year run at the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas with his show, "Criss Angel BeLIEve", which he performs live 10 times a week. His television credits include "CSI: NY" and "Las Vegas".

"Rules of Engagement" stars Patrick Warburton, Megyn Price, David Spade, Adhir Kalyan, Oliver Hudson and Bianca Kajlich.



COMING SOON:  
MAGIC DAY at McCulloch's Costume & Party  
Supplies

(Details to follow!)

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)

## Magician finds street magic more than "Adequate"

(Kelly Fiitzpartrick, Orlando Sentinel)

He's part magician, part comedian, part motivational speaker and all entertainer for downtown Orlando's nightlife crowd, and he credits the experience of living under a bridge with getting him where he is today.



Richard "The Adequate" and his top hat have been downtown Orlando fixtures for several years now. The street performer, whose real name is Richard Waddington, will offer a card trick and a wise word (or a crass joke) to patrons sitting outside bars such as Casey's On Central and The Downtown PourHouse or inside Tanqueray's any night of the week. Any bar is fair game for his sleight of hand.

Waddington says he got into magic when he was 6 years old and saw "Houdini" with Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. After that, he was hooked. Waddington, who turned 50 in October, came up with his performance name by remembering advice from his grandmother, who said "always strive for greatness, but know your limitations and always be humble." When he was trying to think of a name for the street act he has performed in about 30 cities, a light bulb went off.

Many who have seen his magic would disagree. Whether it's a dollar bill ripped in half and magically made whole again or a card that's pulled from a deck and then shows up mysteriously in his hat, those who watch him usually have the same reaction.

"I'll do a trick and someone will say, 'Oh, that's awesome!'" he says. "And I'll say, no, it's adequate, but thank you for the compliment."

"I'm not magnificent, I'm not spectacular, I'm not amazing. I'm adequate," he says.

Waddington says street performing wasn't always his primary source of income. He arrived in Orlando from Texas in 2000 with the intention of getting a job playing music at Walt Display World. (He had been in a band the previous eight years.) When that didn't pan out, he started working as a Disney custodian, hoping to work into something bigger in the company. At the same time, he practiced his street magic in downtown Orlando for a couple of nights a week.

Waddington says that when his Disney plan didn't work out, he quit his job and soon found himself homeless. After three months of living under a bridge, he realized that to improve his situation, he'd have to make his part-time hobby his primary job.

"I mean, I was homeless, and I changed that," he says. "If you don't have a job, create one. That's my whole attitude, you know? In the ocean of life, don't fight the waves, trust them. That's how I became a magician. And I love it. I'm having a blast."

Waddington rents a home now. He performs for tips and says he brings home anywhere between \$5 and \$175 a night.

"I have no way of knowing at the beginning of that night what I'm going to make," he says. "Life without challenges is boring, and I look forward to the challenge. At the beginning of the night, it's a question mark. At the end of the night, it's an exclamation point."

And he never sees himself retiring. Along with his nightly performances along the streets of Orlando, he performs standup at The Other Bar's open-mike night every Monday at 9.

"Street magic got me off the streets," he says. "Now that's poetic justice."

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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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