



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
January 2013

Volume 8, Issue 5

## December's meeting

There were almost as many sellers as buyers, but that didn't stop the annual magic auction from taking place in December. Mike Fisher, Jon Akrey and Paul French all brought items to sell – and when the smoke cleared, almost everything was sold!

And what deals!! Mike, Jon and Paul were almost giving stuff away. (And in the end, they did give stuff away that they didn't want to lug out to their cars!)

If these were retail prices, thousands of dollars would have changed hands. But the joy of giving seemed to take over the sellers, and everything went for less than \$400.

Seems Santa came early for people this year!!

Mark Hogan

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, January 9 7:30PM**

**Topic: NEW TRICK NIGHT!**

**Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253**

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## January's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, January 9  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
T-253

## **TOPIC: NEW TRICK NIGHT!!**

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Let's face it – all of us either just got some new magic goodies for Christmas, or are working on something that they haven't shown anyone yet.

Consider this your chance!

Come out in December and bring either:

- A magic item from Santa (or maybe the auction!) that you have started playing with;
- An effect that you've been playing with but want some assistance using properly;
- An effect that you're almost ready to show an audience;
- Something you just learned and want people's reactions.

We'll all share each other's new effects, and get some ideas on how to best use them.

**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

## Dan Sperry finishes German show in 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Illusionist **Dan Sperry** returned to the U.S. Sunday after becoming the first magician to ever become a top three finalist on German hit "Das SuperTalent." After receiving record-breaking votes from the show's more than seven million viewers in the semi-finals, he went on to land in the top three of the finals.

Sperry's talent for mesmerizing audiences was able to transcend the language barrier and garner him such high praises from judges and the live audience that his appearances on the show went over 20 minutes. Hailed by judges as the best magician that ever appeared on the show, Sperry showed off his well-known shock illusions during the rounds including his popular lifesaver through the throat and other acts of voodoo and avian creationism. His final appearance brought so much attention that after receiving millions of hits his official web site crashed for 24 hours.

The German talent show "Das Supertalent" is part of the internationally successful Got Talent franchise. Contestants must perform in front of judges who are experts in the entertainment industry while the home audience votes. As a result of his viral popularity in Europe and around the world, negotiations for further tours of Germany and beyond have begun.

"It was a huge honor to make it this far on the show," said Sperry. "I'm shocked at how supportive and loyal my overseas fans are. I know I would not be where I am without them."

For the past year and a half Sperry has starred in his own off-Broadway show, "MAGIC SHOW" in the heart of Times Square. With high-acclaim from audiences and critics alike it was voted "Best of Manhattan" for 2012. Sperry was awarded a coveted Merlin Award from the International Magicians Society -- joining previous recipients including David Copperfield, as he was bestowed the honor of Most Cutting Edge Magic.

When not in New York, Sperry continues to be in-demand at sold-out venues throughout the world on solo tours as well as headlining with "The Illusionists," the number one touring magic show in the world. Sperry will return to tour with "The Illusionists" throughout Australia for the month of January.



## Magician pursuing legal action after head set on fire on National TV

(Associated press)

A magician from the United States said Monday he is getting medical treatment and pursuing legal action after the host of a TV show in the Dominican Republic set him on fire in an apparent stunt.

**Wayne Houchin** said he is receiving treatments for burns on his face, scalp and hands that occurred when the guest host of the "Closer to the Stars," program abruptly tossed a fistful of flaming liquid at him during a Nov. 26 taping of the show.

"I am still in a lot of pain but I am recovering," the magician said in an email to The Associated Press.

He has hired lawyers to begin preparing a complaint against host **Franklin Barazarte**, a necessary first step before authorities can pursue a criminal case in the Caribbean country.

"The attack was intentional. The host didn't trip and accidentally spill it on me. He intended to pour flaming liquid on me," said Houchin, who said he still doesn't know what may have motivated Barazarte.

"The host's intentions will play a role in the severity of his punishment, but that's for a court of law to determine and decide," he said.

Barazarte, who was filling in as a guest host on the astrology and variety show, did not respond to calls from AP. The regular host, Adriana Azzi, also did not respond to a request for a comment. Both were apparently in New York.

Houchin, a 29-year-old from Chico, California who recently finished a season as a host of the Discovery Channel show "Breaking Magic," came to the Dominican Republic with his wife as part of the "Curiosities 2012" tour. He and

two other magicians expected to be interviewed and perform magic on the program.

But the host announced that he wanted to give Houchin a "blessing," the American said. Barazarte then told one of the other magicians, **BJ Bueno**, to hand him a bottle of "Agua de Florida," a cologne that is flammable and used in Santeria rituals.

Barazarte asked Houchin's wife to pour the cologne into his cupped hands and told Bueno to pick up a lighter on the stage and light the fluid.

"At this point none of us had any idea what the host planned to do," Houchin said. "We had no reason to suspect beforehand that he would perform a stunt. ... We were filming a national TV spot — we assumed the host to be a professional presenter and therefore trusted him."

When the liquid in his cupped hands caught fire, the host poured it on Houchin's head and rubbed it into his face. The show never aired but an iPhone video taken by a member of the magician's crew has circulated widely on the Internet, showing the American writhing in pain on the stage floor.

"The entire studio was in shock," Houchin said. He said his wife, Frania, and fellow magician Bueno are traumatized by the fact that they helped the host perform the stunt without knowing what he would do. "They are angry and devastated that they unknowingly participated in the attack."

## Magician tricks girlfriend into filming her wedding proposal

(Daily Mail Online)

A magician tricked his girlfriend into filming her own wedding proposal.

**Sean Emory**, 24, from Nashville, Tennessee, told his partner of five years, **Andrea Leachman**, that she would be capturing him perform some sleight of hand.

But as a YouTube clip shows, she actually videoed him as he magically turned a rock and some dirt into a diamond engagement ring.

In a film titled '**sean + andrea + magical proposal**' posted online last week Mr Emory explains: 'We're here on a covert operation. She's the girl of my dreams and we've been together for about five years.'

'She thinks we're filming a magic video but in reality she's going to be filming me proposing to her without realizing.'

When she arrives she begins filming, and Mr Emory starts talking about alchemy to his fans.

As he grabs a rock, leaf and some dirt he says: 'See, what alchemists used to do, they would take natural elements and they'd combine them, you know, trying to find the elixir of life, which means you'll live forever. 'Then they'd take these metals and turn them into something really special.'

All of a sudden he crouches down and after a few moments opens his hand to reveal a sparkling engagement band.

'Andrea, will you marry me, please?,' he asks, to which she replies 'yes'.

The duo, both wearing matching beanie hats are then seen embracing. The couple's friend, **David Altizer**, was hidden several feet away and recorded the moment on film.

An edited YouTube video of the 10th December proposal, posted last Friday has attracted more than 30,000 hits.

Mr Emory told MailOnline: 'We will be getting married pretty soon actually. We are looking at possibly March or April.

'David Altizer will be filming the wedding, and we are already planning and creating an original illusion to perform together that we hope will leave people breathless.'

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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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