



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
June 2011 Volume 6, Issue 10

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## May's meeting

A small but mighty group of London magicians invaded the Caesar Hat & Rabbit Club in Kitchener to witness a terrific lecture by England's Jon Allen.

Jon's lecture included material from his book "Experience: The Magic of Jon Allen" as well as some of his many items available from his online shop.

His material was powerful: "Ghost" is a fabulous Animated Bill routine with a borrowed bill inside a wine glass; "1709 Walkabout" fuses two selected and signed cards into one; "Grabbit" shocked us all by pulling a bottle out of a balloon; and "The Insider" is Jon's brilliant improvement on the Coin In Bottle.

"One Trick Two Names" shows a prediction card on the table for the entire routine to actually be the spectator's selected card! "The Rubber Band Trilogy" is Jon's extension of the Crazy Man's Handcuffs with a penetration through the spectator's wrist! Jon's remarkable Professor's Nightmare false count is on display in "Freddy's Dead" (and we never found out who Freddy is!)

"The Silent Treatment" is a wonderful prediction card effect that is performed without saying a word! A key bend inside a spectator's hands in "Flexion"; "Double Take" was a super-powerful version of Dr. Daley's Last Trick, where the magician's cards switch with the spectator's cards in the own hands!

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 2 7:30PM  
(NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!!)

Topic: LECTURE by JAY SANKEY!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

Jon takes the "Ambitious Card" to the next level by using a randomly chosen word within the entire routine! He performed his take on "The Wedding Trick", where the bride and groom chose each other's names from a deck of

names of their friends! And Jon ended the night with "The Destination Box" reproduced one of the previously signed cards inside a container, inside a box, that was being held by the spectator since the beginning of the night!

Powerful stuff!! And Jon's wonderful sense of humor made it all the more entertaining! It was a ton of magic, and two tons of fun! Thanks, Jon!!

Mark Hogan

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## June's Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 2 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
T-253

Topic: LECTURE by JAY SANKEY!

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Jay Sankey is a true magician's magician and is widely considered to be one of the most original thinkers and finest magic teachers alive today. He is also one of the most prolific magic creators on the planet. While many of his especially creative contemporaries have a few dozen original routines to their credit, at last count Jay has created well over 700 original magic effects.

Jay has also worked as a consultant for many of the world's most famous magicians including Criss Angel, Keith Barry and David Copperfield. David Blaine has also performed Jay's original magic routines. In conjunction with the Ottawa-based production company GAPC, Jay and his company Sankey Magic created the magic-based children's television series "Spellz." Jay also hosted the show for two seasons

Here's a description of Jay's lecture:

### SLEIGHT-OF-HAND MEETS SLEIGHT-OF-MIND

My new lecture is an exciting combination of fun, powerful effects and thought-provoking theory, with an emphasis on startling magic + mentalism for ALL SKILL LEVELS you can share with people ANYWHERE. I'll be drawing material from various sources including my 'Revolutionary Card Magic' DVD and my brand new 'Bending the Real' project. It's going to be a true celebration of the art + science of deception!

This is sure to be an exciting evening of magic . Tell your friends! We'll see you on June 2!

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

### Magican makes audience disappear - sort of

(Naples Daily News staff report)

Magician Jason Bishop's show was so good Friday night, that it made the audience disappear — briefly.

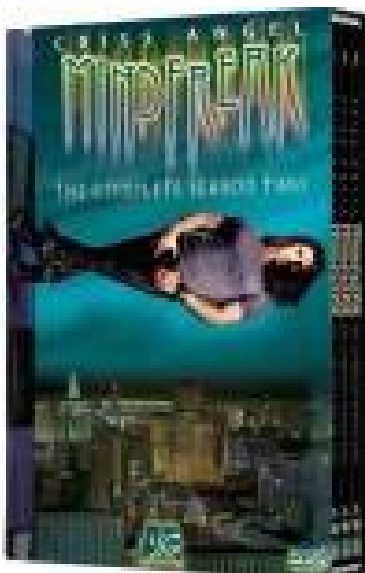
When smoke appeared during a planned portion of Bishop's show at Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts, the fire alarm went off resulting in The Phil's evacuation.

A Collier County Sheriff's Office dispatcher confirmed that deputies responded to the alarm at 9:45 p.m.

North Naples Fire Deputy Chief Jorge Aguilera said it seems that staff at The Phil did not call the district to have someone on standby to deal with the alarm during the show.

However, once firefighters arrived, the audience was soon able to return inside with confidence, Aguilera said.

"We left the truck there just to make sure the show could on," he said.



## Criss Angel's "Believe" undergoes major transformation

(Mike Weatherford, Las Vegas Review-Journal)

"Life is death without change, right?"

For most of us, that's metaphoric wisdom. For Criss Angel, it's a little more literal.

The magician says it in the same positive-thinking context that absorbs much of a late-night chat, after the second of two Saturday shows. It's one that's otherwise upbeat with animated talk of how he is "obsessed and passionate with the art of magic," and how he wants to "share my passion and my love for

this art and make it the best it can be. Not because I have to, but because I want to."

But two years ago this weekend? Well, it can't be stated in any high-planned way.

"I got my ass handed to me."

"Criss Angel: Believe" was supposed to be a can't-miss proposition. It teamed a magician who commanded a formidable TV fan base with the unstoppable Cirque du Soleil, which had conquered the Strip with five hit shows.

On the day they went public in March 2007, there was no reason to doubt Angel and Cirque's promise to "reinvent magic like (Cirque) reinvented the circus."

But from the earliest previews, word spread that "Believe" was coming off more like a shotgun marriage. The attempt to blend Cirque's artsy visuals with Angel's goth-rock appeal played like an art-damaged ballet. The Los Angeles Times called it a "gloomy, gothic muddle of a show that officially lurched into being on Halloween night like some patched-together Frankenstein's monster."

Cut to the two-year anniversary. The props and costumes are familiar, but "Believe" has radically transformed; more than any Las Vegas production in recent memory.

Gone down the rabbit hole is most of Cirque's original contribution: dancers, musicians and a surreal storyline framing the illusions as a near-death experience when one of Angel's stunts goes awry.

What's replaced it? The show many fans might have expected in the first place: Angel playing the David Copperfield of his generation, chatting with fans and serving up one illusion after another; nearly 40, by his count, with two more still on the way.

"People wanted to see 'Mindfreak,' " the 42-year-old says of the A&E series that took magic to real locations and young audiences in a six-season run. "They wanted to get to know Criss Angel, and they wanted to see parts of my personality that they typically wouldn't see on TV."

Instead, Angel seemed more like the miscast star of a spectacle designed for another personality. "What we tried to do was just not right for the time and for Criss Angel. Maybe it would have been great if it was somebody else."

The new "Believe" could be read as a giant step backward, to the more predictable showcase people might have expected before Cirque was attached. "I could have done it without Cirque and I could have made a lot more money, to be perfectly frank with you," he says.

But he is philosophic about aiming high. "We tried to go down a road that hasn't been traveled," he says. "We were embarking on a journey together that was going to try to push the envelope. You try things, you think they're going to work. They're great in theory, but then they don't play out."

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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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