



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
June 2013

Volume 8, Issue 10

May's meeting

May's meeting was called "Bring In Stuff". Pretty simple, really – people brought in whatever "stuff" they had to show off. And while the numbers this night were low, they were increased by one very special guest ... IBM Territorial Vice President for Ontario (and, of course, former IBM President) **Joan Caesar!** Thanks for coming, Joan!

Mark Hogan started the night by showing off an old child's paper-folding toy – the "cootie catcher". Joan made choices that caused the cootie-catcher to reveal Joan's previously selected card! He also showed Joan his "Prediction Deck" effect (which everyone else saw last month!) where one selected card folded and another reversed also appeared the same way in the Prediction Deck.

Peter Mennie performed an effect he has been using recently for restaurant magic that has been getting excellent response, where 3 spectators stop dealing at positions that match 3 prediction cards! He also showed us Harry Anderson's "FAKE", and got some handling advice from those present.

Jesse Davison has started doing some packet effects, and although the name of it was "on the tip of his tongue", he blew us away with it – a "Twisting the Aces" effect but the cards turned out to be all different in the end!

Next Meeting: (NOTE THE DATE/TIME CHANGE!)

Thursday, June 13

Time: 6:00 PM

Topic: SHOW AT THE FRINGE & DINNER!

Spriet Family Theatre

Covent Garden Market, 130 King St, London

DINNER AFTER THE SHOW!

And **Steve Seguin** – getting ready for his London Fringe Festival debut! – perform “Mes(s)morize”, a very strong effect where a series of words were written on cards, stuffed into envelopes, and thrown onto the floor. A spectator’s free selection matched Steve’s prediction that was in sight the entire time! He also presented “Hangman” – a neat 3-word mind-reading effect using a “Hangman” to keep track of any wrong guesses by the performer! Finally, he did a great Rising Card from inside an ungimmicked card box!

True to everyone’s word – everyone did bring in stuff – and it was pretty good stuff indeed!

Mark Hogan

May’s Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 13

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Spriet Family Theatre

Covent Garden Market, 130 King St., London

TOPIC: SHOW AT THE FRINGE & DINNER!

What a great way to end the year by watching one of our own perform his own show in the Fringe Festival! **Steve Seguin** is bringing his magic show to this year’s London Fringe Festival for a six-show theatre engagement. He’ll be performing 60-minutes of mind-bending, jawdropping magic and illusions for an adult audience.

The show (called “Miracle Max: Illusions of Grandeur”) is at the Spriet Family Theatre on the 2nd floor in the Covent Garden Market, starting at 6:00 PM sharp.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, plus \$5 admission to the Fringe Festival.

Right after Steve accepts his many standing ovations, we’ll head out for dinner at a place to be determined (depending on numbers, suggestions, what’s open, ...)

So come out and cheer on Steve as he takes the Fringe by storm - then stick around for some celebration grub as we bring in the summer!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest

Miracle Max: Illusions of Grandeur Coming to the Spriet Theatre

(from Steve Seguin)

Steve Seguin is bringing his magic show to this year's London Fringe Festival for a six-show theatre engagement. He'll be performing 60-minutes of mind-bending, jaw-dropping magic and illusions for an adult audience.



"The backbone of the show is the act I have been performing at corporate gigs for the last five years," says Seguin. "I've taken the best of this audience-proven material and shaped it around a fictitious character to give it a backstory. I don't want it to be just a magic show. I want there to be elements of theatre to it."

Performances will be at the Spriet Family Theatre, located upstairs in the Covent Garden Market, 130 King St., London, Ontario.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, plus \$5 admission to the Fringe Festival.

Show dates and times:

Sat. June 8: 1:30pm

Sun. June 9: 9:00 pm

Mon. June 10: 7:30 pm

Thurs. June 13: 6:00 pm

Sat. June 15: 9:30 pm

Sun. June 16: 2:00 pm

For more information on Steve's show, visit:

<http://www.miraclemaxatthefringe.com/>

The Fringe is dedicated to the promotion, production, and prosperity of independent artists. Every year, 40 theatre companies, representing London, Canada, and the rest of the world converge on London to perform the best – and most unique – entertainment you can imagine.

Visit <http://www.londonfringe.ca/>



Chamber Magic in Toronto - June 17-19

(Luminato Festival)

For those who only believe what they see, Steve Cohen invites you to come close, really close.

A master magician whose repertoire is designed to engage the mind as much as the eye, Cohen's Chamber

Magic harkens back to an era when wealthy patrons secured the services of elite wonder-workers to transform a salon into a stage and mesmerize family and friends with magic.

Known as the "**Millionaires' Magician**," Cohen has performed the role of a society performer for over a decade at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. As the show is designed to be experienced up close, fewer than 70 patrons will be admitted to each performance. With an adults-only mandate, audience members are asked to dress to impress in cocktail attire.

Magic doesn't suck anymore - honest: Review of Dan Sperry

(Stuff.co.nz)

It's strange to think that watching a magician die could plant a seed so strong it would see 4-year-old **Dan Sperry** grow up to be the infamous Anti-conjuror. Yet, that's how it happened. Kind of.



His grandparents took him to see **David Copperfield**, who opened his show with his spinning saw trick. At the ripe old age of 4, Sperry watched an icon cut into two and the rest, as they say, is history.

"We had to leave the theatre because it freaked me out so much. I never saw him get put back together, we never saw the end of the show, we just left. I was just like, I just saw a guy die," he recalls.

But from that point on, that show became what magic was about for Sperry, who now comes with the tagline "magic no longer sucks", which while upsetting some magical peers, now defines a new age of magic.

Rocking a Marilyn Manson-esque look, performing to heavy rock and metal, channelling the macabre and throwing in some not-quite-for-everyone humour, Sperry has played gigs everywhere from college frat functions and goth clubs to the Vegas strip, Broadway and abroad.

Yeah, he's done the odd kid's birthday party, but when that kid happens to belong to **Johnny Depp**, it's kind of a different story.

"I was just doing a nightclub thing and [Johnny Depp] rented it out one day for his kid's birthday party, and me and two other guys were brought in to do a show for the Depps. We didn't meet 'em, we were told to just keep it professional. You don't really try to chase him down or whatever, but it was pretty cool."

So this dark and scary Anti-conjurer is child-friendly? Apparently so. It's nothing kids can't already see on TV, he says.

"I just kinda throw stuff together that would hopefully be fun and different and magical and entertaining in its own way and hope that people like it," he says.

"Anti-conjurer is just a word I made up. It just says what I do without using the words magician or illusionist. But also I used to do a lot of opening for bands at night clubs and goth clubs and stuff and any magician that went into a club like that would just get booted off stage and have stuff thrown at 'em."

But he's created an image so enticing it attracted producers all the way to the Vegas Strip to rope him into joining The Illusionists - a group presenting what is now being called the most "spectacular magic show ever".

Joining the master of shock illusions is an escapologist, a magical inventor, a mind reader (The Mentalist) a comedy magician (The Trickster), a classical magician (The Gentleman, who once made a jumbo jet disappear) and The Enchantress.

Handpicked and put together by producers, The Illusionists have just put on a sold out season at the Sydney Opera House, selling more than \$3 million of tickets in eight days.

They're bringing an assembled cast of 20 sidekicks to present jaw-dropping acts in each magician's specialty, including - for the first time - a full view water torture escape.

And in the spirit of true showmanship, they're even bringing their own support band, which is none other than hip-hop mogul Nas' band, **Z**.

If ever there was an absolutely must-see magic show, this would be it. Dan Sperry and The Illusionists will be at the Civic in Auckland, from May 22 to June 2.

Magician predicts Boston terrorist bombing arrests

(Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel)

Did a local magician/mentalists predict the terrorist bombings in Boston?

In a fundraising stunt on April 6 at Big Guy's Magic Shop in Pewaukee, **Paul Kastle** wrote down what he thought the front page headline would be in the April 20 Journal Sentinel.

The folded-up slip of paper was initialed by Waukesha County Executive **Dan Vrakas** as a reliable witness, and then it was sealed in two Altoids tins, taken by Pewaukee police squad car to a bakery and baked into a cake.

On April 23, everyone gathered at the shop again and the cans were fished from the cake and opened. Vrakas read aloud Kastle's headline prediction: "Got them. Suspects in custody."

The actual headline from April 20 was "Got him. 2nd suspect in custody; Boston cheers." Of course, there was only one suspect to get at that point because his brother was already dead. But Kastle was still pretty close.

"It's magic, you know," Vrakas said when I called to ask how he thought the trick was done. "Your guess is as good as mine."

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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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