



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
June 2014  
Volume 9, Issue 10

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## May's meeting

This month was a nod to the small screen and the silver screen – it was “*TV and Movie Night*”.

**Mark Hogan** demonstrated a 3-card Monte routine that was recently performed on the *Ellen* show by **Andrew Kelly** from England. Keeping track of the Queen became very tough – and then easy when all the cards turned into Queens!

**Mike Fisher** brought some of his routines from his “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” show (based, of course, on the *Mary Poppins* movie. With “*Tea Kettle*”, Mike was able to pour different beverages from the same tea kettle. A handful of sugar vanishes and reappears in a covered cup in “*A Spoonful of Sugar*”.

He also did a couple effects using *The Princess Bride* movie as a theme. The first was “*Iocane Powder*”, where three cups (two containing iocane powder (meaning instant death) are shown and two spectators each freely chose one – leaving one cup for the magi. Even with the odds stacked against him, Mike was the only one to survive! He also performed a nice version of **Bill Abbott's** “*Stabbed and Shot*” with a *Princess Bride* theme.

### Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, June 18 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Topic: DINNER & CLOSE-UP MAGIC!**

**Wit's End Pub & Grill**

**235 North Centre Road (just north of Masonville Mall)**

**London**

Afterwards, we watched several DVD's, including the 3 Card Monte routine from the Ellen show; a 3 Card Monte DVD, performances from **Jay Sankey's** "Front Row Sankey", and even sections of the movie *The Princess Bride*!

Mark Hogan

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## June's Meeting

**DATE: Wednesday, June 18 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!)**  
**TIME: 7:00 PM**  
**PLACE: Wit's End Pub & Grill**  
**235 North Centre Road (just north of Masonville Mall)**  
**London**

## TOPIC: DINNER & CLOSE-UP!

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The summer weather has finally arrived, so come celebrate the arrival of summer at the last meeting of the year. We'll have dinner at a local pub, and entertain ourselves with some close-up magic!

Come to the **Wit's End Pub & Grill** on **June 18** at **7:00pm** for some food, drink and entertainment. Be sure to bring some close-up magic – as well as family and/or friends to share the fun.

Hope to see you on June 18!

**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

## Luminato 2014 performances in June

(David Ben)

Magicana is presenting a program called Transgression Magic with two shows for Luminato 2014:

*Card Table Artifice* - puts the con into concert, combining techniques employed by professional card cheats with a sumptuous musical score. It is a window into the world of advantage players, and the machinations they employ when they place their livelihood, and sometimes their life, into their own

*Bullet Catch* - blurs the lines between conventional plays and magic shows, addressing an act that violates both civil and moral codes – the asking of a member of the audience to point a gun and pull the trigger that sends a bullet towards a performer quite confident he can defy death, all under the guise of entertainment

**Card Table Artifice – June 13, 8pm; June 14, 8pm      \$45**  
**Jane Mallet Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts**  
**27 Front Street North, Toronto**

In 1902, a card cheat – S. W. Erdnase (a pseudonym) – self-published what would become the seminal text for sleight-of-hand, *The Expert at the Card Table*.

In 1992, inspired by that text and, oddly enough, the daily BBC broadcast of off-shore weather reports, renowned composer Gavin Bryars and Spanish poet and sculptor Juan Muñoz created *A Man in a Room, Gambling*, ten pieces for string quartet with accompanying narration.

In 2014, David Ben, master sleight-of-hand artist, lifelong student of Erdnase, and card cheating, brought a new perspective to the Bryars-Muñoz collaboration. The result is *Card Table Artifice*, and is performed here by the Art of Time Ensemble (accompanied by Gavin Bryars), with live narration by R.H. Thomson, and card table artistry by David Ben.

Setting the stage for *Card Table Artifice* will be Rob Zabrecky's "TURN ON THE DARK!", a 45-minute performance of the comically macabre.

**Bullet Catch – June 14, 2pm and 8pm; June 15, 8pm    \$45**  
**Berkeley Street Theatre, Upstairs**  
**26 Berkeley Street, Toronto**

Performer, director, playwright – and magician – Rob Drummond becomes William Wonder, and traces the life and demise of William Henderson, who died on stage while attempting to catch a bullet, a stunt so dangerous even Houdini, the world's first *super hero*, refused to attempt it.

*Bullet Catch* is a theatrical magic show featuring storytelling, mindreading, levitation, games of chance and, for those brave enough to stay for it, the most notorious finale in show business.

*Bullet Catch* was supported by the Made in Scotland development fund, and debuted at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival, where it received the Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with Form.

For more information, or to order tickets, visit  
<http://www.magicana.com/performances/luminato-2014/>



**Shawn Farquhar** receiving his *Guest of Honor* plaque from **Obie O'Brien** at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual *Obie's FFFF (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic)* convention held on April 23-26 in Batavia, New York. The 2014 MVP as voted on by the attendees was **Michael Durant**.

(4/29/14: A MagicTimes photo)

## Canadian magician advances to finals of “Britain’s Got Talent”

(CTV News)

Winnipeg magician **Darcy Oake** will appear in the final round of *Britain’s Got Talent* after making himself disappear during his live semi-finals performance on the show Monday night.

Oake began his performance by covering himself with a white sheet, while sitting on a chair perched on a podium. When the sheet was removed moments later, Oake had vanished. He then reappeared as one of the cameramen filming the illusion.

“Making it to the finals of *Britain’s Got Talent* is a dream come true. Thank you for the votes and the love. #BGT #BGTlive,” Oake tweeted after the show.

The 26-year-old, who was one of the 45 semi-finalists, will compete in the final round of the show, which is set to air June 7.

See a video of his performance: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/entertainment/canadian-magician-advances-to-finals-of-britain-s-got-talent-1.1839789#ixzz32wJVgXXj>

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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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