

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
June 2018 Volume 13, Issue 10

May's meeting

We were booked out of our usual room for May's meeting, and back to our old stomping grounds in **Andy Parr's** Music Room at Beal (no sign of Andy, though – he was leading the Beal's production of Shrek!). But this didn't stop **Dom St. Jacques, Celes Granja** and **Richardo Leon** from joining the regular crew as we look into the classic *Cups & Balls*.

Mike Fisher brought his extensive collection of Cups & Balls, and displayed a number of *Indian Cups & Balls sets* (which have a unique design and are performed sitting on the ground!).

Mark Hogan lead everyone through the classic Cups & Balls routine from **Michael Ammar**, and then performed Ammar's *Four Minutes of Fame*, where a spectator actually performs Cups & Balls and becomes the magician!

Keith O'Brien (a expert at bar magic) brought in a olive and shaker to perform a terrific Cups & Balls routine. First, a spectator tried to follow the olive (in the pocket, or under the shaker?). Then he penetrated an olive through a handkerchief and into a shot glass. Finally, he caused steam to come out of the shaker and poured a drink into the shot glass!

Serge Pereira fanned a deck of cards and then immediately changed the deck into the four Kings! He then showed what he thought was a spectator's selected card and placed it into his hat. But when it turned out to be wrong, he took the card out of the hat and it changed to the selected card!

Next Meeting:

**Date: Thursday, June 7 (NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE/TIME!)
Time: 8:30 PM**

Topic: TWO FRINGE FESTIVAL SHOWS – FOR FREE!

**McManus Theatre (471 Richmond) – 8:30pm
Spriet Theatre (King St - Covent Garden Market) – 9:45pm**

Dom St. Jacques showed a terrific **John Bannon** self-working effect where the cards in a shuffled deck revealed the location of a selected card. **Mike Fisher** performed his *Indian Cups & Balls* routine (on the floor, of course!).

And **Keith O'Brien** showed off so new technology – *Inject 2.0*, where he revealed the results of a Google search, done on someone else's phone! He also demoed the *Smart Edition smoke watch*, and also **Double Cross**, where an X written on his hand disappears and reappears on a spectator's hand!

Many thanks for everyone who came out to share some great magic!

Mark Hogan

June Meeting

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

TIME: 8:30PM and 9:45PM

PLACE: McManus Theatre (8:30PM), Spriet Theatre (9:45PM)

TOPIC: TWO FRINGE FESTIVAL SHOWS – FOR FREE!

It's that time of year – the annual London Fringe Festival starts May 29 and runs to June 9. As in past years, magic shows are part of this terrific event.

On Thursday, June 7, you are invited to attend two shows – for free:

Keith Brown: *Art of Astonishment* 8:30PM – McManus Theatre

Mark Toland: *Mark Toland - Mind Reader* 9:45PM – Spriet Theatre

When the first show ends (about 9:30pm), we will walk/run to the Spriet Theatre and attempt to get tickets at that time.

Tickets have been pre-ordered for the 8:30pm show for those who expressed an interest in attending. I will be at the theatre at showtime with your ticket. We will also attempt to get tickets for any club members who come last minute – *but if the show is a sellout, tickets at the door are not available.*

The second show start only 15 minutes after the first show is over – so we may not make it to the second show venue in time. But we'll try.

Come see two awesome magic shows on Thursday, June 7 and start the summer off right!

News Of Interest



London Fringe Show - Art of Astonishment

(londonfringe.ca)

Expect the unexpected from world-class Magician Keith Brown. He's inspired wonder in over 18 countries and counting. Toronto's BEST magician and he's not even from Toronto! See it to believe it!

"Hotter Than Potter!" - CBC

"You're Incredible!" - Dave Grohl

"Magic done right" - Theatre in London

Social Media

<https://facebook.com/keithhbrown>

<http://keithbrown.ca>

London Fringe Show - Mark Toland: Mind Reader

(TheConversation.com)

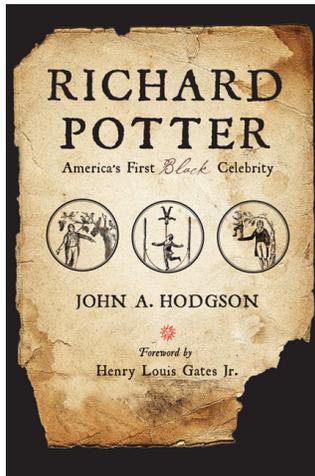
"A TRULY MAGICAL EXPERIENCE" -
Theatre Is Easy.

Six-time festival award winner, including "*BEST OF FEST*" in NYC, returns to London Fringe with an all new MIND BLOWING show.



"A CELEBRATION OF MYSTERY" - MDash

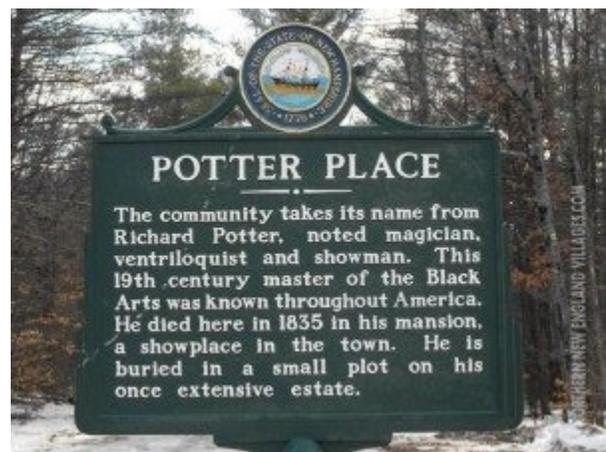
of his own. Richard returned to Canada in 1818 performing in York, Quebec and Montreal.



Richard was an accomplished and highly skilled ventriloquist, acrobat, slackrope walker and magician. His shows presented a variety of his skills, as well as song and dance. Midway through his career approx. 1818, Mr. Potter included the very thrilling *Man Salamander* act. During this routine as described from his advertisements he would "pass a bar of red hot iron over his tongue, and draw it through his hands repeatedly, and afterwards bend it into various shapes with his naked feet, as a Smith would on an anvil. He will immerse his hands and feet in **MOLTEN LEAD**, And pass his naked feet and Arms over a large body of Fire." This was an example of The *Leidenfrost effect* which would most likely be as thrilling to watch today!

As it is with many historical figures and magician's There are many incredible stories of Richard Potter's life. However, Mr Potter seems to have more inconceivable, unbelievable and just plain false stories than most. Even in many of the trusted historical magic compilations almost 50% of what is written is false. Some of the wildest stories include him heading to Europe as a cabin boy, joining a circus to learn his skills, that he could crawl through a solid log and that he was buried standing upright in his coffin. Many stories it seems came from false remembrances told by neighbors and friends during interviews almost 50 years after Mr. Potter's death. However due to his need to often hide his heritage we can't discount the fact that many of the false stories may have came directly from Mr. Potter himself.

The most amazing part of Mr. Potter's life is not his skills but his incredible success as an African American magician at a time when Slavery and racism were still common. Many also disapproved of such amusements regardless of the performer, associating them with frivolity or "*Knavish trickery*" and considering them a waste of money. Those who openly enjoyed them nevertheless felt that the performers were not entirely respectable. Mr Potters incredible success would have been difficult enough for a Caucasian man at the time. To whit, His mentor/instructor **James Rannie** who himself performed in America for many years never even came close to his celebrity status. Richard



Potter's ability to overcome his incredible challenges, racial discrimination and still perform an incredible show full of skill, talent and showman ship is awe-inspiring.

Richard Potter died of an unknown illness in 1835, aged 52.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

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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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