



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
June 2026 Volume 19, Issue 10

May's meeting

The May meeting started off with our visitor **Nick Sun** making his third visit, so it was time for his performance to become our newest club member!

First off, Nick found a selected card in-between two Jokers on the table! Next another card was chosen, but Nick didn't find it between the Jokers – it was found under the card box! And finally he tried to switch a red Ace with a black Ace, but magically they both changed to the two Jokers in the spectator's hands! It was a terrific performance – *Welcome to the club, Nick!*

This night's theme was "*Quick Card Reveals*" – requested by **Mark Hogan**, who wanted some help with a multiple card revelation. He performed **Aldo Columbini's "Fireworks"**, where 10 cards were selected by 10 spectators, and the cards were revealed in different ways – including a final reveal with the deck wrapped in rubber bands!

Mark asked others if they had any other card reveals that could work with that trick – and boy, did the suggestions start coming! Peter Mennie demonstrated how to shoot a card out of the deck and catch it. **Leo Martins** showed us a nice false cut to use between reveals. **Wesley Steele** performed a nice "cut to the Aces" 4-card reveal. **Sam General** showed a reveal sandwiched between two other cards. There were top changes; bottom placements; various forces; ... everyone was in on the action

Several different final reveals were discussed and performed as well: Removing a section from the card box; Taking it out of your pocket; Hitting the

Next Meeting:

Date: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: "START OF SUMMER" PARTY!

Location: **PIPER ARMS RESTAURANT**
3090 Wonderland Road South, London
BACK ROOM (IN SPORTS BAR)

deck held by the spectator and leaving only the final selection; removing it from the deck inside the closed card box inside your pocket... It showed how this trick can really be made into a "jazzy" effect, useful in almost any environment.

And **Harvey Poole** also showed us a random card selection turned into four-of-a-kind, and lead to a reveal of every poker hand available!

Thanks to everyone who came out and share some great card reveals!

Mark Hogan

June's meeting

DATE: Wednesday, June 10

TIME: 7:00 PM

**PLACE: PIPER ARMS RESTAURANT (NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!)
3090 Wonderland Road South, London
BACK ROOM (Sports bar area)**

TOPIC: "START OF SUMMER" PARTY!

It's the last meeting before the summer break – so instead of thinking of it as the last meeting for a while, why not think of it as the "start of summer"?

We are trying a different location this year – the **Piper Arms Restaurant on Wonderland Road South** in London (in the Canadian Tire plaza). They have a back room in their Sports Bar section that we have reserved starting at 7:00pm. There is TONS of free parking – and lots of different menu items. (Likely some will go for dinner – and the club will provide appetizers!).

Bring some magic to show everyone (when booking the room, the wait staff said they were interested in seeing some magic, too!)

Hope to see you at the **Piper Arms** on **Wednesday, June 10!**

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

Visit to Hamilton magic club

Here's some pictures of our magic club exchange visit to the Hamilton magic club on Tuesday, May 11:



News Of Interest



2025 CAM Magician of the Year nominees (CAMMagic.org)

The nominations are in and now closed! The voting has commenced!

Please join the *Canadian Association of Magicians (CAM)* in honouring the nominees for *CAM Magician of the Year 2025*:

Jeff Pinsky
Ryan Joyce
Connie Boyd
Gabriella Lester
Eric LeClerk
Wes Barker
The Evasons
Luke Langevin
Carissa Hendrix
Shawn Farquhar
Chanelle Munroe
Alexandra Burgio
James Cielen

Congratulations to all the nominees! Canada has a diversified and talented field to choose from and we look forward to crowning the winner!

David Peck interviews David Ben about the new home for David Ben's magic collection

(Face2Face with David Beck podcast)

From the **David Peck** interview **David Ben** in *Episode 629* on the April 1st podcast "*Curiosity, Magic & Meaning*" at **Face2Face with David Peck**:

In this episode of *Face2Face*, **David Peck** sits down with magician, historian, and thinker **David Ben** for a wide-ranging conversation about curiosity, illusion, and the deeper intellectual life behind magic.

At the heart of the discussion is Ben's extraordinary collection, now housed at *The Lilly Library* at *Indiana University*, a vast archive spanning more than a century of magical history. Together, they explore magic as a "prism" for understanding the world, touching on ethics, problem-solving, and the power of wonder.

This is more than a conversation about magic, it's about how we see, ask questions and make meaning.

[Click here to read more and listen to the podcast.](#)



The Art of Stagecraft (Part 1)

(Conjuror.community)

Performing magic is much more than executing tricks flawlessly. The real magic lies in your ability to captivate the audience, and this is where **stagecraft for performing shows** comes into play.

Defining Stagecraft

Stagecraft is the art of creating a memorable and engaging performance environment. It involves various aspects such as set design, lighting, sound, costume, props, and most importantly, your interaction with the audience. Mastering stagecraft can dramatically improve the quality of your magic shows, creating a lasting impression on your spectators.

In the context of magic, stagecraft also involves the strategic use of misdirection, patter, and timing to create illusions that captivate and mystify the audience. The successful application of stagecraft can turn a simple card trick into a grand spectacle.

The Importance of Stagecraft in Magic Shows

The role of stagecraft in magic shows cannot be overstated. It's not just about the trick, it's about how you present it. As a magician, your primary goal is to create an unforgettable experience for your audience. This is achieved not only through stage magic tricks but also by effectively employing stagecraft techniques.

By skillfully managing all the elements of stagecraft, you can control the atmosphere, mood, and pacing of your performance. This can enhance the perceived complexity and impact of your tricks, making your show more entertaining and engaging. Moreover, stagecraft also plays a crucial role in maintaining the illusion of magic. It helps to divert the audience's attention, making your tricks seem more miraculous and inexplicable.

In the world of magic, the importance of mastering **stagecraft for performing shows** is well recognized. It's not just a skill but a necessity for anyone who wishes to leave a lasting impression on their audience.

Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 1: The Power of Illusion

Illusion plays a critical role in magic shows, captivating audiences and creating a sense of wonder. By mastering **stagecraft for performing shows**, you can enhance the impact of your illusions and elevate your performances.

Creating Illusions with Stagecraft

In the world of magic, the successful creation of illusions hinges on effective stagecraft. The scenery, lighting, sound, and props all work in synergy to build an immersive environment where illusions can thrive.

One of the fundamental aspects of creating illusions is the art of misdirection. This involves drawing the audience's attention away from your secretive actions and towards something unrelated. It's a delicate balance that requires careful planning and execution.

To create a compelling illusion, you need to understand the psychology of your audience. Knowing what they expect to see can help you to manipulate those expectations and create a more impactful illusion. For instance, the audience will naturally follow your gaze, so looking at a particular spot can direct their attention there.

The stagecraft elements can be used to enhance this misdirection. For example, a sudden flash of light or a sound effect can divert the audience's attention at a critical moment, allowing you to execute your secretive actions without detection.

Techniques for Developing Illusions

There are several techniques that you can use to develop and enhance your illusions. Here are a few that you might find helpful:

1. **Storytelling:** Incorporating a narrative into your magic trick can hook the audience's attention and make the illusion more engaging. It provides context for the trick and can create suspense and anticipation.
2. **Timing:** The timing of your actions and the stagecraft elements is crucial in creating a successful illusion. Practice your timing to ensure that all elements of the illusion work together seamlessly.
3. **Rehearsal:** Rehearsing your illusion in the actual performance setting can help you to identify any potential issues and make necessary adjustments. It gives you a chance to get comfortable with the stagecraft elements and ensure they are working as intended.

4. **Feedback:** Get feedback from others about your illusion. This can give you valuable insights into how the illusion is perceived and where improvements can be made.
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Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 2: Staging and Set Design

The stage is essentially your canvas as a magician. It sets the mood, becomes your playground, and acts as an extension of your performance. A well-arranged stage and thoughtful set design can significantly enhance the audience's experience and your act's overall impact.

Choosing the Right Set Design

Selecting the right set design is an integral part of **stagecraft for performing shows**. It's crucial that your set design aligns with the theme and style of your magic show. A grand, elaborate set may be suitable for a stage filled with large illusions, while a minimal, clean design could be ideal for more intimate, close-up magic shows.

Consider the following when choosing your set design:

1. **Theme:** Your set should reflect the mood and style of your magic show. If your act includes dark, mysterious stage magic tricks, a gothic-inspired set could work well. On the other hand, a colorful, playful set could be perfect for a family-friendly magic show.
 2. **Functionality:** Your set design should facilitate, not hinder, your performance. Ensure there's enough space to execute your tricks smoothly, and consider how the set can hide props or assist with illusions.
 3. **Audience Experience:** Think about your audience's perspective. Ensure that your set doesn't obstruct any views and enhances the audience's immersion in your show.
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Setting the Stage for Your Magic Show

Setting the stage for your magic show involves more than just arranging props and backdrops. It's about creating a space that captivates your audience from the moment they enter the room.

Here are a few tips for setting the stage:

1. **Lighting:** Use lighting to highlight your tricks and create a dramatic effect. For example, spotlighting can draw attention to a specific area on the stage, while colored lights can create various moods.
2. **Props:** Arrange your props in a way that they are easily accessible yet unobtrusive. Remember, clutter can distract your audience and disrupt the flow of your performance.

3. **Backdrops:** The right backdrop can add depth to your stage and enhance your act's visual appeal. Choose a backdrop that complements your set design and doesn't steal the focus from your performance.
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In the world of magic, your stage and set design can be powerful tools to create an unforgettable experience for your audience. Invest time in planning and setting up your stage to ensure it serves your performance and mesmerizes your audience.

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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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