



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
March 2010
Volume 5, Issue 7

February's meeting

It was messy ... and sticky ... and a more than a little complicated. But that didn't stop us from learning a true classic of the art!

The theme of the evening was Gene Anderson's "Torn and Restored Newspaper". Performing it for the first time (and who could have used a few practice sessions!) was Mark Hogan, who then led the group in building this time-honored gem.

Everything was provided (lots of newspaper, and all the required "bits o' business"). It was a sight to see a dozen grown men all trying to build their own version at the same time!

Once people had their newspapers ready, then the restoration process was rehearsed. Finally the moment of truth, when their creation was torn to pieces, and then restored in a flash!

Gene Anderson strikes again!

Mark Hogan

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 10 7:30PM

Topic: MAGIC AUCTION!

Beal Secondary School
255 Dundas Street, London
T-253

March's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, March 10
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

Topic: ANNUAL MAGIC AUCTION!

Out with the old ... and in with the new (or at least someone else's old!!). That's what the annual magic auction is all about!

Dig through your magic drawers and find any tricks, books, videos, and DVD you'd like to part with ... for \$\$\$! Bring them to the meeting and we'll sell them for you. And be sure to bring some \$\$\$ of your own, as there will be lots of deals to add to your magic collection.

NOTE: Only club members may sell auction items, but anyone may purchase auctioned items. The club gets 10% of all auction sales.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!
Please send any original reviews, magic
tricks or routines to:
magic_london@yahoo.ca

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF MAGICIANS



CAMaraderie

CANADA'S NATIONAL CONVENTION

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS BEGIN"

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1ST, 2010
KITCHENER, ONTARIO



SPECIAL PRE-CONVENTION
LENNART GREEN
WORKSHOP
ON APRIL 28

Featuring FISM winners:

Henry Evans, Shawn Farquhar,
Lennart Green, Marc Oberon, Tim
Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster, as well as the
remarkable Bill Abbott, Timothy Drake,
Charlie Frye & Co., Dick Joiner, Ryan Joyce,
Mark Mason, Mike Robinson, Bob Sheets,
Stoil and Ekaterina, and Steve Walker

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE:
www.CanadianAssociationOfMagicians.com
Email: jcaesar@sentex.ca or call (519) 846-2605

Entertainers subject to change without notice.

News Of Interest



Jokes:

Growing Up

When I was a child my mother asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I said "A Magician". She said, "You can't do both".

The Juggler

A Pennsylvania State Trooper pulled a car over on I-81 about two miles north of the PA/MD state line. When the trooper asked the driver why he was speeding, the driver answered that he was a magician and a juggler, and he was on his way to Harrisburg to do a show that night at the Zembo Shrine Circus and didn't want to be late.

The trooper told the driver he was fascinated by juggling, and if the driver would do a little juggling for him, he would not give him a ticket.

The driver told the trooper that he had sent all of his equipment on ahead and didn't have anything to juggle. The trooper told him that he had some flares in the trunk of his patrol car and asked if he could juggle them. The juggler stated that he could, so the trooper got three flares, lit them and handed them to the juggler.

While the man was doing his juggling act, a car pulled in behind the patrol car, a drunk got out, and watched the performance briefly. He then went over to the patrol car, opened the rear door and got in. The trooper observed him doing this and went over to the patrol car, opened the door, and asked the drunk what he thought he was doing.

The drunk replied, "You might as well take my ass to jail, cause there's no way in Hell I can pass that test!"

The Greatest Illusion

A Magician was doing his stage show in front of a big audience but saw he wasn't getting anywhere. After trying all the 'tricks', in desperation, he called a big, muscular man out of the audience.

"Sir, I'd like you to take this 20 pound sledge hammer and hit me as hard as you can right in the head."

The man refused.

The magician then said, "Sir, I am a professional. This is the Greatest Illusion. Besides, there are hundreds of witnesses, hit me as hard as you can right in the head with the hammer."

The man shrugged, did it, and the Magician went flying across the stage, hit the wall, and immediately fell into a coma. He was rushed to the hospital, and remained in the coma for years.

Ten years later, he came out of the coma, looked around, and said "Ta DA!!"



Income for magicians disappearing

By Jerry Berrios, Staff Writer, DailyNews.com

Using sleight of hand, magician Barry Sokolsky can make your wedding ring disappear. Then while you're scanning the floor, it somehow ends up dangling among the keys on a chain in his pocket.

It's a trick Sokolsky has been perfecting for a half-dozen years. Sadly, he's not performing it that often these days as event organizers scale back their budgets.

He and other magicians find themselves digging deeper into their bag of tricks in the hope of conjuring up new gigs in the down economy.

"Sometimes I have to lower my prices," said Sokolsky, 70, a retired Pepsi-Cola sales representative from Winnetka. "They don't have the money they used to have."

Since event organizers, convention planners and moms and dads are cutting back to make ends meet, magicians across the country are seeing their work vanish. That means no magic show at that local fund-raiser, Las Vegas convention or backyard birthday party.

"A magician is a luxury item," said The Dokter, a performer at Hollywood Magic, an iconic magic store. "If you have a choice of whether you are going to buy food or pay a magician, you are going to buy food."

Lonnie Dilan of Valencia performed in nearly three dozen shows last year, but has booked only six this year. And one potential client even asked if he'd take food instead of cash as payment.

"I had to decline," said Dilan, who has a full-time job as an auto suspension specialist. "They wanted to seat me at the kiddie table - that was the kicker."

Although he has fewer gigs, Dilan said he is noticing an uptick in magician Web sites, and more young people interested in magic thanks to the Internet and edgy, modern-day Houdinis like Criss Angel and David Blaine.

"There is still that desire to be mystified," said Jack White, incoming president of the 14,000-member International Brotherhood of Magicians.

But all that hocus pocus can get expensive with stage magicians needing to pay for theater rental, lighting, sound, technicians and other flourishes.

"Audiences are looking for a bargain," said White, a San Diego-based magic collector and historian. "If they have to pay more than \$10 or \$20 for a ticket, they think twice about going there."

And that's exactly why movies are doing so well in this tanking economy.

"For about a \$10 price point, you can escape for a couple of hours," said Paul Dergarabedian, box office analyst for Hollywood.com, a movie Web site. "It's very appealing right now."

Canyon Country magician Tim Jennings says business is the slowest he's seen since he started performing at age 10 at the now-defunct Hocus Pocus Pizza and Magic Club in Canyon Country.

"Calls just aren't coming in," said Jennings, 23, who works full time at Universal Studios, rappelling from the ceiling as John Connor in the "Terminator 2" show and haunting visitors as a House of Horrors mummy.

A comedic magician, Jennings plans to create a Web site to drum up more magic work.

He also plans to perform in a fund-raising magic show today at the Boys & Girls Club of the Santa Clarita Valley.

"I will be there with business cards," said Jennings, who charges \$175 per show.

In-store sales are steady at The Magic Apple in Studio City, owner Brent Geris said, although Internet orders are down nearly a quarter from last year.

He still has the same number of magic aficionados who hang out at his store and attend monthly magic lectures, but private-party bookings are slow.

"Requests are barely coming in anymore," Geris said.

Magic has its ups and downs, says Sokolsky, the Winnetka magician, who plans to perform "the old head removal" trick during today's show in Santa Clarita.

"Right now, it is in a bit of a down period, (but) it always bounces back," he said. "It's one of the oldest professions in the world."

TIPS: Bad hygiene is not miss direction

<http://www.mrmagician.co.uk/hygiene-the-magicians-best-friend.html>

It may seem rather silly to talk about Hygiene and Magic in the same topic, but believe it or not some of the most well meaning amateur - and even those trying to be pro - magicians can be eternally frustrated by lack of success simply because they don't keep their nails neat and clean.

The Effect

Don't let this happen to you: You have put in hours of practice and have all of your sleights down pat. You have stuffed your pockets full of props and equipment and run through all of your patter, and head downtown for what you hope to be a great day of street magic performing. Halfway through the day, however, you are frustrated as not a single spectator stuck around for a second trick. Could the fact that three of them have offered you a breath mint have anything to do with it?

The Secret

Keeping yourself neat and clean keeps the audience focused on your magic and not your bad hygiene.

Materials

Breath mints, nail clippers, hair products, deodorant/ antiperspirant, comb, pocket handkerchief, tissues, pocket mirror

Preparation

We don't need to tell you how to run through your morning routine of getting clean, but we do want to talk about the importance of such. In your day to day life you may not take the time to push the cuticles back on your nails or make sure they are neatly and uniformly trimmed, but you will want to before you perform magic in front of an audience.

Performance

Here are a few tips to emphasize why good hygiene is important to a magician's success, no matter how "big" or "far" they hope to take their magic routine.

The Hands: Nails should be neatly trimmed and buffed, and any out of control calluses should likewise be buffed. Any cuts on the hands should be healed before performing. Consider a "cover-up" type of make up to put the finishing touches on hiding marks on the hands that might be distracting during close up routines. Nail polish, if used, should either be very neutral or picked to specifically emphasize a themed routine.

Breath: Bad breath is a killer to any kind of focus. If you want the audience to be able to appreciate the hard work you have put into amazing them, you want their mind to be on what you are doing, not on looking for ways to escape your bad breath. Mouth wash in the morning, and a breath mint a few minutes before show time should help.

Hair: If you have no clue whether or not your hair is stylish enough, a visit to a pro would be worthwhile. At the very least hair should be clean and neatly trimmed - and this goes double for any facial hair. A barber or hair stylist will usually trim a beard or moustache for a small fee.

Magical Tip

Hopefully you have a test audience you use to debut your new tricks and routines; ask them to give you feedback on your appearance and hygiene as well.

Learning Patter

<http://www.magiczilla.com/magic/magic-patter.php>

A Magicians "Patter" is their commentary as they perform a magic trick. For some tricks, the patter may be a story. With others, it may be jokes.

Things to remember about Patter:

Patter is the one of the most important features of your magic routine. You can take an ordinary magic trick and turn it into a whole theatrical event if you can come up with the right dialogue to assist your magic trick.

Mastering patter in your routines and having your own style of doing so is what will bring you closer being a true magician.

Tips for Better Magic Patter:

Always look into your spectators eyes, be sure you have their attention and that they are hanging on your every word.

Master your voice's tone, inflection and volume. Never speak in a monotone voice. Choose your words carefully, and speak them clearly. Record

yourself talking during a practice magic performance then listen to it later -- listen with a critical ear. Do you like what you hear? Is your voice too soft or loud in some spots? Are you speaking clearly enough? Do you sound confident?

Use humor in your performances. Magic tricks + humor = a happy audience. Work jokes into your routine and patter. Need inspiration? Get a video by Penn and Teller and see how they use humor in their magic routines to entertain their audience.

Listen to other magicians. How do they speak? What makes people hang on their words? Try to uncover what makes their patter work and see how you can incorporate some of those elements into your own routines.

Most of all -- Be confident and have fun! If you are confident, your audience will be at ease... if you appear to be enjoying yourself, the spectators are likely to feel and reciprocate that positive energy.

Magicians in Comics

Over the years there has been many fictional characters created in the pages of comics. It is amazing that magic can grasp people's interest across so many different forms of media. Graphic novels or comics have characters that are geared to all age groups.

Some examples are:

Mandrake the Magician (1930's)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandrake_the_Magician

Mandrake is a [magician](#) whose work is based on an unusually fast [hypnotic](#) technique. As noted in captions, when Mandrake "gestures hypnotically", his subjects see illusions, and Mandrake used this technique in his battles with a variety of gangsters, mad scientists, extraterrestrials and characters from other dimensions.

Zatara (1930's By DC)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zatara>

John Zatara was introduced as an [illusionist](#), but he also had genuine magical powers which he focused through [speaking backwards](#): he could do anything so long as he could describe it in sdrawkcaj speech ("backwards speech").

Merlin the Magician (1940's)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merlin_the_Magician_\(comics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merlin_the_Magician_(comics))

Merlin possessed somewhat ill-defined but reputedly powerful magical abilities. He was shown able to produce virtually any effect that he could conceive. He could battle minor gods single-handedly, instantaneously teleport anywhere in the world, or summon mythological creatures to do his bidding.

Zatanna (1960's to present)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zatanna>

Zatanna is a powerful sorceress whose abilities are apparently [genetic](#). As a tribute to her father and as a focal point, she usually casts spells by speaking verbal commands backwards. She has also proven capable on many occasions of casting spells by speaking normally, and, in rarer occasions, the ability to use magic for simple tasks without speaking.

Magician (2000's)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magician_\(comics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magician_(comics))

Though not much is known about Magician's powers, he uses what appears to be [reality-altering](#) powers. His powers include creating animate and inanimate objects; teleportation; transformation of matter; manipulating gravity; and altering the memories of others

Leon Mandrake (1911–1993)

An his magic career in 1922, giving [vaudeville](#) performances in [New Westminster](#), [British Columbia](#). Mandrake was a conjurer, illusionist, mentalist, manipulator, [ventriloquist](#) and sometimes [fire eater](#). The title character in the comic strip.

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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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