



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
March 2016 Volume 11, Issue 7

February's meeting

It's been a great winter ... until tonight! A snow squall off the lake made for a miserable night, but a few hardy folks showed up with lots of magic to show!

Mike Fisher talked about a new book he received – “*Locked*” by **Jim Kleefeld**, including an effect where a spectator sets the combination to their date of birth – and it opens the lock. Then he does it again to someone else! Terrific effect! He also showed us a Supreme Magic box from the 1940's where a spectator chooses one of 4 ropes from the box, which is the only rope with a knot in it. An ingenious method!

Mike also performed **Walt Wittman's** “*Web of Distraction*” – a wonderful colour-changing knives routine. And he also did a *Three Card Monte* with blank cards – one was signed by the spectator, which finally vanishes and appears in Mike's wallet!

Matthew Stafford magically turned a rubber duck handkerchief into a rabbit handkerchief, and then showed us his routine for his colour-changing disk set.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, March 9

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: ROUND ROBIN!

**Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253**

Matthew also had some *Gold Rush* cards where he could always beat the spectator by cutting to an Ace – only to find that all the cards from another

casino – and all Aces! Finally, he made a ring disappear from inside a handkerchief and changed a sponge into the missing ring!

Jim Atkinson showed us his set of magnetic cards from *Wizard Craft* (terrific for hiding and revealing coins). He also switched a card he selected with a card that the spectator selected – while the spectator held their card!

Mark Hogan showed off few card tricks from **Phil Goldstein's** *Focus* book. "Mosque" showed how a Joker could tuyrn into 3 different cards; "Cry Wolf", where 2 Jokers are change places with two other cards; "Relative Interchange", where 8 cards magically trade places – and the final card changing to a spectator's previous selection not part of the 8 cards! (That last part was added courtesy of Mark!)

Thanks for those who came out and shared their magic!

Mark Hogan

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

February's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, March 9
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: ROUND ROBIN

The idea is simple – we go around the table to each person & they present anything they have or can think of. We keep going until we run out of tricks ... or collapse from exhaustion.

Bring anything you have that you want to share ... and as many of them as you like ... or just do something impromptu that comes into your head. Everyone gets their chance to shine ... and we all get to see a LOT of magic.

We've done this a few times now and it seems to be working really well. Dust off some tried-and-true effects or demo something you've never done ... we'd love to see them all!

News Of Interest



CAMaraderie 2016 in Quebec City

Artists include **Jeff McBride, Christian Schenk, Shin Lim, Shawn Farquhar, Matthew Bich, Vincent Hedan, Luc Langevin, Yannick Lacroix, Marc Trudel, Michel Huot,** and **Marion & Ted Outerbridge.**

Package deal includes:

- 8 world-class lectures
- 2 shows
- 1 magic competition (stage and close up)
- 1 competition winners show
- 1 world class Gala Show at the Capitoile de Québec
- And more...

Rooms are available at the *Hotel Chateau Laurier* (the CAMaraderie hotel) for \$119 per night (single or double occupancy) + \$20 parking.

CAMaraderie is alive and well once again. The 2016 CAMaraderie is being held in beautiful Quebec City next April so now is a good time to start planning to attend. There is lots to see and do in Quebec City. The crown jewel of French Canada, Québec City is one of North America's oldest and most magnificent settlements. Its picturesque Old Town is a *UNESCO World Heritage site*, a living museum of narrow cobblestone streets, 17th- and 18th-century houses and soaring church spires, with the splendid Château Frontenac towering above it all. There's more than a glimmer of Old Europe in its classic bistros, sidewalk cafes and manicured squares.

You can get a taste of the city in a single day, but linger at least a weekend if you can. The city's compact size makes it ideal for walking, and it shines brightest when you slow down. The main focus of your visit will be CAMaraderie but try to include the *Old Town*, split between the Old Upper Town (Haute Ville), perched above the St Lawrence River on the Cap Diamant cliffs, and the Old Lower Town (Basse Ville), where **Samuel de Champlain** established the first French foothold in 1608. The Old Town is packed with museums, mansard-roofed houses and cobblestone streets just begging to be explored.

Outside the walls, through the historic town gates of *Porte St-Louis* and *Porte St-Jean*, four additional neighbourhoods are easily accessible: *St-Jean Baptiste*, *Colline Parlementaire*, *Montcalm* and *St-Roch*, each boasting wonderful restaurants, shopping and nightlife. Also noteworthy are the vast Plains of Abraham, where the British defeated the French in 1759; nowadays enshrined as a national park, this area offers superb recreational opportunities. Québec City goes to great lengths to entertain visitors.

All summer long, musicians, acrobats and actors in period costume take to the streets, while fantastic festivals fill the air with fireworks and song. The annual Quebec City Magic Festival will be taking place at the same time as CAMaraderie so there will be lots of magic to enjoy. Just look at the line-up of performers scheduled to be a part of the great event: Our very own **Shawn Farquahar**, past president of the *Canadian Association of Magicians* and also of the *International Brotherhood of Magicians*. **Shin Lim**, participant in this year's FISM competition in Rimi, Italy who tied for first in Card Magic and representing Canada; **Christian Schenk**, creator of the *Phoenix Deck*; **Harry Allen**, magic purveyor; **Mathieu Bich** and **Vincent Hedan**. The Quebec team has planned great workshops, great performances, great dealers, and first and foremost great CAMaraderie.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Set the dates aside and plan to be there. Did we mention the dates. They are April 21 to April 24 in Quebec City. We have a great venue right near the parliament buildings. It's a close walk to Old Town. You should plan to make that a part of your visit to Quebec City. Once again set the dates aside and plan to attend. This will be the highlight of your year.

To register, go to <http://www.festivaldemagie.ca/>



Paul Daniels diagnosed with incurable disease

(Inquisitr.com)

British magician **Paul Daniels** has been diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor, according to reports. No further information has been shared, along with a time frame or treatment

options he may go through. His publicist says the family asks for privacy at this time.

Daniels has been part of British entertainment since the 1960s, when he performed his magic skills in Newquay during the summer season. He had practiced during his period of National Service after learning about it from the age of 11, and decided to pursue a career in entertainment full time. He managed to make it to TV the next year, debuting on *Opportunity Knocks*, the talent show at the time. By 1979, he was a regular on U.K. TV, with his own show *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. It ran until it was cancelled in 1994.

However, he remained on TV. As well as magic, he presented quiz shows and TV programs for the BBC. It was due to the BBC that he met his second—and current—wife **Debbie McGee**. She was his on-stage assistant. According to the *BBC*, McGee was not looking forward to working with a magician at first, but then she saw the charisma that Daniels shared on the stage.

Daniels' publicist confirmed his diagnosis of a brain tumor on Saturday, according to *The Irish Times*. He confirmed that there would be no further comment at this time. His manager did, however, confirm that all his upcoming performances were cancelled. Previous performances had already been cancelled, and they will not be rescheduled.



How does Jay Sankey prepare for a show?

(SankeyMagic.com)

"How do you prepare for a show?" That's a question I get asked A LOT by students and fans.

Before a show, I always warm-up my hands by running through a series of sleights and flourishes.

And if I want to try some new tricks, I'll rehearse them, and write down key lines of script. (I find writing them, always helps me memorize them.)

But what I find especially helpful, is focusing on some of the guiding ideas behind my personal performance philosophy...

Keep your show as REAL as you can.

Dare to share yourself (not just your tricks.)

Encourage other people to share themselves too.

Be 'playful' (in whatever way feels right for you.)

Make the show 'about' them. Or 'about' you AND them. (But absolutely not just about yourself.)

Experiment. Try new tricks, presentations, even tones and styles.

Be brave. Don't let a few nerves restrict your amazing potential.

Keep in mind, if you're not making mistakes, you're not growing.

Don't just perform. RESPOND!

As important as it is to keep practising your magic, it's also essential to keep THINKING ABOUT IT.

And remember, the tricks are just instruments. Tools. It's what you DO with them that really matters.

Mind-blowing magic show in L.A.

(LAWeekly.com)

Over the last handful of years, magic has seen a huge increase in popularity. Maybe it's thanks to the fame of people like **Criss Angel**, or maybe it's just that people want to be a part of something with "secrets" in a world where information is so easily attainable and disposable.

Regardless, it seems that there are many more magicians and magic fans now than there were five or 10 years ago.

But none of them has ever put together an immersive magical experience quite like **Helder Guimaraes'** *Borrowed Time*, a show he's currently performing at a classified location in L.A.



On paper, *Borrowed Time* is one of the best sleight-of-hand magicians in the world doing what he does best: card tricks and other parlour-style acts. But it's a combination of Guimaraes' performing skills and the whimsical yet urban (almost steampunk) surroundings and atmosphere that truly make the event stand out. Without revealing too much about the show, the entertainment value from the moment you realize you're there is second to none, regardless of your opinions on magic. At the same time, watching someone with the sleight-of-hand skills to deceive you time and time again from mere inches in front of your face (and taking part in it yourself) is just as mystifying and impressive.

Much like the performance itself, the top-secret venue provides just the right amount of humor, bewilderment and timelessness to make you forget where you actually are. Which is part of Guimaraes' plot to make his show as memorable as possible.

"There is a feeling that I wanted people to get that are going through the context of the performance," Guimaraes says. "It's about memories, time, and how secrets can be used for something else. What I really want people to get is the feeling that they've witnessed something truly impossible. I don't see this as a show, I see this as a performance inside of an overall experience."

Guimaraes — the **Academy of Magical Arts' Parlour Magician of the Year** for 2011 and 2012 — knows what it's like to put on a big show; his most recent two-man project ran in large theaters and was directed by **Neil Patrick Harris**. That's exactly why the Portuguese magician chose to make *Borrowed Time* more of a personal experience than a spectacle. While card tricks and making small objects disappear might seem run-of-the-mill, the closeness of the performance makes every moment mind-blowing.

"I've done bigger shows and I'm going to do bigger shows in the future, but I like the proximity of this experience," Guimaraes says. "I can look everyone in the eyes and everyone can participate. I think the further we go in the world, the less these personal experiences exist. We are all becoming disconnected with the Internet and all that."

The second-generation magician compares his magic show to actually talking with someone in person rather than texting them. In a venue as small as *Borrowed Time's*, it's impossible to not feel like a part of the performance. While many magicians may prefer a lecture hall-style room for their acts, Guimaraes brings back memories of old-school living-room performances with his smaller setup.

"There's this feeling of sitting in a room with people and actually experiencing something that doesn't happen very much anymore," Guimaraes says. "Television doesn't do that. Cinemas come close to that, but you know that the projection will always be the same. Here, you know that what you see will never be repeated. I like that every day is a unique moment."

Guimaraes says the key to becoming a great magician is to read books rather than watching tutorials. It's an obvious difference to the performer, as books force young magicians to use their creativity as opposed to just mirroring hand movements. His other "secret" tip for an up-and-comer? Be passionate about magic.

"Intellectually, I know that magic is my career," Guimaraes says. "Emotionally, it is much more than that. Magic is a part of who I am as a person. It's not like I come in and think, 'Oh, I'm coming to work.' I think the only way to be inside of magic as an art form is if magic ceases to be something you do and becomes something you are."

"Every place in the world is slightly different but also the same at the same time," Guimaraes says. "I've never gone to a place in the world where people don't like magic. But I have gone to places where people didn't know about magic, and places like the *Magic Castle* help make people more aware that there are magic shows going on. I think L.A. is also a very good crowd for the type of magic I do, because the crowd is more interested in the humor and the deeper philosophical meanings instead of just the visual magic."

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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.

London Magicians Guild web site:
magiclondon.brinkster.net

London Magicians Guild e-mail:
magic_london@yahoo.ca