



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
March 2023 Volume 16, Issue 4

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## January's meeting

January saw the first lecture our club has had in several years – and it generated the best turnout we've had in years! We were all excited to present a lecture from **Ben Train** and **Jonah Babins**!

**Ben Train** lead off the night with "*Semi Auto Aces*", where a spectator tries to cut to an Ace but fails, but it turns out he cut to all four Aces! He then showed his variation on a *Four Ace Assembly* where the work is done before you start! And with "*Candy from Strangers*", a spectator moved along a series of Skittles on the table without Ben looking and yet Ben knew where they would end up.

Up next was **Jonah Babins** performing "*Dancing Transpo*", where he changed a \$20 to a \$100, but then changed a spectator's signed \$20 to a \$5 - and ended with a powerful *Bill to Impossible Location*! Then he showed his version of **Jeff Hinchliffe's** "*Déjà Vu*", where a card trick happens over and over again, but then never happened at all! He showed us the haunted deck trick "*Spook*", then gave us some great tips for using an inexpensive ITR, and also his "*Convincing Swivel*" which invisibly removes a selection from the deck!

After the break, **Ben** burned and restored a spectator's shirt, and also had two Queens move through the deck to find a selected card, only to have them find also the mates of the card while the spectator is holding the deck! And **Jonah** ended with some expertise on how to scale up a profession magician's business.

### Next Meeting:

**Date: Wednesday, MARCH 8**

**Time: 7:30 PM**

**Topic: AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

**Location: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London**

The night just flew by! There was lots of activity at the lecture table, and almost everyone present hit the local restaurant afterwards to keep the night going.

What a fun night it was! Thanks to **Ben** and **Jonah** for coming to London and showing us some terrific magic!

Mark Hogan

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## March's Meeting

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**DATE: Wednesday, MARCH 8**

**TIME: 7:30 PM**

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**

## **TOPIC: AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

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Do you have some magic props or tricks that are a little different than the standard card or coin trick? Maybe an odd-looking prop that you use for a special effect? Or maybe some distinctive cards or coins, or a special gimmick that you use to make a card or coin trick unique or powerful?

If you have something that's a bit different than the norm, bring it out and show it off!

**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

## Two Canadian magician nominated for Penguin Magic Awards

(canadasmagic.blogspot.com)



Two well known Canadians are among the nominees for the **2023 Penguin Magic Awards**.

Here are the nominees for *Lecture of the Year*:

**Spidey** LIVE  
**Jeffrey Wang** LIVE  
**Craig Petty** LIVE  
**Amanda Nepo** LIVE  
**Bill Abbott** LIVE  
**Benjamin Barnes** LIVE

Congratulations to Canadians **Spidey** and **Bill Abbott**!!

Winners will be announced on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on YouTube.

## David Blaine recalls trick that left a stab wound

(Complex.com)

**David Blaine** refused to let a stab wound hinder his live show.

The 49-year-old magician mistakenly injured himself while performing his famous ice pick trick in *Las Vegas*. The stunt is relatively straight-forward: **Blaine** calls on two audience members to analyze a row of three Styrofoam cups and guess which one of them has an ice pick hidden underneath. Once the selection is made, **Blaine** places his hands over the two other cups and smashes them; however, this time around, the audience members picked the wrong cup, causing **Blaine** to stab his own hand.



**Blaine** told *People* magazine he had performed the trick “one thousand times” without sustaining any injuries. But he ignored his gut instincts during this specific show, as he didn’t want to cause any delays.

“I felt like this was the one,” he told the outlet. “I wanted to keep it exciting, so I just figured I’ll go for it even though I didn’t feel it was right.”

He continued: "The show must go on, so I just cleaned up the blood and started again a minute later."

**Blaine** has performed variations of the ice pick trick throughout his career, but admitted it was never his favorite.

"I wasn't a big fan of the trick until now," he said, suggesting the recent mishap made the stunt more exciting.

**Blaine** is expected to perform the trick this weekend, when his show returns to *Resorts World Theater* in Vegas. His residency kicked off back in September and will conclude on March 11. The show is packed with jaw-dropping illusions and death-defying feats, including a nine-story jump from the top of the venue.

"It's intimate," **Blaine** said about the show. "It'll be interactive and I'll be able to do things with the audience and bring them up ... And then there's the stunt element of it where I can bring all the crazy things I've spent most of my adult life and magic thinking about and put them all in this room."

## How money affects how people react to magic

(What Do Audiences Really Think?)

In September 2016 **Joshua Jay** published the article "*What Do Audiences Really Think?*" in *Magic* magazine. In it he outlines the results of a study involving more than 500 participants on how they view various aspects of magic. The following is an excerpt.

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The way magicians and tricks are framed matters, as we have just explored with accolades and introductions. Next, we wanted to explore the perceived "value" of a magical experience.

To test this, we divided our participants into four groups. The first group was told to imagine that they encountered a magician on a boardwalk, who performed a trick (which was then shown via video). The other three groups were told the same thing, but they were asked to imagine that they paid to watch the magician. Some were told to imagine the fee was five dollars, others twenty dollars, and others fifty dollars.

How did "paying" to watch magic affect the enjoyment? There are two notable results here. The overarching conclusion is that *people most enjoyed the magic when it was free*. No shock there. They were most impressed, attributed the greatest complexity, and were most surprised by the (same) trick when they didn't have to pay for it.

But it's also worth noting that of those who "paid" to watch magic, *paying more means enjoying more*. Those who paid twenty or fifty dollars enjoyed the same trick more than those who paid only five dollars.

The perception of value is a powerful illusion.

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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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