



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2009 Volume 4, Issue 9

April's meeting

In April, we were pleased to welcome our friends from down the 401 – and witness a fabulous show as part of the Ring exchange between our club and Ring 49 – The Hat & Rabbit Club in Hamilton!

Jim Johnstone was the MC for the evening. Jim not only introduced the performers, but had some tricks up his own sleeve. He pulled a silk out of the inside of a bill and put it back. And after changing some Canadian Tire money before our eyes, he showed us a Sid Lorraine-inspired effect of turning a mansion into an outhouse! He also displayed some impressive card fans, and hatched a dragon egg in his hands!

Scott Hood performed his Professor's Nightmare routine, and followed it up with some excellent card magic. This included Six Card Repeat (which ended with a silk being produced from one of the card and turned into a rose!) and the Magician's Insurance Policy, where he kept failing to find a spectator's selection, only to find it in the insurance policy! He also waved a card in the air and turned it into a spectator's selection, and found another selection on the back of a picture of Marilyn Monroe!

Doug Hunt ("Doug the Great" – the world renowned stilt walker) performed some very impressive juggling with a bowler hat (a la Charlie Chaplin), as well as some plate spinning and some amazing shaker cup juggling reminiscent of W.C. Fields.

Up next was Doug McCoy ("The Real McCoy"), who showed us his cut and restored rope routine, a wacky traffic sign, and a torn and restored

Next Meeting(s):

Wednesday, April 29 7:00PM

Topic: LECTURE by MARTIN LEWIS!

Beal Secondary School
255 Dundas Street, London
T-253

Admission: \$15 (free to club members)

newspaper effect. He magically exchanged colour handkerchiefs in a bag, and performed his versions of Brainwave and "Find the Lady". He ended with a card spelling trick and a packet routine done to rhyme.

Wally Warwick ("The Amazing Waldo") also performed some plate juggling, but using our own Devon Elliott as master plate juggler! He also turned a cloth into a chicken, some worms, a pig and a rabbit!

And if that wasn't enough magic for one night - Doug McCoy came back for a Teach-In session. He taught us the mentalism effect "Colour of the Minds"; a borrowed credit card that revolves in your hand; how to find a selected from a pile of torn corners, and a convincing 4-prediction effect from a shuffled and mixed-up deck!

If this is any indication, there's a ton of magic talent in Hamilton! Ron Keller presented engraved magic wands to Jim, Scott, Doug, Wally, and Doug. Many thanks to the members of Ring 49 for giving us a truly remarkable night of entertainment!

Mark Hogan

April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 29
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

Topic: LECTURE by MARTIN LEWIS!

Arriving in the United States 1968, Martin Lewis took up residence in the San Francisco Bay Area quickly establishing himself as resident magician at Earthquake Mgoons. Television work and world travel soon followed culminating in his being awarded Visiting Magician of the year and recently Parlor Magician of the year by the Academy of Magical Arts for his performances at the prestigious Magic Castle in Los Angeles.

In addition to his heavy performance schedule, Martin is constantly developing and marketing new magical tricks and lecturing worldwide. David Copperfield, in his 1991 and 1994 Television specials, featured effects from Martin's book Martin's Miracles. He has appeared on CNN News and The Mike Douglas Show (with Harry Anderson). He has worked for a host of cruise lines, improv clubs, corporations, and magic conventions.

>>> IMPORTANT NOTE: Admission is \$15 for guests, and free to active London club members only.<<<

News Of Interest



Teenage magician appearing on America's Got Talent

Frankfort's got talent. At least that's what the producers of one of America's most popular TV shows think.

They have asked 15-year-old Blake Alexander to appear on this season's "America's Got Talent."

Landing a spot on the talent show wasn't an easy process. Last year, Blake auditioned and didn't make it. Blake then adjusted his approach and tried out again for the show.

"This year, I used a much smaller prop. I used a rabbit and made it disappear in slow motion," he said. "That got me through the first three rounds of executive producers." He waited patiently for three weeks for a phone call and was surprised to get it. "I was actually shocked. I couldn't believe it," he said. "I had a feeling they were going to call, but it's the fact that they did call and I'm going to be on one of the most popular TV shows."

Blake said he'll fly out to Los Angeles to begin filming in about a week and if he wins, the grand prize is \$1 million.

Blake works at a McDonald's in Matteson where he "doesn't flip burgers." He performs tricks two days a week. Blake also spends some of his time performing at hospitals and nursing homes.

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

Magician still going strong at 97

(from the Villages Daily Sun)

At 97, magician John Calvert doesn't plan on vanishing just yet.

"A magician never dies," Calvert said. "He just disappears. When I get up every morning, I say, 'The world is my stage, and I'm an actor. I'm playing the part of a young man all day.'"

Fellow magician Bev Bergeron is in awe of Calvert's longevity. "I don't think I'll live that long," Bergeron said, laughing. "No way I can do that."

The first trick he learned was to make a bowl of water vanish. Eventually, the illusions got bigger, including making an organ float over the audience. That is his favorite trick.

He has been booked at the Palladium in London in 2011, when he will be 100 years old.

Calvert got into the movie business as well. He even stood in for Clark Gable. Sort of. During the production of the 1941 film "Honky Tonk," Calvert was teaching Gable some tricks using his hands, but Gable wasn't having any luck. "I worked with him for three days, and he was no better three days later," Calvert said. "He wouldn't practice."

The producer and director then came to Calvert and asked if he would do the trick for double his salary. Calvert agreed, and for two weeks, his salary jumped from \$300 a day to \$600 a day. "It took about an hour to do it," he



Public sentiment turns against pirate magicians

(from our "man on the street" Steve Seguin)

Following recent events off the Horn of Africa and the sensational at-sea rescue of tanker captain Richard Phillips, the American public has been rallying against piracy of all kinds – including, it seems, the magical variety.

Pirate magician, Captain Kid'n could barely get out the words, "I bought these rings from my favorite store – Tarrrrrrrrrget" before a hostile audience booed him off the stage.

"They didn't even give me a chance," Kid'n complained. "If only they'd seen my 'Chico the Ambitious Pirate' card routine – that always wins them over." He added that he did the routine with jumbo cards so it could be seen from the back of the room. He then insisted on performing the routine for this writer as well as several passers-by, who also turned on him.

"Tell that to Captain Phillips!" shouted one spectator. "Could you make him disappear off your lifeboat? I don't think so. Kapow!" At least one performer has tried to make the best of the situation. Magic Rick Sparrow has added a Navy SEAL to his act – in the form of a stuffed animal who performs the classic 'bullet catch' (in this case the bullet is replaced with a playing card randomly selected by a member of the audience).



When told about it and asked for comment, Capt. Kid'n immediately added the routine to his show, again substituting jumbo cards. "Arrrr, that's the real work," he added cryptically before immediately showing his improvised version to several passers-by.



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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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