



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2010 Volume 5, Issue 9

April's meeting

This month we had the pleasure of welcoming the 3rd place finalist at the FISM Magic World Championships last year, Argentina's own Tony Montana, to lecture for us. He also brought along his famous friend and fellow Argentinean - the 2000 FISM World Champion in Card Magic, Henry Evans.

We had a good crowd, who saw a terrific display of strong mental magic from Tony. First, he showed us Free Fall Magazines - an effect from his FISM routine. He had a spectator choose one of several magazines, and drop it on the floor. It opened to a page what happened to be duplicated inside a box held by another spectator!

His second effect, Playing with your Minds (again from his FISM routine), had two spectators place several pictures of different coloured socks in different envelopes which were then mixed. The spectators randomly chose one envelope each. We thought he goofed when they didn't match – but they did match the socks he was wearing!

He also performed Suits Control, where he set up four prediction envelopes, and had a spectator help him shuffle a deck of cards and cut into 4 piles. The predictions were the picture of card suits, and not only did the top card of each pile match the prediction suit – so did all the cards in every pile! That was amazing!

After a short break, Tony demonstrated 14, My Lucky Number - a tremendous card effect where the spectator chose 2 cards "by fate" which were placed back in the card box. After a series of remarkable reveals involving other chosen cards, the value of the cards in the box were totaled (14), and matched the prediction written on the box!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 12 7:30PM

Topic: MY FAVOURITE TRICK!

Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253

He followed this with Bagged Card - a super visual effect where a card was selected and lost in a shuffled deck, and the deck was sprung against a clear plastic bag – and the card appeared inside the bag! (I was the spectator sitting beside Tony for this, and it blew me away!). He also showed a means to take a deck of cards out of its pack, and still have a deck inside the pack!

His final routine was a called Money Prediction, involving 3 envelopes containing different values of coins. Two envelopes were eliminated and the contents shown to be different. When the final envelope was selected, it too had a different value – but it matches Tony's prediction!

The magic Tony put on display were very strong, and yet his methods were well thought out and within everyone's abilities. Tony obviously puts tremendous effort into his routines and loves what he does - and it shows! Many thanks to Tony for sharing his talents with us!

Mark Hogan

April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, May 12
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

Topic: MY FAVOURITE TRICK!

We all have our favourite trick. One that we can rely on. One that we know like the back of our hand. Maybe we like it because it's a killer. Or it's funny. Or maybe it's what got you interested in magic in the first place.

This is the night to show off the trick you like the best – and tell us why you like it so much. There may be others who have seen different versions of the effect – you might end up learning a lot about your pet trick.

Leave your second-favourite effects at home! This night is reserve for favourites only! So show us your favourite and get a chance to see everyone else's!

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

News Of Interest



Aussie magician casts a spell

(from Michael Schneider, Variety.com)

"Hell's Kitchen" producer A. Smith and Co. is developing a reality show starring Australian magician James Galea.

According to the non-fiction shingle, Galea mixes his sleight-of-hand and illusion skills with acting and comedy for a project that's about to be pitched to networks.

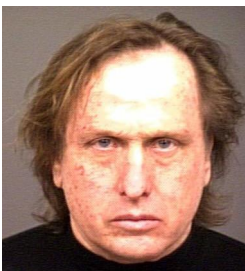
A. Smith founders Arthur Smith and Kent Weed will exec produce the project.

"We have seen magic shows before," Smith said, "but James has this incredible way of leaving his audiences questioning reality for days after seeing it."

Galea is said to have learned magic from a con man and professional card shark, and eventually attracted notice in his native Australia. His live show "I Hate Rabbits" eventually led to the 2009 play "Lying Cheating Bastard," in which Galea both starred and co-wrote.

Galea is also gaining a following on YouTube, where his videos have received more than a million views.

A. Smith and Co.'s credits include "Kitchen Nightmares," "I Survived a Japanese Game Show," "American Gangster" and "Pros vs. Joes."



Jonathan Pendragon to be released from custody

(from Kelly Bush, KSYB News)

World-renowned magician, Claude Yarbrough will be released from custody in San Luis Obispo Tuesday after he was sentenced to five years felony probation.

Yarbrough goes by the stage name 'Jonathon Pendragon.' He was arrested last summer after apparently firing a gun into the floor of his Arroyo Grande home after a fight with his wife. He pleaded no contest to assault charges in March and has served 285 days in jail since his arrest.

Yarbrough spoke out in court, saying he felt very sorry and adding that he's been an outstanding member of the community for years.



David Blaine performs marathon magic session for Haiti relief

(from Shannon Bell, Rightpundits.com)

Master Magician David Blaine's Haiti relief may be unconventional, but just about everything he does is unconventional. Blaine started a 72 hour magic marathon in Times Square Friday morning to raise money in conjunction with the American Red Cross for Haiti earthquake victims.

Blaine says that he's not going to sleep or eat a thing for the duration of the 3 day magic marathon for Haiti; he just hopes people will keep him awake. David Blaine often talks about his 1999 trip to the Island where he spent 10 days among the most impoverished people in the world showing them his type of magic. His trip to Haiti can be seen in the documentary "Fearless."

Blaine is famous for his "street magic" which includes card tricks, mind reading and even levitation. He also garners much attention for some of his endurance feats; one for instance took place in Times Square where he was trapped in a block of ice for over 60 hours. He's Criss Angel without all the flash. Actually he was Criss Angel before Criss Angel.

David Blaine's Haiti relief effort is entertaining to say the least; but Blaine has a personal connection to Haiti based on his trip there over 10 years ago. Blaine says that he originally went to Haiti because "it's a culture deeply rooted in magic", he wanted to see how the people of Haiti reacted to his brand of magic. Most Haitians would have been exposed to some form of Voo-Doo or other black magic. Blaine brought a little bit of light into that darkness.

Whatever you think of Blaine or his magic, you have to admit it's a wonderful thing that he once did for Haiti and it's a wonderful thing he's doing now. David Blaine's Haiti relief isn't just confined to Times Square; you can also go to Blaine's [website](#) where you can donate to the American Red Cross. I'll be curious to see just how much Blaine alone raises for earthquake relief. His story is just another among the many thousands of those reaching out to help.

From making a coin disappear to sawing a woman in half, magicians have been captivating audiences for hundreds of years by being master illusionists able to play tricks on the mind.

This week, 250 of the best magicians from across Canada and around the world are gathering in Kitchener, Ont., for the annual Canadian Association of Magicians Convention.

Organizers of the three-day event starting Thursday say the traditional art form grows in popularity each year.

"When you boil it down to the core, magic tells us that anything is possible. That is a message that will transcend time forever," award-winning Canadian magician Ryan Joyce said Wednesday. "We're all intrigued by the sense of mystery and effort that goes into magic. It brings us all back to our childhood."

Interest in the industry has been fuelled in recent years by the notoriety of such magicians as Hollywood illusionists David Copperfield and Criss Angel. Movies such as the Harry Potter series and Lord of the Rings have helped to popularize magic, fantasy and sorcery.

Joyce, who has performed in magic tours across Canada, New Zealand, the Middle East and Asia, said magicians have been successful in staying relevant in a growing culture that is addicted to other forms of entertainment such as YouTube.

"Magic is evolving and just like every other industry, we have to adapt," he said. "It's a whole different universe out there, one with people with short attention spans. Our audiences have seen a lot. Anyone can watch anything within 10 seconds through online media but magicians still have to continue to have the shock or wow factor. We have to alter our game because the magic of tomorrow isn't going to be magic of today."

Joyce jumped into the business after he gave up studying computer engineering. He said many people don't realize that each magic trick is an art form, requiring hours or even days to perfect.

"That's part of the magic. Our job is to make something that is exceptionally difficult so easy that you don't know it's happening," he said. "We can spend years perfecting individual routines that last three to five minutes. It's supposed to look effortless."

Considered one of the best grand-scale illusionists in the country, Joyce has made everything from full-sized fire trucks to a group of 100 politicians

disappear. Yet his favourite tricks are always simple and rooted in many traditional performances.

"I love the classics like making a girl float in the air," said Joyce. "It's just magic, pure magic."

Dan Morrissey, who owns Morrissey Magic, the largest magic equipment supply shop in Canada, said his customers include children who are interested in impressing their friends to adult hobbyists who want to be the next Criss Angel. His store sells everything from copper bowls to card decks to instructional kits.

But Joan Caesar, the president of Canadian Association of Magicians, and a children's magician for 25 years, said one of the pitfalls of the industry is that magicians make their routines seem too effortless.

"There's so many different types of magic: illusion, cards, mentalism, escape, general magic," she said. "We have some extremely good magicians, some of the best in the world in Canada, yet it's so frustrating that other art forms are so much more respected and people know so much more about them."

Last year, B.C. magician Shawn Farquhar became the first Canadian ever to win the World Championship of Magic, in Beijing, in what is considered the Olympics of the magic world. And although he is famous in Asian and European countries, he still is far from being a household name in Canada, she said.

For more information about the convention, visit www.canadianassociationofmagicians.com.

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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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