



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
May 2012

Volume 7, Issue 9

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## April's meeting

The finger flickers were out in full force in April, as club members dove into the always popular Ambitious Card effect. One of our members (me, actually) doesn't have an Ambitious Card, so what better way to come up with one but to combine ideas from others!

Before things got underway, Mike Fisher frustrated many of us with his large collections of locks (including Hemingway, gravity, Keyrect, etc.) Of course, they were all locked - and he wasn't going to tell us how to open them! But by the end of the night, we had 'em figured out!

Everyone seemed to have some input for Ambitious Card. Paul French showed us what he called "the world's easiest card trick", which started as Ambitious Card and ended with all the cards of the spectator's selection of suit all in order! He also performed a story effect similar to Sam the Bellhop.

Peter Mennie presented his complete (and impressive) Ambitious Card routine – and ended with the card penetrating both the card box and a handkerchief! Jon Akrey started his Ambitious Card with a Triumph effect, and ended it with a Card to Wallet! He also showed us the coolest Card in Shoe gimmick that would make a great ending as well.

Next Meeting:

Saturday, May12 10:30am

Topic: TRI-CLUB MAGIC AUCTION!

Beal Secondary School (parking lot)  
525 Dundas Street, London

Rodrigo Rubio demonstrated some moves used in Ambitious Card (e.g. two ways of inserting the card into the middle) and also an impressive one handed card change!

And finally Steve Seguin performed a full Ambitious Card routine, which included loading the spectator's selection in his mouth; Juan Tameriz's double lift and replace; and ended with the card found folded in a box on display the entire time!

There were a ton of different ideas on openings, controls, and great endings! Thanks to everyone for showing off their cardboard dexterity!

Mark Hogan

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## May's Meeting (see the flyer on the next page!)

DATE: Saturday, May 12

TIME: 10:30 AM (then carpooling to Kitchener)

PLACE: Meeting at Beal Secondary School parking lot

CARPOOLING TO: St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
54 Queen St. (corner of Queen and Weber)  
Kitchener, ON

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## TOPIC: TRI-CLUB MAGIC AUCTION!

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It's been a long time coming ... but it's finally here ... three clubs getting together in one huge magic auction!

The Kitchener club is hosting this event, with the Hamilton and London clubs on a road trip to sell some of our "gently used" effects, and also get some great deals from the other club members selling theirs.

We will meet in the Beal school parking lot at 10:30am so we can carpool down to Kitchener. The auction starts at 1:00 noon.

Let's have a great turnout from the London club! Bring some tricks, books, videos, ... you want to sell – and some \$\$\$ to get some terrific deals!

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)

You don't want to miss this one!

Hamilton, Kitchener and London  
are joining together for the biggest

# Auction of the Year!



We are having a....

## Joint Magic Auction

**Saturday, May 12**

*Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.*

at St. Andrew's Church

54 Queen Street, Kitchener, ON

at the corner of Queen and Weber Streets

(Parking available at the church)

**Sell your slightly used magic and look for some**

**New to You effects**

Auctions and Silent Auctions

Bring your items early so they can be view ahead of time!

Doors will be open at 11:00 a.m.

**All magic accepted for auction**

Contact Ron Keller for Auction Forms

[ron.keller@xplornet.ca](mailto:ron.keller@xplornet.ca)

(we would like your forms filled out ahead of time)

Admission \$5.00 for non-club members

(Paid refreshment stand available)

## News Of Interest



### Penn & Teller star sues over rights to magic trick

(from The Independent)

Two magicians at crossed wands are heading to court over the rights to a magic trick.

Raymond Teller, one half of the hugely successful duo Penn & Teller, is suing Gerard Dogge, a Dutch magician, claiming that he copied a trick called Shadows.

Dogge, who goes by the name of Gerard Bakardy is accused of posting a video of the trick called Rose & Her Shadow on YouTube. What's more, he has also offered to explain how to do the trick to anyone willing to pay \$3,050.

After asking the site to take down the video, Teller said that he contacted Dogge and offered him money if he stopped performing and offering to sell the trick. Dogge, however, asked for more money, which was rejected. Now Teller is suing and seeking damages in his native Nevada.

The trick itself involves a vase with a flower in it, being placed on a table on a stage between a spotlight and a white screen, so that it casts a shadow onto the screen. The magician then takes a knife to the shadow, which appears to "trim" both the silhouette and the flower in the pot.

Teller claims to have created it as a teenager in his bedroom. In the lawsuit he describes the illusion as having "iconic quality" and as the "oldest, most venerated piece of material in continuous use" in Penn & Teller's show. His partner Penn Jillette, meanwhile has described it as "probably the best bit in our show".

Jason Alexander, one of the stars of the comedy Seinfeld, and a fan of Penn & Teller, is one of the trick's biggest fans. He once told a TV documentary about the magical pair, that he had seen them perform Shadows "at least a dozen times".

"The first time I saw Teller do the shadow illusion, I actually cried," he said. "There are moments when magic is so poetic that it just catches me."

There are a number of magicians' circles across the world. Often these groups insist that their members do not share the secrets of their works with non-magicians as it would break the so-called "Magician's Code". More binding,

however, is the US law, under which, tricks can be protected as “pantomimes”, something Teller appears to have done in 1983.

In 1999, Fox TV’s series *Breaking the Magician’s Code: Magic’s Greatest Secrets Revealed* incurred the wrath of illusionists around the world. The French magic circle tried to have it taken off the air, while Robert Rice, an American performer tried (and failed) to sue the network, claiming that it infringed upon his act.

Jack Delvin, president of The Magic Circle of London, said that he encourages all magicians to take note the club’s rules, which “oppose the wilful disclosure of magical secrets other than to magicians or bona fide students and historians of magic” and “to oppose the wilful imitation, whenever and wherever possible, original magical inventions and original forms of presentation”.

Such rules, however, are only at club level and this case is one of copyright, which means both magicians are going to have to draw upon all their powers of persuasion to convince the judge

## New magic TV series on Biography

(from The Los Angeles Times)

A new TV series on the *Biography* channel called **Breaking the Magicians Code** will be “revealing the secrets behind baffling illusions”.

It is premiering with back-to-back episodes starting April 24, 2012 at 5 and 6pm, and again at 9 and 10pm.

## LA magician creates new spin on the Straight Jacket Escape

(from Yahoo News)

Los Angeles magician Austin Brooks has taken the traditional straight jacket escape and put a fresh spin on the act. Brooks' newest magic routine features a two person straight jacket, replete with four arms and extra straps. Two people are strapped into the jacket, one behind the other, and they must escape from the contraption before the end of a song. The act is both funny and intriguing, and never fails to have the audience laughing out loud. This is just one of the many entertaining routines in Austin Brooks' arsenal.

Austin Brooks' original two person straight jacket routine starts with a member of the audience coming up on stage. Participants range from CEOs to managers to guests of honor. The participant is introduced to one of the magician's assistants, and then locked into a 4-arm straight jacket with the

assistant. Another audience member ties the straps, which wrap around the body of the jacket and through the participants' legs. As music plays, the assistant proceeds to wiggle out the bonds, and release both her and the captive participant from the binding straps.

You can find out more information about Austin Brooks and his original brand of magic and see a video of the straight jacket performance at <http://losangeles-magician.com>.

## Day Passes for CAM Convention are available!

Want to come to CAMaraderie but can't take the time to come for the whole conference? We have a solution for you.

Although it hasn't been widely advertised, we now offer 1-day convention passes. These passes costs \$95.00 and deliver a whole bunch of magic. Each day there are many fabulous lecturers as well as a variety of other events. Choose the Friday pass and you can attend the Close-up show. Choose Saturday and you can attend the Gala Show!

What are you waiting for? To reserve your place all you have to do is to email Joan Caesar ([registration@cammagic.org](mailto:registration@cammagic.org)) and tell me which day you would like to attend and then pick up your ticket on the day at the registration desk.

Don't miss this great opportunity, it's not often that so many award winning magicians are gathered at the same convention.

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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.

London Magicians Guild web site:  
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