



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2013
Volume 8, Issue 9

April's meeting

Ahoy, matey! 'Tis time to hoist the anchors and set sail with Captain Corbin (our own Mike Fisher) for his "More than Magic" lecture.

Mike ... er .. the good Captain ... showed a number of effects from his various pirate shows. First, he removed and restored a large key from a piece of rope (the key obviously to a pirate treasure chest!). He then predicted the type of pirate a spectator would be by predicting the key, jewel and coin they would randomly choose.

The "Treasure Chests of Doom" came with instructions by Admiral Corbin (the Captain's father). Six spectators (or "scallywags") each chose a small chest, and Admiral Corbin's instructions found the only chest that held a treasure!

A selected card was placed in an "Isolation Chamber" and shot at by the Captain's cannon – and yet the selected card jumped out of the chamber just in time! With "Die-lemma", the Captain showed off his mental abilities by reading the mind of a spectator to determine the face-up spots on a hidden die. And of course he ended the night with an empty trunk magically containing gold doubloons for everyone!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, May 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: MORE THAN MAGIC LECTURE!

Beal Secondary School

525 Dundas Street, London

T-253

After the terrific pirate act, Mike discussed the history of how he came up with his pirate character and how he has developed and marketed it over the years. He also discussed how trick selection for a specific character is vital to

giving it authenticity, and how to adapt the trick for the character (e.g. “card in orange” became “card in orange inside a skull”).

He also discussed his own creative process (over time; self-initiated changes; and changes required when bad things happen). He showed us his trunks (i.e. his “treasure chests”) and how he sets them up for his shows. He also spoke to how he has learned to “approach the unapproachable” to increase his courage and make his magic better.

It was a great evening – thanks to Mike for entertaining and educating us in how to use characters in our magic!

Mark Hogan

May’s Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, May 8
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: BRING IN STUFF!

This couldn’t be easier – just bring in stuff!

It could be stuff you just bought, or stuff you’ve had lying around for years. It could be big and elaborate, or small and simple. Cards ... coins .. opener .. closer ... it just doesn’t matter. If it’s magic, we want to see it!

So whatever you’ve got, bring it in – and “show off your stuff”!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest

Miracle Max: Illusions of Grandeur Coming to the Spriet Theatre

(from Steve Seguin)

Steve Seguin is bringing his magic show to this year's London Fringe Festival for a six-show theatre engagement. He'll be performing 60-minutes of mind-bending, jaw-dropping magic and illusions for an adult audience.



"The backbone of the show is the act I have been performing at corporate gigs for the last five years," says Seguin. "I've taken the best of this audience-proven material and shaped it around a fictitious character to give it a backstory. I don't want it to be just a magic show. I want there to be elements of theatre to it."

Performances will be at the Spriet Family Theatre, located upstairs in the Covent Garden Market, 130 King St., London, Ontario.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, plus \$5 admission to the Fringe Festival.

Show dates and times:

Sat. June 8: 1:30pm

Sun. June 9: 9:00 pm

Mon. June 10: 7:30 pm

Thurs. June 13: 6:00 pm

Sat. June 15: 9:30 pm

Sun. June 16: 2:00 pm

For more information on Steve's show, visit:

<http://www.miraclemaxatthefringe.com/>

The Fringe is dedicated to the promotion, production, and prosperity of independent artists. Every year, 40 theatre companies, representing London, Canada, and the rest of the world converge on London to perform the best – and most unique – entertainment you can imagine.

Visit <http://www.londonfringe.ca/>



Chamber Magic in Toronto - June 17-19

(Luminato Festival)

For those who only believe what they see, Steve Cohen invites you to come close, really close.

A master magician whose repertoire is designed to engage the mind as much as the eye, Cohen's Chamber

Magic harkens back to an era when wealthy patrons secured the services of elite wonder-workers to transform a salon into a stage and mesmerize family and friends with magic.

Known as the "**Millionaires' Magician**," Cohen has performed the role of a society performer for over a decade at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. As the show is designed to be experienced up close, fewer than 70 patrons will be admitted to each performance. With an adults-only mandate, audience members are asked to dress to impress in cocktail attire.

TJ Shoemith joins elite group of close-up magicians

(Luminato Festival)

British magician **TJ Shoemith** has become one of just a handful of working magicians across the globe to bear the accolade of **Magic Circle Close Up Magician of the Year**. The announcement of the elite award was made last week at the Magic Circle Headquarters in London.

TJ has worked as a magician and pickpocket at corporate events for the last fifteen years. He also tours the country as half of *Devious Minds*, a stage show which has enjoyed critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



His speciality, close up magic, is generally regarded as the most demanding form of magic there is, being executed right under the noses of the

spectators. The Magic Circle accolade has only been awarded a few dozen times and the number of winners still practicing the craft is small.

The Magic Circle competition is held annually and is open to members of the club worldwide. TJ Shoemith explains: "The highest level of performance is needed throughout the competition. The early heats were held on video, which takes no prisoners, and then, when we were whittled down to a final eight, I had to perform in front of a panel in a small room, while a video feed broadcast my performance to the Magic Circle Theatre above, which was packed.

"Performing for a small number of people knowing that your friends and colleagues are scrutinizing your every move on a large screen is very stressful. You have absolutely no idea how they are reacting."

Following TJ's final flourish, in which he restored a card while reciting Shakespeare, the judging panel, which included musician **Marc Almond** and magician and comedian **Paul Zenon**, selected TJ as the winner.

TJ concluded: "I am honoured to be chosen as a member of such an elite group of close up magicians and look forward to representing The Magic Circle in the future."

TJ is also a member of the Inner Magic Circle, the highest level of the world-famous Magic Circle club and a status enjoyed by just 200 magicians in the world. He has made appearances in Los Angeles, New York, Canada, South America and all over Europe.

Magician Rodd to perform Houdini underwater escape

(Coleraine Times)

A Coleraine magician is to follow in the footsteps of the legendary **Harry Houdini** by performing an underwater escape while handcuffed - the first time it's ever been attempted in Northern Ireland.

Rodd Hogg will do his own version of the 'great escape' in Carrickfergus Harbour on Saturday, June 22.

He will jump into the water from an Army helicopter and attempt to free himself from fully secured handcuffs.

Rodd's stunt will be the climax to a local fun day and raise funds for Andy Allen's Veteran Services NI (AAVSNI) - based in the Argyle Centre on Belfast's Shankill Road - as part of this year's Armed Forces Day.

He recently announced his exciting plans on his Facebook page and Twitter account. "This has never been attempted before in Northern Ireland so I'm very excited about it," Rodd said. "There's a lot of buzz about it on Twitter so I'm hoping everyone comes along to see me."

Rodd revealed that he has been taking ice-cold showers in the morning to prepare himself for the freezing water conditions.

American stunt man, **Harry Houdini**, first performed the underwater escape in New York's East River on July 7, 1912.

He was encased in a nailed and roped packing crate and lowered into water. Police forbade him from using one of the piers, so Houdini hired a tugboat and invited press on board.

Houdini was locked in handcuffs and leg-irons, then nailed into the crate which was roped and weighed down with two hundred pounds of lead.

He escaped in fifty-seven seconds. He extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets underwater, and having to hold his breath inside a sealed milk can.

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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.

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