



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
May 2016 Volume 11, Issue 9

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## April's meeting

You should have been there!

Because almost no one was. Let's just say that **Jim Atkinson** and **Mark Hogan** had a nice chat.

We also did some magic. First was **Simon Lovell's** "*Fingered Three*" where a signed card lost in the deck changes places with another selection underneath a spectator's hand! We also discussed a trick shown by **Domenic St. Jacques** last month where the spectator spelled to a selected card – which matched the following card, which also matches the magi's prediction!

*Out of This World* was also performed with a couple of add-on tricks which nicely follow it – **Henry Evans's** "*Out of this Century*" (where the spectator shuffles the deck themselves, but the deck still separates into red and black in a snap!) and **Harry Lorayne's** "*Criss Cross*", where reds and blacks are visibly mixed, but the colours come back together by switching piles.

### Next Meeting:

**Date: Wednesday, May 11**

**Time: 7:30 PM**

**Topic: ROUND ROBIN!**

**Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253**

Next up was another **Harry Lorayne** effect "*One Eyed Jack Sandwich*", where a card sandwiched by two Jacks and a separate signed card are lost in the deck, and the signed card disappears – only to be found in the middle of the Jack Sandwich.

We also discussed gimmicked cards, coins, routine building, vacation planning, ... it could have gone on all night. But with two people, we could do all this and still leave early.

With any luck, turnout will improve. If not, at least there's not a fight to see what chairs people get.

Mark Hogan

**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)

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## May's Meeting

**DATE: Wednesday, May 11**  
**TIME: 7:30 PM**  
**PLACE: Beal Secondary School**  
**T-253**

## TOPIC: ROUND ROBIN

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The idea is simple – we go around the table to each person & they present anything they have or can think of. We keep going until we run out of tricks ... or collapse from exhaustion.

Bring anything you have that you want to share ... and as many of them as you like ... or just do something impromptu that comes into your head. Everyone gets their chance to shine ... and we all get to see a LOT of magic.

Dust off some tried-and-true effects or demo something you've never done ... we'd love to see them all!

# News Of Interest



## Interview with Kevin James

(JConline.com)

You might have seen magician **Kevin James** before. He sawed a person in half on "America's Got Talent" — without using the proverbial trunk — and then pieced the torso and legs back together.

But that's not the only trick he's known for.

Ever seen **David Copperfield** perform the "Floating Rose"? James created the effect.

Known as "The Inventor," James has performed on television, internationally and for President **Barack Obama** and First Lady **Michelle Obama** at the White House.

On Wednesday, he will join six other magicians who will bend minds during "The Illusionists — Live from Broadway," which is presented by Purdue Convocations.

James said he has been hooked on magic and its sense of wonder since he saw a magician in elementary school. With no mentor or online resources at that time, he began teaching himself by checking out books at the library.

Once he visited the *Abbott's Magic store* and its yearly festival in Colon, Michigan — about an hour outside his hometown of Jonesville, Michigan — he knew for sure what his career choice would be, he said.

Here are excerpts from his interview with the Journal & Courier.

**Question:** What generally gives you ideas for new illusions?

**Answer:** I find inspiration from a lot of places. I think it's just about living life with an air of expectation that I'm going to find something interesting today. ... You just go through your day being curious about everything, you know.

But I always try to find some sort of human connection, I think. Magic is a great way to tell stories ... I think if a magician, instead of just doing lots of eye candy, can find some way to emotionally connect to the audience, it's a much more powerful performance.

**Q:** I saw your DVD that you sell on how to do the "*Floating Rose*" trick and others. In the field of magic, do magicians sell and teach all their tricks or do they keep some to themselves? What's common practice?

**A:** Various illusions have different life spans, you know. First, it goes in my act, and I try to hone it and perfect it so it can stay in my act for many, many years.

And then at some point, you know, you want to move onto some other material. Sometimes, you say, "Well, this might be a good thing to put on ... a DVD or something" and then it kind of gives it a new life and helps the art form in some way, gives you credit as the inventor of it for posterity.

There's certain things you have to wrestle with when you put it out on the market. It's like raising a kid and you're letting them go to college, you know what I mean?

Nothing breaks my heart more than to see a magician do one of my effects poorly. But I love it when a magician can take one of my effects and put their own spin on it to kind of change it to fit their personality and add something new to it to make it even more amazing.

So you just kind of have to emotionally detach from it.

**Q:** I don't know if you can tell me this without giving away a trick, but have you ever had one go wrong on stage? If so, what happened?

**A:** Oh, they go wrong all the time. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. So the best thing to do is just learn from it each time and fix whatever has to be adjusted so it doesn't happen again, and, you know, safety is always first.

## Magician tricks woman into believing they discovered an alien species

(FirstToKnow.com)

People will believe just about anything given the proper circumstances.

**Michael Carbonaro's** hidden camera magic show *The Carbonaro Effect* is the perfect example. Using close-up magic and sleight of hand, he somehow manages to fool unsuspecting people into believing the most insane things.

This woman just so happened to get tricked into believing that she just helped discover an alien species from outer space.

To see the video, visit:

<http://firsttoknow.com/magician-tricks-woman-into-believing-they-just-discovered-an-alien-species-video/>



## I went on a date with a magician

(PopSugar.com.au)

Author: **Eleanor Sheehan**

I met a magician on Halloween this year — and no, he wasn't dressed as one; he was a career magician. First of all, it's not every day you meet a magician outside of a magic show, and secondly

he was irresistibly attractive. I remember having to do a double take because I genuinely thought he was **Jamie Dornan**. So when Jamie Dornan look-alike asked for my number, I gave it to him without hesitation. Sure, he was a truly dedicated magician and I thought that was a little kooky, but I like weird. I expelled the **David Blaine** comparison thoughts from my mind. Forcing **Chris Angel MindFreak** from my mind was admittedly harder.

We eventually set up a date the next week and I was excited. If it was a disaster, who cared? — I went on a date with a **MAGICIAN**. And a hot magician at that. I was intrigued and wanted to see if his magic would work on me. Not that I have anything against magicians, I'm just skeptical of their craft. How would I know if he was lying to me? Doubts aside, I went on the date. Here's what happened and what I learned.

### **He said he didn't want to talk about magic . . .**

But that's ALL we talked about. Of course I had several questions, but I can only pretend to care about all the famous academics who study magic for so long. Also, what does it even mean to study magic? Fifteen minutes into the date, I already knew he's a little bit *too* dedicated to this identity.

### **He legitimately thought he was Harry Potter.**

When he saw a girl reading **Harry Potter** at the bar, he thought he was obligated to go talk to her because he's also a wizard. I love Harry Potter, but let's not fool ourselves — his magic is deception, not spells. At this point the only thought going through my mind was, "Is this dude joking?" I really couldn't be sure but later confirmed he was indeed serious about being a wizard.

### **David Blaine was his hero.**

**David Blaine** is obviously talented, but every time I see him, I can't help but laugh. So when I brought up David Blaine's antics, I had to hold back giggles again when I discovered how much Jamie Dornan look-alike revered him. I thought it best not to bring up **Criss Angel** so I didn't embarrass myself laughing.

### **He's was an active member of the "magician community."**

I'm a curious person, so I obviously wanted to find out the tricks of the trade. Guess what? He told me if he revealed the secrets of magic, he would be shunned by the community. The community? Did he mean the circuit of travelling magicians would hex him? Probably.

### **He said he was an "honest liar."**

I'm aware how magicians work — they trick your mind and find ways to fool your brain. So when I asked him how he expected women to trust him, he said he was an honest liar. I'm still not exactly sure what that means, even after he explained it, but I know one thing: anyone who labels themselves a liar, no matter the preceding adjective, on a first date is not going on a second one.

### **Magic wasn't just his hobby.**

When I agreed to go on the date, I was kind of under the impression magic was just something he did for fun. Not the case. He performed sold-out shows (which he invited me to, but I would have to buy a ticket). I'm wary of career magicians because I was once made a fool of in front of my high school, so this did not fare well for him. I even inquired how aforementioned magician accomplished the trick (almost making me cry) and Jamie Dornan look-alike refused to tell me.

## **He kept making things disappear!**

OK, making the cork disappear once is cool. Maybe twice is cool. Seventeen times later is just distracting and annoying. Either tell me how you do it or stop, kindly. Oh, you brought a coin to pull from behind my ear? Clever. Never seen that one before.

## **His magic didn't work on me.**

I know I said I was into weird, and I still am. But ultimately, Jamie Dornan look-alike was a *little arrogant* (he knows he's attractive — how could he not?) and a little too into being a magician. It felt more like an interview that didn't produce many answers, instead of a date. We barely talked about anything other than magic, let alone anything about myself. I'm glad I went for the story, but I don't think I will be going on any dates with another magician again.

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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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[magiclondon.brinkster.net](http://magiclondon.brinkster.net)

London Magicians Guild e-mail:  
[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)