



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2017 Volume 12, Issue 9

April's meeting

We had a good number of folks out to the April meeting, including the return of **Andy Parr**. Plus we had a guest – **Kyle Robinson** and his parents. And there was a lot of magic to share.

Jim Atkinson showed **Mark Mason's 21** – where a couple of cards turn into a winning 21 pair with a wave of his hand. He also produced a \$20 bill from between two cards, and also showed off a **Danny Archer** coin index creation for magically producing coins for a *Coin Matrix* effect.

Did you know you could do magic tricks using your IBM membership card? Mark Hogan showed probably every trick possible – including scanning the QR code on the card with his phone to display a selected card! He also showed **Roy Walton's Oil & Queens** and **Paul Gordon's That's Not Possible** impromptu packet tricks.

Mike Fisher did an impressive *Out of This World* effect using **Houdini & Bess** picture cards, then spread some of those cards in a circle, and the one selected by a spectator was the only one that was different! He also performed a fabulous version of the *10 Card Poker Deal* which will be part of his *The Charming Cheat* performances for the *London Fringe Festival*.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, May 10

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: ROUND ROBIN!

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

Kyle Robinson did not let his guest status faze him – he did a nice two card transposition, followed by pulling a scarf through his neck.

Huy Ngoc performed **Garrett Thomas's** *3 Card Monte*, and a very nice presentation of **David Williamson's** impromptu *Coin Matrix*.

Keith O'Brien did a ton: He spun the card box causing the back of a selected card to become out of sorts. He waved a lighter under a business card of stars and the stars formed the name of a selected card – and the name of the spectator! He pushed a card right through another card, then vanished a card box! And using cards he painted a picture of the *Mona Lisa* of her holding a selected card – and also displayed a picture of an X-ray of a human brain with the selected card inside it!

What a great night and what a lot of great magic!

Mark Hogan

May's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, May 10
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253

TOPIC: ROUND ROBIN!

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.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Scared magician accidentally reveals secret to impressive illusion

(pickle.nine.ca)

A magician never reveals his or her secrets...

Unless, of course, they're scared poopless by an errant exploding fire cracker.

This Japanese street magician was wowing passers-by with a pretty sweet illusion - holding a man, he'd previously cut into two equal parts, effortlessly above his head.

The trick was all going to plan, the audience was appropriately dumbfounded, when some joker trotted on in and dropped a string of bungers at the showman's feet.

From there the whole stunt went to hell and the illusion master's biggest secret was revealed.

Behind the fleeing bodies, the clearing smoke, and the Japanese profanity, the support pole and arm used to prop up the split man becomes visible.

The fail has gone viral and has been watched more than 70,000 times on Facebook.

We don't know about you, but we'd say the reveal was better than the illusion itself anyway.

Who knew a bit of scrap metal welded together could create so much magic?

To see the video (and learn the secret), visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/JFOXChannel/videos/1878450425766059/>



Oscar Munoz receiving death threats

(magicdaily.co.uk)

Oscar Munoz is a magician who performs around Texas and around the world. Tuesday he woke up to a phone call where a caller threatened

his life.

"It was really scary when you wake up to a phone call when people say they're going to kill you because of the way you treat people on an airplane," Munoz said.

Munoz shares the same name as the *United Airlines* CEO.

A recent viral video posted to social media shows security officers dragging a bloodied passenger off a United flight on Sunday.

The airline randomly selected four passengers they asked to get off the plane in order to make room for four airline employees who needed to get from Chicago to Louisville.

United Airlines CEO **Oscar Munoz** defended the actions saying the passenger defied security and became disruptive and belligerent.

Back in San Antonio, the other Oscar Munoz has been getting dozens of emails about it from angry people.

"Would you think that the CEO of a major corporation would put his phone number, his personal phone number so you can contact him or his personal email? I kind of doubt it I have yet to find his email because I would like to send him all the emails that I've received on his behalf," San Antonio's Munoz said.



Teaching: Just like performing magic

(TheAtlantic.com)

I asked **Teller**, a former Latin teacher and the silent half of the magical partnership known as **Penn & Teller**, about his years as an educator, and the role performance played in his teaching.

Teller taught high school Latin for six years before he left to pursue a career in magic with Penn, and in the 40 years since, the duo

have won *Emmys*, *Obies*, and *Writer's Guild Awards*, as well as a star on the *Hollywood Walk of Fame*. As our conversation meandered through **Catullus**, **Vergil**, **Shakespeare**, and education theory, he explained why he believes performance is an essential, elemental aspect of effective teaching.

"The first job of a teacher is to make the student fall in love with the subject. That doesn't have to be done by waving your arms and prancing around the classroom; there's all sorts of ways to go at it, but no matter what, you are a symbol of the subject in the students' minds." - Teller

As that symbol, Teller argued, the teacher has a duty to engage, to create romance that can transform apathy into interest, and, if a teacher does her job well, a sort of transference of enthusiasm from teacher to student takes place. The best teachers, Teller contended, find a way to teach content while keeping students interested. "If you don't have both astonishment and content, you have either a technical exercise or you have a lecture."

Romance, argued Teller, precedes all else. "I'm 5'8" and was about 160 pounds those days, so I was not the kind of person who could walk into a room of rowdy kids and [they] would just pay attention to me. What I have, however, is delight. I get excited about things. That is at the root of what you want out of a teacher; a delight in what the subject is, in the operation. That's what affects students."

Once a teacher has sparked romance in students, Teller argued, the rest can follow. It's easy to disregard the entertainment of your students as pandering, but it's not, Teller stressed, citing Frances Ferguson's *The Idea of a Theater: The Art of Drama in Changing Perspective*. "In the art that lasts, there's always a balance: purpose that is action, passion that is feelings, and perception that is intellectual content. In Shakespeare, for example, there is always a level that is just action, showbiz. There is always a level that's strongly passionate, and there's always a level that's got intellectual content."

Some subjects can't be taught without the showbiz, Teller asserted. Teaching **Shakespeare** as a text, before students have seen a production, is the surest route to kill off any enthusiasm for *The Bard*. Students must watch Shakespeare before they read it, he said. "Until you've seen what the idea [of

Shakespeare's work] is, it's really like handing a child an orchestral score and saying, 'Imagine this music.' Well, you can't; you have to be **Mozart** to do that."

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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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