

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2019 Volume 14, Issue 9

April's meeting

April's meeting was all about card forces, as our newest member, **Jason Holmes**, was interested in learning more of them. So out came the Bikes and in no time, the forces were in "full force".

Peter Mennie lead off with his favourite (and the favourite of many in the room), the *Riffle Force*. He also showed everyone's go-to force from the *Hindu Shuffle*. Others that Peter showed included the *Reverse Count*, *Cross-Cut Force*, *Slip Force* (and a variation of it by Jason) and **Bill Simon's Prophecy Move**.

Mark Hogan demonstrated the *Hofzinsler Spread Force* and *Wichita Slip*. He also performed the *Cut Deeper Force*, the *Cut and Flip*, the *Vernon Stripout Addition* and *Topper Force*.

Other forces "forced" their way into the conversation. A spectator inserted a knife into the deck; a deck was cut underneath a handkerchief; a spectator just called out a number from 1 to 52 - and every time the card was forced.

People performed some other tricks as well. **Serge Pereira** performed a nice prediction effect where a freely selected card matched a prediction card! And **Keith O'Brien** didn't disappoint with his *Coin Thru Glass*, and the new *CTC Project* (where a coin penetrates a pop can in the spectator's hand!).

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, MAY 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: COIN MAGIC!

**CRABBY JOE'S (NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!)
276 Dundas Street, London (corner of Dundas &
Wellington)**

When the night was over, it was obvious that “*the Force was with all of us*”! Thanks to all who came out and shared some card forces and effects.

Mark Hogan

May’s Meeting

I

DATE: Wednesday, May 8

TIME: 7:30 PM

**PLACE: CRABBY JOE’S (NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION)
276 Dundas Street, London (corner of Dundas & Wellington)**

TOPIC: COIN MAGIC!

Nothing is more organic than coin magic! Everybody’s got them, and everyone understands them. But what tricks can you do with them?

Get out your change and bring your coin magic to this month’s meeting. We’d love to see it (and try to learn it, too!)

Toonies, nickels, dimes, ... it doesn’t matter the value. What matters is the magic done with them. So if you have some favourite coin magic to share, or want to learn some good coin magic, come on out in May!

NOTE: We are meeting at Crabby Joe’s in downtown London (corner of Dundas & Wellington). *And your first drink is on the club!*

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Magic at the Marienbad (Mike Fisher)

Next month's show is **May 10th**. I will be your charming host for a great evening of magic and comedy. **Todd van Allen** is our stand up comic;

Todd Van Allen is a Toronto-based comedian that has performed in comedy clubs and festivals around the world. His debut stand-up album "Really?" debuted in the Top 5 of the iTunes comedy charts.

Todd has headlined at the *Melbourne Comedy Festival* in Melbourne, Australia, and both the *Edinburgh Fringe Festival* and the *Edinburgh Free Festival*. He has performed at the *Just for Laughs #JFL42 Festival* in Toronto four times, *Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival*, *1000 Islands Comedy Festival* in Gananoque, *WinterCity Festival* in Toronto, the *Orillia Comedy Festival*, *Kinston Summer Festival*, and Gananoque's *Festival of the Islands*.

You can find out more at his website <http://heyitstva.com/bio/>

Peter Mennie is our headliner magician.

Peter Mennie has been performing all over North America for well over 35 years. he is locally known as "*That Magic Guy*" and is a common sight at events and on television in London. However he tours all over North America as *Canada's Clean Comedy Conjuror*. His show is full of hilarious magic and comedy and you'll be entertained like never before. Have a look at his website and you'll see why he's one of the most popular magicians working today.

www.petermennie.ca

REMEMBER THE CODE 2475 gets you \$5 off each ticket!!!! That drops the price to \$15 and is only accepted when you buy online at Eventbrite.com. All tickets at the door are still \$25

TICKET LINK - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/magic-at-the-marienbad-tickets-59695018407>

Don't like sitting in the back? The first 10 tickets sold get reserved VIP seating in the front row!

We are on Facebook!! Please head to *Magic at the Marienbad* on Facebook to see pictures from our past shows, and information on upcoming events. Head to <https://www.facebook.com/MagicMarienbad> and hit that "Like" button!

Thanks again everyone, I hope you all have a magical month.

Mike Fisher

a.k.a. Corbin, the charming cheat

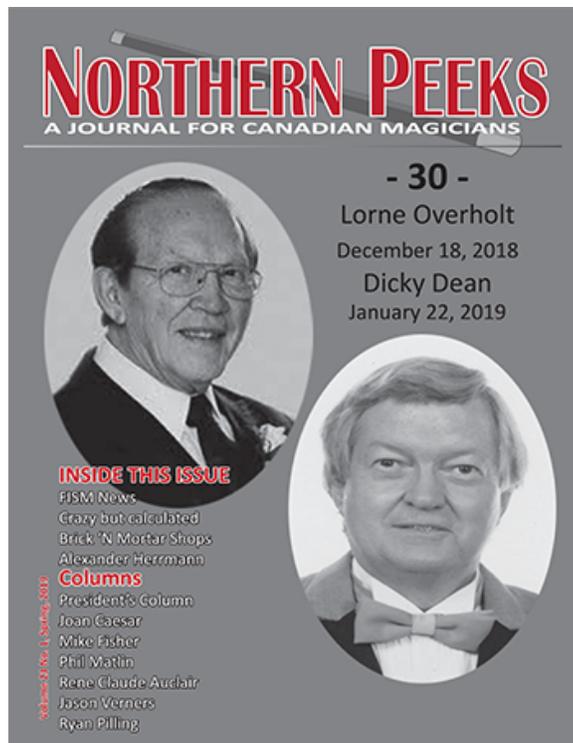
www.charmingcheat.ca

CAM magazine has London content

(CAMMagic.org)

Check out below the current issue of the **Northern Peeks** (the *Canadian Association of Magicians* magazine) to see our dear friends and past *London Magicians Guild* members **Lorne Overholt** and **Dicky Dean** on the cover, and an article on them on the inside.

Plus read an article by our own **Mike Fisher** on the great **Alexander Herrmann**.





Shin Lim's use of YouTube

(Huffington Post – from 2017)

I saw my first magic show when I was 6 years old at a friend's birthday party. While I was easily fooled at that age, I remember not being impressed by the magicians 'tricks.' Now, twenty-something years later, the only moment of magic I witness is when a new episode of *Scandal* is uploaded to Netflix. So when I came across **Shin Lim**, an internet 'sleight of hand artist' (aka magician) with *17.5 million video views*, I wanted to find out how someone practicing an art form I thought was dead, could engage and entertain the easily distracted modern audience. By melding new media, music, and sleight of hand card tricks, Lim, a self taught playing-card fiend, returns simplicity to the spectacle of magic. And if I'm honest, something about his authenticity makes even

skeptical 6-year-old me believe in the wonder of magic - at least for a few minutes.

Shin Lim, a stage name derived from his birth name that roughly translates to "seeking excellence," is the reigning world FISM Close Up Card Champion and is on top of the magic game. A self-proclaimed, "*Sleight of Hand Artist*" Lim admits that he is actually not a magician, or a wizard, and has no intention of lying to the audience. He performs carefully choreographed routines rather than pretending to defy the laws of physics. With speed, finesse, and "how'd he do that" mystery, Shin Lim's tricks enchant not only physical audiences, but digital too.

Lim's journey to the top is one that would not have been possible in the days of **David Copperfield**. Lim is nearly completely self-taught, which is actually pretty rare in the magic community, because his family did not have the means to support his passion for magic. When he was young, all Lim used to learn the fundamental were YouTube tutorials and a deck of playing cards. What sets him apart from many YouTube waters is instead of watching viral cat fails, Lim used the video platform as a pseudo mentor. "YouTube is a wonderful source for self learning. Even though there are many badly made tutorials online, there are good ones too. Having many options to pick from is what gave me the freedom to develop my own opinion," said Lim.

It was Lim's brother that initially peaked his interest in sleight of hand magic by showing him a simple card trick called "[Slip Force](#)." Puzzled by the trick, Lim was simply told to, "go to YouTube and just figure it out." Simple words that sparked his passion. Discovering the trove of tutorials on the

internet, some good and some really not so good, Lim dedicated countless hours to practicing sleight of hand card tricks. And although a less traditional method of learning the craft, it was the one that propelled him to mega-success at such a young age. Lim had (and still has) the power to pull from a community of guides, all over the world. "When you have many choices, you can choose, test [and] then decide. With a mentor, you tend to have only one view. With many 'virtual' mentors available on YouTube, one can choose and combine the various techniques and styles presented. YouTube expands our worldview," Lim said.

It's because of YouTube that Lim was able to find himself as a performer much quicker than his peers. He didn't have to wait for a few scheduled hours a week to be taught the fundamental skills of magic, but could tap into the information whenever he wanted. Proof that the internet is not just a distraction machine, Lim serves as a reminder that we don't have to waste hours online taking quizzes about which emoji most represents our personality, but that we can actually learn something. Who would have thought?

Shin Lim now uses YouTube as a platform to showcase his performances to the world. Lim explains, "some videos of my actual live performances are "proof" to disbelieving observers that my 'moves' are not 'photoshopped' performances."

One of Lim's most popular videos on his channel is his recent tribute to Paris after the attacks this past November, "*Pray for Paris*." Magic isn't the first art form that I would think of as a tribute to the people affected, but, the proof is in the numbers and with 1.17 Million views and over 7,000 likes, the tribute obviously touched people, allowing viewers to feel some magic in a time of tragedy.

Lim explained that magic still has the power to be relevant, "as long as it's presented correctly." Like dancers or actors on a stage, sleight of hand magic uses a simple deck of playing cards as a prop to create art. Really it's the combination of technology and magic allows Lim to be as successful as he is as a modern magician. He suggests that, "technology and knowledge [are] tools. To the ignorant, it is either magic or witchcraft."

The passing of Johnny Thompson and Marshall Brodien

(InsideMagic.com)

We are easily affected by many things. We cry at weddings, movies, supermarket openings. But we were very moved by the passing of **Johnny Thompson** and **Marshall Brodien**. We knew both – although we are sure they didn't know us – and respected each for their incredible contributions to our wonderful art.

We are originally from Chicago and watched Mr. Brodien on the *Bozo Circus* show as *Wizzo the Wizard*. As a young (first very young and then just

younger than we are now), Wizzo was wonderful. It was live television and Mr. Brodien was performing real magic effects for both the studio audience and the kids home for lunch during school days.

Later, Mr. Brodien was seen nationally with his *TV Magic Cards*. Realize we had never seen a *Svengali Deck* before and so Mr. Brodien's commercials were memorized and worshipped. We could not understand how he could pull off the miracles he performed with a simple deck of cards.

We bugged our father for days to take us to Walgreens to purchase the deck. We had saved the money and when we brought it home, it was worth ten times the \$2.95 we paid for it. It was incredible in construction and instruction. Within an hour, we were performing the effect for family and then in our shows at the elementary school we attended. A true miracle.

Johnny Thompson on the other hand, was someone we met before we saw him perform. We were at a convention and he was in the standing room crowd at the back of the room watching the first night's show. We engaged in conversation and we learned he was going to be performing close-up the next day and would be in the closing night's gala show.

Foolishly, we asked if he was nervous. We had no idea we were talking to *the* Johnny Thompson. He thought he would probably not be nervous. He had performed the act so often. We learned that we were both from Chicago and that we shared a love for the Chicago Cubs.

The next day we saw his close-up show and realized we had been talking to a true star. His performance using small balls and a net blew us away. Everything was done slowly and deliberately and honestly. He had a smile that disarmed the fiercest cynics in the crowd. He was your friend showing you something unique that he had come across.

The next night we saw his *The Great Tomsoni* performance with his wife, Pam. We laughed as hard as we had ever laughed whilst watching a magic show. His persona was perfect, Pam as his disinterested assistant was perfect, their interaction was perfect and of course his magic was truly amazing.

We take great joy in watching magic we cannot explain. Mr. Thompson provided much of that type of joy in his close-up and stage show. We could relax and let the magic take over our consciousness. For many of his effects there was no easy explanation but more importantly, we didn't need one. It wasn't important.

We met him many more times over the years; including times at the *Magic Castle* and other conventions. He was the same each time we met. We would introduce ourselves and he would give the impression that he remembered us from some prior meeting. His smile and manner was always so delightful. His skills never diminished nor did our amazement.

To think that both men have passed is devastating. It feels as if an important pillar has been removed from the structure that is our magic world. The art will never be the same.

The Amazing Vito - adding magic to comedy

(YouTube)

Watch one of our own – **Vito D’Amico** – as he adds some magic to his stand-up comedy act:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KCygCKgJPU&feature=youtu.be>

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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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