



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
May 2024

Volume 17, Issue 9

April's meeting

Even though the turnout was a bit lower, April's meeting brought out a new guest – welcome **Sam General!**

Lots of different types of card magic were on display. **Mark Hogan** led off with **Dani DaOrtiz's** "*Business Card Prediction*" where a thought-of card was found in the deck at the place predicted on a group of business card!

Andrew Olmstead performed his take on **Bob Hummer's** fascinating "*Matching the Colours*", where two groups of cards always had the same number of face up and face down cards regardless of how they were mixed! He also taught us the "*Mahatma card control*" which brings a selection to the top.

The legend of "*Soapy Sam*" was told to us by **Scott Hood** in the form of a terrific **Three Card Monte** routine. **Jim Atkinson** did a great card transformation right in the spectator's hands, as well

And card magic wasn't all this night. **Al Coombs**, preparing for the unveiling of "*Dad Magic*" at the *Palace Theatre* next week, brought his entire routine for a practice session – which included his housecoat and pajamas! His performance included an appearing disinfectant bottle; a *McCombial deck* routine, and **Bill Abbott's** "*Socks*" – and lots of Dad jokes! It'll be a great performance at the Palace!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, MAY 8

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: BAR TRICKS!

Location: **CRABBY JOE'S (South London)**
557 Wellington Road (near Commissioners)
(NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!)

Thanks to everyone for coming out and sharing some great coin magic!

Mark Hogan

May's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, MAY 8

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: CRABBY JOE'S (South London)

557 Wellington Road (near Commissioners Road), London

(NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!!)

TOPIC: BAR TRICKS!

We can't meet at the school this month – so why drown our sorrows by meeting at a bar??

And while we're there – why not do some tricks that work well at a bar?? There's lots to choose from - *bar bets*, *close-up*, *restaurant magic*, and tricks that go well with a party crowd or folks that may have had one too many!

Hopefully we'll see you at **Crabby Joe's** (*the Wellington Road South location – near Commissioners Road!!*) ... and bring anything you have that you would perform in a bar!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest

Show #3 at the Palace Theatre

(Mark Hogan)

The last of three public shows being performed by our club was held on Friday, April 19 at the *Procurier Hall* at the *Palace Theatre* on Dundas Street in the Old East Village. There were over 100 people in attendance –and all of them in the mood to see some great magic!

The performers were **Mike Fisher** (**Amazing Corbin**), **Dad Magic** (**Al Coombs**), **Byron Berry**, and **Scott the Magical Guy** (**Scott Hood**). **Kohl Strange** did all the camera work for the event, with **Peter Mennie** doing all the sound and organizing the lighting, with **Mark Hogan** helping backstage.



Mike Fisher (complete with his **Amazing Corbin** ensemble) was the evening's emcee and did a terrific job keeping the audience engaged and laughing throughout the night. He performed many tricks throughout the night, including hula hoops, a **Dr. Jaks** mentalist routine, and even large-scale illusions like a guillotine, and even ended the night with a terrific "*spiky box*" illusion, where his assistant (**Rachelle Goebel**) was stabbed in a box by all the performers, not only to exit the box unscathed, but with a *costume change as well!*

Byron Berry made his stage debut a most memorable one. He included coin appearances, disappearances, *Miser's Dream*, a coin ladder, a bubble gum production and comedy bit – and even *appearing goldfish*! His technical chops were on full display – and his act was worthy of inclusion in any stage competition!

Al Coombs made the debut of his *Dad Magic* persona a memorable event. *Dad* claimed he was not prepared for the show – and came out on stage in his full *Dad Magic* apparel, complete with housecoat and slippers! But that didn't stop him as he wowed the crowd - not only with the appearance of a disinfectant bottle; a great *McCombical Deck* routine and his version of **Bill Abbott's** "*Socks*", but also





with his plethora of great (?) Dad jokes! A terrific debut performance that left the audience in stitches!

Scott the Magical Guy made the trip all the way from Hamilton to be part of the show! The audience loved his very professional, polished and comedic act which included amazing classic routines like a *silk fountain*, *poms-poms*, a *Vanishing Bandana (banana?)* - and ended with an awesome *floating and disappearing table!*

It was going to be a tall order to fill the main Palace Theatre stage, and live up to the first two shows in this three-show series – but this show succeeded in every way. A large number of audience members stayed to talk to the performers, and were seen leaving with huge smiles.

The club can be very proud of the success of these three shows. A big thanks to the performers, the *Palace Theatre*, and everyone working behind the scenes to make all of these shows a success!



Congratulations on putting on a tremendous night of magic!



European FISM 2024 competitors

(FISM Italy 2024)

CLOSE-UP CARD MAGIC

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| AIR ONE | ENRIQUE DE LEON |
| AXEL | ISAAC DECK |
| DANIEL SANCHEZ | MARIO BOVE |
| DAVID BERGER | OSCAR ESCALANTE |
| EMIL | ROBERT SIRGO |
| EMIL SIMONE | ROBIN DEVILLE |

CLOSE-UP MICRO MAGIC

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| ADRIAN VIDELA | MARKUS BILLNER |
| GEORGI EFTIMOV | MATTHIEU HAMAISSI |
| GISELL | MORGAN DE CECCO |
| GONÇALO GIL | RUNE CARLSEN |
| JÖRGEN SONDELL | VOVA |

CLOSE-UP PARLOUR MAGIC

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ADRIAN CARRATALA & KATERINA | MARTIN HANSSON |
| DAVID SHMAGIC | PIERO VENESIA |
| KENNETH | THE MATTER |
| MAGIC JOSE | TONI MITEV |
| MAGIC LUNA | ZAZZA |

STAGE MANIPULATION

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| ADAM KOTINSKY | LEONARDO PANETTI |
| ALEKSANDAR GEORGIEV | MAURICE GRANGE |
| CASSIS | NIKOLAI STRIEBEL |
| G. ALEXANDER | OLIVIER HEINNING |
| JAD | SERGI |

STAGE GENERAL MAGIC

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| ALVARO CORTES | MERVIL |
| BLOOMY | NICK BLAZE |
| CALISTA | NIKOLA ARCANO |
| DANIEL SANKIN | RAPHAEL MACHO |
| DAVID DIAZ | TAYLOR MORGAN |
| FILBERTO SELVI | TIM OELBRANDT |
| FRANKY MATTHEW | TIZIANO CELLAI |
| GONZALO ALBINANA | VADIM GORDEEV & ELENA |
| ILJA ILIN | YANNIS WHY |
| LUKAS KAMINSKI | |

STAGE STAGE ILLUSIONS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| ALBERTO GIORGI | RAUL ALEGRIA |
| COLLIN | STARBOY AYVON |
| NIGEL | |

STAGE MENTAL MAGIC

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| ALEXANDER KRIST | MELLE CAYCE & MR. Z |
| CARLOS RUBIO | NICCOLÒ FONTANA |
| DAMIEN DUBI | RAFFAELE SCIRCOLI |
| DOC 3J | ROBERT SIRGOS |

STAGE COMEDY MAGIC

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| ALICE ECILA | MICHAEL PETRICK |
| ARTEM SHCHUKIN | OLIVIER & LIUBA |
| DAVID SOUSA | PERTO |
| DONG NI & PAUL BORRE | PIERRE SPIRY |
| IGOR & HORSEY | POUBELLE |
| MAGIC MAXL | STARMAN |
| MANOLO COSTA Y MINDANGUILLO | YANN BRIEUC |



Ancen Chen lecture at Browser's Den

(Browser's Den)

DATE: Saturday, May 18

WHERE: Browser's Den of Magic, Toronto

TIME: 6:30pm

COST: \$20

Dear Denizens,

Anson Chen is one of the most sought-after creators in the Asian magic scene, known for his ability to combine Magic, Mentalism, and Hypnosis to create immersive, dream-like experiences for his audiences. Anson is the author of the sold-out book "*Reality is Magic*" which received critical acclaim from some of the biggest names in the magic and mentalism community. He is also the founder of *Blackstone Magic Bar*, and his performances have been seen on stages all over the world, in front of major celebrities, and by millions of viewers online.

The "*Reality Is Magic*" lecture tour is an extension of Anson's book "*Reality Is Magic*". In the lecture, you will learn some of the closely-guarded routines from Anson's personal repertoire. These road-tested effects span everything from close-up magic to parlour magic and even mind-blowing mentalism. Each one has astounded lay audiences and magicians alike across the globe. The lecture goes far beyond just teaching new effects and methods, it is a celebration of our fascinating journey as magicians and a rare chance to view a world in which "real" magic can exist.

What You Will Learn:

- Create a deeper emotional impact with your magic
- Transform tricks into memorable showpieces
- How to structure engaging performances
- How to construct authentic presentations
- Leave your audiences with memories that are impossible to forget
- Make magic REAL for both your audience AND yourself

Featured Effects:

- *Crystallize*: A stunning and deceptive spectator as mind reader effect.
- *Everybody Pays*: A real worker that you will immediately add to your arsenal.
 - *Blindspot*: An expose on attention control with using a single coin.
 - *Cactus*: A hard hitting prediction adaptable to any show environment.
- *Tea Ceremony*: Anson's pet effect that literally elevates the participants' senses.

- *Shadow Play*: A practical haunted deck routine that is ultra visual and super fun to perform.
- *Cassidy on Acid*: Modern touch on a mentalism masterpiece.
- *THOUGHT OF CARDS TRANSPOSITION V2*: An upgraded version for Anson's signature magician fooler.
- And MORE...

To buy a ticket, call the shop (416-783-7022) or [CLICK HERE](#) to use Paypal.

Thanks,
The Jeff's & The Browser's Den Team



Man sells Rolex watch but sleight of hand leaves him with coupons

(ca.news.yahoo.com)

Laurent Mattel recalls his legs turning to jelly when he peered inside an envelope meant to be holding \$15,000 and saw a bundle of flyer clippings instead.

Hours earlier, he had sold his *Rolex Datejust 41* to a man at his home in Blainville, Que., a suburb north of Montreal.

The man known as Marius, at least according to the Facebook profile which would be deactivated shortly after the transaction, had responded to Mattel's ad for the luxury watch on *Facebook Marketplace*.

"He told me he wanted to buy my watch to treat his wife. I didn't suspect a thing," Mattel said in an interview with *Radio-Canada's La Facture* about his experience back in November.

Once in the kitchen, Mattel recalls Marius placing a black pouch on the counter and pulling out a silver envelope with a rubber band around it. He remembers Marius removing the rubber band and handing him the envelope.

"He lets me take out the money and he takes back the envelope. I count out \$15,000 in \$100 bills. I even make little bundles of \$1,000 on the counter," Mattel said.

"Then [Marius] picks up the money and puts it back in the envelope. He puts the rubber band back around the envelope and hands it to me."

With a \$100 bill still visible through the clear window of the envelope, Mattel says he handed the man his Rolex and, after exchanging a few pleasantries, Marius left.

A little while later, Mattel decided to open the envelope again. This time, he realized, it'd been stuffed with a bunch of coupons.

"I came undone. I really felt the heat, thinking to myself, 'I've been had,'" he said.

Mattel had just become the latest victim of a criminal magician or magicians who allegedly committed other similar thefts in the greater Montreal area, Radio-Canada's investigation has found.

The Blainville police, with whom Mattel filed a complaint, would not comment on the case.

So how did the thief manage to leave with Mattel's watch and the \$15,000? Montreal magician **John Vincelli** showed *CBC News* how combining distraction with sleight of hand "is really simple to do."

Vincelli puts his bag on the table, pulls an envelope from it and slides a rubber band off the envelope before handing it over. The seller counts the money in the envelope.

When the seller is satisfied, Vincelli offers to put the rubber band back on the envelope. He takes the envelope from the seller, and then pretends to search for the rubber band. He lifts up his bag, and moves his cell phone — movements that distract.

During that distraction, Vincelli slyly slides the envelope with cash into his bag and slides out an envelope containing playing cards. He puts a rubber band on the decoy, and then adds another element of distraction.

"I will ask you, 'how come you don't want the watch anymore?' as I hand you the envelope. Questions that will make you think of the question and forget what just happened," he said.

After handing the envelope over, Vincelli pretends to make a hasty exit so the buyer is left with nothing but an envelope, a rubber band and a few playing cards.

After contacting the police, Mattel turned to his insurer, *Promutuel*, to file a claim for \$10,000 — the amount covered by his insurance policy in the event of theft of luxury items.

He said 10 days later, a claims adjuster called to say it had been accepted.

But a few days later, *Promutuel* backtracked on its decision.

"I was told that, in the end, the legal department was refusing to pay because I voluntarily handed over my watch," Mattel said, adding he felt crushed by the change of heart.

"I felt like I'd been robbed a second time by my own insurer. If I'd known there were papers in the envelope, would I have handed over my watch? No," he said.

In an email to *Radio-Canada's La Fature*, *Promutuel* said it relies on "insurance case law," which generally states that when an individual hands over property in exchange for a payment that turns out to be false, that person has been the victim of fraud, not theft.

"Generally speaking, home insurance policies will cover theft in the traditional sense. That is, someone breaks into your home and takes your belongings. Fraud is not generally covered," said insurance lawyer **Jacqueline Bissonnette**.

"But in this case, there was no real payment. We're not talking about a forged check or a bank draft that turned out to be fake. That's why I think this case is different. The person has clearly been robbed."

Incidentally, no claims for theft by sleight of hand seem to appear in the case law.

"It's quite unusual, a magic trick like this. I've never seen that in my practice," Bissonnette said.

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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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