

# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
May 2025 Volume 18, Issue 9

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## April's meeting

April's meeting was all about **Closers**. We started the meeting getting responses to "*What makes a good closer?*" Things like level of surprise, size, and emotional reactions were all discussed, with lots of good examples given of closers. And then we saw some great performances of terrific closers.

**Steve Seguin** started the night with a closer he uses, that actually starts earlier in his show. He sets a wall clock to a time no one knows, places the clock in a bag, and gives it to a spectator along with a bell. The spectator can ring the bell anytime during the show, and when it is rung, the time is recorded. At the end of the show, the wall clock is shown to have the recorded time!

**Andrew Olmstead** asked a spectator for a superpower, and concluded that hummingbirds have the most superpowers of all. He then produces an origami hummingbird, gives it to a spectator, and they are able to make it flap its wings!

**Peter Mennie** uses music in three of the closers he has used. While the music was playing, he changed a misprinted handkerchief to say "Thank You". Then he changed two pieces of tissue (one black and one white) into a single black and white striped tissue, and then into a colourful coil which he shaped into a heart! Then he changed two handkerchiefs (one black and one white) into a coloured striped hanky. And finally, he changed two large black handkerchiefs into coloured striped hankies by waving them, and produced a final coloured hanky saying "Thank you".

### Next Meeting:

**Date: WED. MAY 14**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Topic: MAGICIAN FOOLERS!**

**Location: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**

**Mark Hogan** attempted to perform **Dani DaOrtiz's** "*Three Opportunities*", where three spectator's card are found by different ways: a card on box; a torn card transposition; a torn and restored transposition; and a fourth thought-of card! (well, 3 out of 4 for Mark is pretty good!)

**Christopher Campbell** did an escape he came up with as his closer. A new combination was set on a safety belt that was locked over his arms and chest. He was then handcuffed and a face mask was chained and locked over his face and a smoke machine turned on (in his live shows, he uses water) to start flooding the face mask. He escaped from the handcuffs, safety belt, and unlocked the face mask just in time! It was very exciting to witness!!

And **Byron Berry** showed us a great closer using the *Snap deck*. He pulled out pairs of cards and let a spectator reform the cards together and mix them in a variety of ways (including face up and face down), and yet he knew exactly how many cards would be face up. And after removing those cards, the images on the Snap deck cards actually spelled the spectator's name!

Everyone seemed to have a great night showing and talking about Closers! Hopefully we learned some tricks and techniques to improve closers for our performances.

Mark Hogan

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## *May's meeting*

**DATE: Wednesday, May 14**

**TIME: 7:00 PM**

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
Room 253**

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## **TOPIC: *MAGICIAN FOOLERS!***

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If you're hanging with a bunch of magicians, what tricks would you want to show them? Perhaps it's some new trick on the market; maybe it's something that utilizes a gimmick or principle that's not often used; or maybe it's a trick that leads a magician to think they know how it's done, only to be something totally different and fool them badly in the end!

Come out in May and see what "*magician foolers*" we might want to show other magicians if given the chance.

**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)

# News Of Interest

## Complete list of FISM World Championship competitors (FISMItaly2025)

Here is a list of the *2025 FISM Italy competitors* by category:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>CLOSE-UP CARD MAGIC</u></b><br>FR <b>AIR ONE</b><br>TW <b>ALEC</b><br>TW <b>AL CHEN</b><br>DK <b>AUGUSTO AMEN</b><br>DE <b>CHRISTIAN BRANDES</b><br>IT <b>MARIO BOVE</b><br>FR <b>ROBIN DEVILLE</b><br>KR <b>KIMOON DO</b><br>IT <b>FRANCESCO FONTANELLI</b><br>FR <b>MARKOBI</b><br>ES <b>HUGO MAXIMILIANO</b><br>DE <b>TOM MERTEN</b><br>FR <b>BERTRAND MORA</b><br>FR <b>OLMAC</b><br>CH <b>TINO PLAZ</b><br>PT <b>DANIEL PRADO</b><br>US <b>BLAISE SERRA</b><br>AU <b>JOSH STALEY</b><br>US <b>JAMES SWEDYK</b> | <b><u>CLOSE-UP MICRO MAGIC</u></b><br>CL <b>AL PARECER</b><br>DE <b>MARKUS BILLNER</b><br>NO <b>RUNE CARLSEN</b><br>FR <b>MORGAN DE CECCO</b><br>JP <b>GOTAISHI</b><br>PT <b>GONCALO GIL</b><br>JP <b>IBUKI</b><br>KR <b>JIN HYOUG HAN</b><br>AR <b>HERNAN MACCAGNO</b><br>KR <b>DOWON PARK</b><br>ES <b>PERE RAFART</b><br>ES <b>RUBI FEREZ</b><br>DE <b>TOBY RUDOLPH</b><br>SE <b>JÖRGEN SONDELL</b><br>IT <b>STARMAN</b><br>GB <b>THE MAD HATTER</b><br>RU <b>VOVA</b><br>CN <b>JEFFREY WANG</b><br>BG <b>YURIY ZAHARIEV</b><br>CH <b>OMINI &amp; NICO</b> |
| <b><u>CLOSE-UP PARLOR MAGIC</u></b><br>US <b>MICHAEL BLOEMEKE</b><br>TW <b>ERIC CHIEN</b><br>DK <b>MORTENN CHRISTIANSEN</b><br>AT <b>DER EDUARD + DIE QUEEN</b><br>SE <b>MARTIN HANSSON</b><br>GB <b>EDWARD HILSUM</b><br>CA <b>BILLY HSUEH</b><br>JP <b>JONIO</b><br>ES <b>KENNETH</b><br>AT <b>KLAUS WIEDERMANN</b><br>GB <b>MATTHEW LE MOTTEE</b>  | <b><u>STAGE MENTAL MAGIC</u></b><br>AT <b>ANCA &amp; LUCCA</b><br>ES <b>ADRIAN CARRATALA &amp; KATERINA</b><br>IT <b>CHRISTOPHER CASTELLINI</b><br>FR <b>TOM COSS</b><br>FR <b>DOC 3J</b><br>FR <b>DAMIEN DUBI</b><br>IT <b>NICCOLO FONTANA</b><br>IL <b>RAN GAFNER</b><br>BE <b>ALAIN GUERANT</b><br>AR <b>LARRY</b><br>GB <b>MIND2MIND</b>  |

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| <p> <b>ES MAGIC JOSE</b><br/> <b>DE MANUEL MUERTE</b><br/> <b>JP NOJIMA</b><br/> <b>ES JAVI RUFO</b><br/> <b>JP SHO TAKASHIGE</b><br/> <b>HK VINCI TANG</b><br/> <b>JP TOMO</b><br/> <b>IT PIERO VENESIA</b><br/> <b>IT ZAZZA</b> </p>   | <p> <b>ZA BRENDON PEEL</b><br/> <b>MX DR. ROCH</b><br/> <b>FR BENOIT ROSEMONT</b><br/> <b>ES CARLOS RUBIO</b><br/> <b>IT RAFFAELE SCIRCOLI</b> </p>   |
| <p><b><u>STAGE MANIPULATION</u></b></p> <p> <b>IL DAVID BEN MAGIC</b><br/> <b>IT FRANCESCO DELLA BONA</b><br/> <b>GE SERGI DOLIDZE</b><br/> <b>VE WINSTON FUENMAYOR</b><br/> <b>FR MAURICE GRANGE</b><br/> <b>NL OLIVIER HENNING</b><br/> <b>TW SHIFU HUANG</b><br/> <b>TW YU-CHUN HSIEH</b><br/> <b>JP MASATAKA JIMBO</b><br/> <b>FR JAD</b><br/> <b>FI HANNU JUNTUNEN</b><br/> <b>KR HO JUNG</b><br/> <b>KR CHEOLGYU KIM</b><br/> <b>FR ROMAIN LEKIEFFRE</b><br/> <b>TW ANSON LEE</b><br/> <b>US LAYLA</b><br/> <b>ES CHARLIE MAG</b><br/> <b>TH MILL NATHAN</b><br/> <b>SI NIKY NIXON</b><br/> <b>ES JAVI RUFO</b><br/> <b>CH RAFAEL SCHOLTEN</b><br/> <b>RU ALAIN SIMONOV</b><br/> <b>CL PEDRO TOLEDO</b><br/> <b>HK TSIAO YANG</b><br/> <b>TW LI YIDONG</b><br/> <b>JP WANABE KO</b><br/> <b>KR WOOKIE</b><br/> <b>KR YOON JAESEOB</b> </p> | <p><b><u>STAGE GENERAL MAGIC</u></b></p> <p> <b>RO ANDREI BABICI</b><br/> <b>TH BATT MAGIC</b><br/> <b>IT NICK BLAZE</b><br/> <b>DE LUKAS BRANDL</b><br/> <b>ES SERGI BUKA</b><br/> <b>FR CALISTA</b><br/> <b>IT TIZIANO CELLAI</b><br/> <b>HK KELVIN CHEUNG</b><br/> <b>TW CHUNG YAO</b><br/> <b>ES JUAN COLAS</b><br/> <b>ES ALVARO CORTES</b><br/> <b>RO EDUARD</b><br/> <b>DE JAANA FELICITAS</b><br/> <b>RU ILIA &amp; ARINA</b><br/> <b>JP MASAYA</b><br/> <b>BR EVERTON MACHADO</b><br/> <b>AT RAPHAEL MACHO</b><br/> <b>FR MERVIL</b><br/> <b>CH MELLOW</b><br/> <b>GB TAYLOR MORGAN</b><br/> <b>DE MAX MUTO</b><br/> <b>KR DOWON PARK</b><br/> <b>MO KEYRO PUN</b><br/> <b>KR READ CHANG</b><br/> <b>DE LUCAS KAMINSKI</b><br/> <b>FR LEA KYLE</b><br/> <b>DE DANIEL SANKIN</b><br/> <b>IT FILIBERTO SELVI</b><br/> <b>DE NIKOLAI STRIEBEL</b><br/> <b>PE BRUNO TARNECCI</b><br/> <b>BE TIM OELBRANDT</b><br/> <b>KR JERRY WOO</b><br/> <b>JP WESSY</b> </p> |

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|  | CN <b>JOHN ZHANG</b><br>CN <b>ZHAO YUJIA</b><br>KR <b>JORDAN K</b>   |
| <b><u>STAGE ILLUSIONS</u></b><br>IT <b>ALBERTO GIORGI &amp; LAURA</b><br>DE <b>ALEXANDER KRIST</b><br>FR <b>DANI LARY</b><br>ES <b>MAG EDGARD</b><br>ES <b>MAG MARIN</b><br>GB <b>HARRY MERLIN PIPER</b><br>NL <b>NIGEL</b><br>US <b>ALEX RAMON</b><br>ES <b>YUNKE</b> | <b><u>STAGE COMEDY MAGIC</u></b><br>FR <b>ANTIOCHE &amp; ZEGORA</b><br>ES <b>PAU BORRELL</b><br>ES <b>MANOLO COSTA Y</b><br><b>MINDANGUILLO</b><br>IT <b>DISGUIDO</b><br>BE <b>DOBLE MANDOBLE</b><br>ES <b>MAGIC JOSE</b><br>DE <b>MAGIC MAXL</b><br>BR <b>BRUNO MARIOTTI</b><br>RU <b>ARTEM SHCHUKIN</b><br>PT <b>DAVID SOUSA</b><br>FR <b>YANNIS WHY</b> |

There are also 35 competitors in the *Invention Award*, including **Billy Hsueh** from Canada!

For more information, visit <https://www.FISMIItaly2025.com>

## 2025 Penguin Magic Awards

(PenguinMagic.com)

Here is a list of the nominees (and winners) in 4 separate categories for this year's *Penguin Magic Awards*, along with links to see each of the tricks.

Awards for the final 4 categories will be listed in next month's newsletter.

### **Book of the Year**

**The Green Neck System 2 by Gabriel Werlen** - Gabriel Werlen teaches you an amazing principle that you'll be able to use to perform a whole host of stunning magic and mentalism routines.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20267>

**How to Win by Jon Armstrong** - Jon Armstrong shares thoughts, theories and techniques to make your stand-up magic capable of winning over even the toughest of crowds.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/21132>

**Outnumbered by John Bannon** - A collection of 6 miracles with such diabolical methods, EVEN YOU won't quite know how they work!! John Bannon is the king of trick design, and this proves it.. again.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20300>

**WINNER - The Particle System by Joshua Jay** - Joshua Jay's groundbreaking contribution to the world of memorized deck magic.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/21133>

**Stairway by Markobi** - The tricks, techniques and mindset of a champion magician. One of the most anticipated books of the decade.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20542>

### **Close Up Trick of the Year**

**Ishihara Test by Liam Levanon** - They see 5 cards, front and back. They're all CLEARLY grey. After a "color-blindness test", somehow they can finally see their super bright colors. Everything is examinable!  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20004>

**WINNER - Liquify by Tobias Dostal** - Melt an ordinary ring into a pool of LIQUID METAL. The illusion is PERFECT. The reactions are INSANE.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20203>

**Missing Finger by Mario Lopez** - Remove the middle of your finger and put it back with this shockingly visual effect!  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20696>

**Omni Air by Victor Sanz** - The perfect opener! Solid through solid in FULL VIEW. Everything is CLEARLY visible. The best part? It's all built into a regular deck of cards you can use for your next trick!  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20119>

**Rattle Dice by Alex Latorre** - The strongest audio illusion we've ever seen. Or heard! A set of dice designed to fool the senses, teleporting, vanishing and appearing in ways that are IMPOSSIBLE with sleight of hand.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20050>



## **Technology Trick of the Year**

**Airport by Seth Race** - Perform appearances, vanishes and transpositions with your earbuds. Comes complete with EVERYTHING you need.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/19525>

**Espionage by Iarvel Magic** - The best "which hand" electronic device on the market. The smallest, most practical AND most reliable.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/19896>

**WINNER - Inverto by Liam Levanon** - Invert space and FREEZE TIME leaving your spectator holding an impossible souvenir of the EXACT MOMENT you changed their reality.

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/19419>

**Screen Test by Judah Gabriel** - The holy grail of mentalism. Reveal a freely thought-of movie and a thought-of word with no gimmicks or fishing!

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20433>

**Wonder Orchestra 2.0 by King of Magic** - This new gadget from Japan is the PERFECT dinner trick. Make music with glasses! Your hand is empty the whole time!

<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20226>

## **Parlor Trick of the Year**

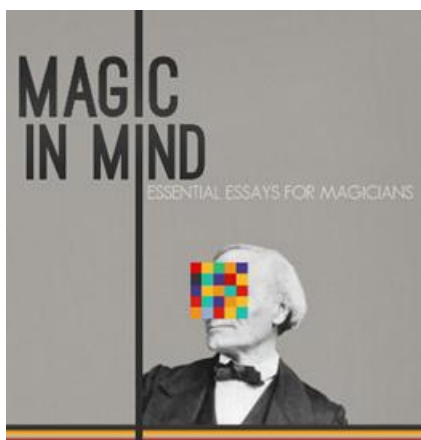
**WINNER - Big Headline by Dave Kaplan** - A torn and restored newspaper becomes giant and then ends with an impossible transformation of a person! This illusion fills the biggest stages and still fits in your pocket.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20397>

**Dream Table PRO by Gonçalo Gil produced by Gee Magic** - A table that will allow you to switch 4 objects without touching them.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20574>

**PRIME BOX by George Iglesias & Twister Magic** - A portable magic apparatus disguise as a shipping box that will allow you to perform not only great effects but solid and powerful routines!  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/19634>

**Stitch by Titanas** - The moment you remove your finger, jaws will drop. The best finger chopping illusion we've ever seen. Easy to do (you don't need to be super flexible) and everything is examinable!  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20371>

**The Eye by Rocco Kult** - Pop your eyeball out and put it in YOUR MOUTH. Engineered to perfection, and very practical. 3 effects taught.  
<https://www.penguinmagic.com/p/20454>



### **An excerpt from *Magic in Mind: The Illusion of Impossibility*** (*Magic in Mind*)

A few years ago, **Joshua Jay** and **Andy Gladwin** from *Vanishing Inc.* released a collection of essays from some of the world's most famous magicians, called "*Magic in Mind: Essential Essays for Magicians*".

Here is an excerpt from one of those essays:

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## SPECTATORS

I have always liked to analyze the different reactions among audiences in an attempt to understand how to gear myself to each particular situation. I have been doing this for many years and, I must confess, although I can clearly differentiate reactions, I cannot find definitive answers to the question. There exists a range of audiences with different reactions, interminable gray areas that make up the psychology of the people that pay (or don't pay) to see us. Some audiences are irritated at not being able to rationalize the subtle deceit while others enjoy allowing themselves to be fooled.

Trying to find answers and simplify my task, I have eliminated the audiences who fall into the middle "gray" area and instead concentrate on the spectators at one extreme: the ones that cannot (or don't want to) let go of rationality. Among these rational ones, I have observed two main types: those who are irritated and complain about not being able to "let go of their rationalizing," and those who come to my show without any other motive than to solve the puzzle.

There are audiences that express challenge to the magician, as if ready to discover the secret, refusing defiantly to be fooled, to see the artist as an opponent that is challenging them: "If you figure out the trick, you win. If you don't, I win. I ask them, "Do you want to kill your own illusion? Big mistake. Have you come to enjoy the tenderness of the marionette or to discover the strings that give it life?".

If books are written about how to enjoy music, I want to mention something about how to enjoy illusion: get rid of any preconceptions and sit back in your chair. Enjoy total relaxation which will permit the performer to communicate amiably. This posture allows you to hear his words more clearly, enabling you to savor the pauses. Your eyes will permit the enjoyment of the effect. Try to enjoy as a child, knowing what you know as an adult.

The most sophisticated audiences that I have been fortunate to perform for are not doubters, but those with special expectations who seem to say: "We don't want to know how you do it, thank you! We want to be children again." The powerful effect of excellent illusions artistically performed by an artist can last for years.

*Rene Levand*  
*The Mysteries of My Life, 1998*

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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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