



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2007

Volume 3, Issue 3

October's meeting

October's meeting was a real treat as we were lead in a card workshop by Derick Finn from the Caesar Hat & Wand Magic Circle in Kitchener!

Derick started the evening by presenting his entire card routine from start to finish, so we could get a spectator's viewpoint of the complete routine. First, he performed a packet trick called "Cascade", where 5 identical cards turned into different cards – all with different backs!

He then found the four Aces (magically, of course!) and presented Dai Vernon's "Twisting the Aces". After loosing the Aces into the pack, Edna Scott was called up to help Derick with his next effect – Steve Beam's "Quad Prediction" – where four prediction cards are used as indexes to find the Aces!

Derick then presented a neat twist on the "Last Trick of Dr. Daley", using a poker chip to keep track of the read and black cards – which of course trade places!

He ended his routine with an excellent presentation of Harry Lorraine's "Out of This Universe", where Edna dealt the deck randomly into 3 piles – but one pile had all red

cards; one had all black; and the third had an equal number of red and black!

Following the workshop, Derick walked us through each effect and helped us all with the required sleights. He hopped from table to table, spending time and helping each person as they needed it.

In the end, we all walked away with exciting, useful material that we can all perform.

Thanks, Derick!

Next Meeting: (Bring a deck of cards!)

**Wednesday, November 14
7:00PM**

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

**Topic: JUGGLING WORKSHOP
with STEVE SEGUIN!**

**Tickets for Ryan Joyce
illusion show FREE to club
members!**

See next page for details!

Membership has its privileges!

Club members who have paid their 2007-2008 dues may get up to 2 FREE tickets for the Ryan Joyce illusion show on Sunday, November 18 at Centennial Hall in London.

For tickets, contact Mike Fisher at amazingcorbin@execulink.com

(And many thanks to Ryan Joyce and Timothy Drake for supplying these tickets for our members!)

November's Meeting

DATE: Wed., November 14
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
Room 253

Topic: JUGGLING WORKSHOP
with STEVE SEGUIN!

Now for something a little different! Our past prez Steve Seguin is also an honoured member of the Western Juggling Club, and will lead us in a workshop on juggling!

Bring some juggling balls if you have them, or get 3 hackysack balls from a dollar store. Some balls will be available at the meeting for those who have none.

P.S. If their web site is correct, Steve holds the Western Juggling club record for juggling 3 balls while hanging upside down (15 seconds!)

Check out the Western Juggling club's website:

<http://www.usc.uwo.ca/clubs/jugglers/>

News Of Interest



Magic
show at
JLC in
January???

DAVID COPPERFIELD: AN INTIMATE EVENING OF GRAND ILLUSION was to be appearing at the John Labatt Centre in January 2008.

However, David's now being investigated by the FBI – so all future shows are in doubt. He has already cancelled upcoming shows in southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia; Singapore and Thailand). The JLC web site has removed all references to his upcoming show.

Quite the disappearing act!!

Who's Where?

Here's a rundown of professional club members appearing in our area:

Peter Mennie

Fri. evenings: Bernie's Bar & Grill

Sat. noon: Joe Cool's

Sat. evening: Kelsey's (Woodstock)

Sundays: Boston Pizza

(Wonderland South)

Mike Fisher

Kid's Fair – Western Fairgrounds
(November)

Please let us know where you are publicly performing!!

11th Annual Motor City Convention Nov. 9-11

This year's Motor City Convention will take place Nov. 9-11 in Taylor, Michigan. All events take place at the Ramada Inn in Taylor, 4 miles from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

This year's featured performers: David Acer will leave you in stitches with his combination of great magic and comedy. John Armstrong, Magic Castle Close-Up Magician Of The Year, will dazzle you with his outstanding card magic. Diamond Jim Tyler has received awards from The Texas Association of Magicians and the International Brotherhood of Magicians. John Rogers, Mr. Wooden Cigars, has some very diversified magic that you will enjoy watching and learning.

As a special surprise, Aldo Colombini will be presenting his lecture on Sunday afternoon. The economy in Michigan has not been the greatest. In an effort to try and offset this in a very minor way, the Colombini lecture will be free of charge to anyone who wishes to attend.

For more information, visit <http://www.johnlukamagic.com>.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks! Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to: magic_london@yahoo.ca

Upcoming area lectures

Toronto Hat & Rabbit Club:

Charles Gucci workshop
Sat. November 10 1-5 pm
(\$100)

Charles Gucci lecture
Sunday, November 11 2-4 pm
(\$15 London club members;
\$25 non-members)

For more information, contact Chris Harvison at:

chrisharvison@hotmail.com.



How to copy other performers effectively

(From a series of articles from Quentin Reynolds)

There is a great dilemma in magic. We are told to be ourselves, be original and develop our own material. We are told not to copy others or use their material without permission. Yet as humans, we learn by imitation or modelling others. It is our nature. So, how do we reconcile the contradiction?

First let me say that over the centuries magic has evolved and each generation adds something new to the pot. To ignore this knowledge and experience would be plain silly.

I suggest that we, as magicians usually copy and imitate the wrong things. We copy other magicians' tricks, routines and lines. Watch a magic club close-up competition. You can tell the performers who have learnt their routines from DVDs. They will present each effect in the style of the performer they learnt it from.

So what should we be copying? We should look deeper at each performer we admire and ask ourselves what qualities they are bringing to their performance and how can we duplicate those qualities in our own routines. I'll give you two examples.

In the mid-1980's I saw ventriloquist Ron Lucas perform a routine where his naked hands talked to each other. Each hand had its own personality and the routine was very entertaining. Suddenly, Ron holds his hands with flat palms facing the audience and went silent. The two hand characters were gone and we the audience realized that we had been drawn into Ron's magical world but were now back into reality. That moment, made us realize just how strong the illusion had been.

I wanted to create a similar type of moment in my own show. In my Five Minutes With A Pocket Handkerchief routine, the hanky evolves into a mouse, which becomes animated and goes out of control. After a minute of this, I grab his head and tail, stretching them out and suddenly, the mouse is gone and I'm left with just a handkerchief. Like with Ron Lucas, there is stunned silence for a moment as the audience realizes what's happened.

In Arnold Furst's review of the Dante Show, he describes Dante's overture and opening. A sequence of curtains open in turn, each revealing some new scenery, assistants or setting, until eventually Dante appears. When I did two week theatre runs at Christmas in Dublin, I wanted a similar style of opening. However the theatre only held 220, and had just front curtains and stage backdrop.

It did have two sets of front of house lights - one set on a dimmer and the other with an on/off switch. There was also a mirror ball. For the overture I used the famous Can Can music from Orpheus in the Underworld. This music besides being bright and energetic has three peaks. On the first peak the main lights went out eliciting an audible reaction from the audience. On the next peak, the house lights dimmed to out. Another gasp! On the third two mini-spotlights hit the mirror ball, getting another reaction.

While I didn't achieve Dante's opening, it inspired a strong opening with the facilities available.

These are the kind of things that are worth copying and the best place to look is not other magicians but other performers like comedians and singers.

© 2006 Quentin Reynolds. Quentin Reynolds works as both magician and speaker.

You can read about one of his programs at <http://www.speakingschools.com> and for the mentalist visit <http://www.TheShielsEffect.com>