



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
November 2010

Volume 6, Issue 3

## October's meeting

This month we had Mark Hogan presenting what he called "Just Do it!" – a number of effects in his collection of books and videos that he passed over at first glance for some reason, but saw it differently after a second review.

First off was Mental Credit, a Rickard Mark effect where a spectator's credit card trades places with the performer's Air Miles card in separate envelopes! Mark's version of Jay Sankey's Mona Lisa was next, where folded papers were moved around the table at random, and when stopped and unfolded showed the image of Marilyn Monroe!

There were card tricks a plenty – many from Richard Sanders. SynchronAceity had Mark trying to synchronize with a spectator, and both end up finding the four aces! Also on display was Biddle Aces - a MacDonald Aces-type routine with only one sleight and no gimmicks! He also showed Discovered – a "select a card and I'll find it" effect that's a real fooler!

Mark was concerned during IQ Test of Ron Keller's eye sight, so he gave Ron an impromptu "eye exam" and learned the word Ron was thinking of! He followed that with a Lee Earle book test, and a unique version of the classic Clock card effect called O'Thoughts, performed without the clock and done blindfolded!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 10 7:30PM

Topic: ESCAPES!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

Up next was another Jay Sankey effect- Color Blind – where envelopes containing different coloured papers were mixed, and yet a spectator could find the envelope containing the colour thought of by a second spectator! He ended the night with a Premonition effect made from routines by Richard Mark and Ted Lesley - A freely chosen “thought of” card is the only one missing from a deck, and is found as the only card in a deck with a different coloured back!

This night had all the makings of a train wreck, as this was Mark’s first public attempt at all of these effects! But aside from some less-than-perfect instructions from Mark to a spectator that required a second take on one effect, everything went without a hitch! Mark also tried to give reasons why he passed over these effects the first time, and why they were worth a second look.

Thanks to all who came out. The lesson for the night: When you see an effect that might be worth it – Just Do It!

Mark Hogan

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## October’s Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 13  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
PLACE: Beal Secondary School  
T-253

Topic: ESCAPES!

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Time to “break out” from your old routines – and just escape!

Steve Seguin will lead us in a teach-in session on Tony Clarke’s rope-tie. That will be followed by the rest of us, showing any escapes you know. These can be with ropes, chains, handcuffs ... we want to see anything you can get out of (and especially ones you can’t!).

So “buckle up”, come out, bring your own escapes and “tie one on”! (OK – I’ll stop now.)

# News Of Interest

## Doug Henning's family vanishes from Walk of Fame list

(Curtis Rush, The Star)

Doug Henning, the Canadian magician and international performer who died 10 years ago, was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame on the weekend, yet no one from the family attended the event.

His widow wasn't there, nor were his two sisters.

They say they weren't invited to the tribute Saturday afternoon or the gala that night.



Henning's widow, Debby, who lives in the United States, said she was disappointed no one tried to contact her from the Walk of Fame.

"Doug would have been disappointed, too," she said.

Henning died of liver failure in 2000. He was 52.

Henning's sister, Nancy, who lives in Western Canada, said she would have loved to have taken her son to the event because he was only 13 when Henning died and never got a chance to see him perform live.

"I would have liked for my son to be there," Nancy said. "His uncle was a big deal to him."

She said she was contacted by the Walk of Fame a few months ago, but only to ask if she would agree to have her phone number given out to the media. One person called.

Nancy said she later tried phoning and emailing Walk of Fame officials to find more information, but couldn't get through.

"I waited and waited and didn't hear anything," she said.

## Shrine Fantasy Show in London

Last month we noted that the Murray Hatfiled Magic 'N Miracles Tour will not be coming to London.



But we just noticed that the Shrine Fantasy Show will be in London on Friday, November 26 at 7:30 PM at SIR FREDERICK BANTING SECONDARY SCHOOL, 125 SHERWOOD FOREST SQ.

### The Show

**DICK JOINER**

Veteran of theatre & cabaret

**MAJINX**

Canadian Champions of Magic

**JOHN PARK**

Juggling Sensation

**KEVIN KLINE**

Performer the world over

For tickets, visit <http://www.shrinefantasyshow.com>.

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)

## New Exhibition & Broken Wand Ceremony for Houdini

(Edmon J. Rodman, JTA.org)

On Halloween, the anniversary of his death, Harry Houdini will be back on stage

The Jewish Museum in New York is opening a new exhibition, "Houdini: Art and Magic," on Oct. 29, and curator Brooke Kamin Rapaport says the entrance gallery will feature a replica stage projecting a life-size image of the great Jewish magician performing his water torture act.



It's a new way to keep alive the memory of Houdini, joining an annual seance that seeks to contact the daring escape artist and a graveside ceremony for a man who was called "The World's Handcuff King and Prison Breaker" and the "Justly World-Famous Self-Liberator."

Also on display will be works by artists influenced by Houdini and magic apparatus he made famous: handcuffs, shackles, a straitjacket, a milk can and a packing trunk, as well as a re-creation of the famous Water Torture Cell.

Included, too, are everyday objects like those used in the East India Needle Threading Trick, where Houdini would swallow needles and thread before slowly pulling the line from his mouth with the needles threaded on it.

After Halloween, another participant on The Jewish Museum's panel discussion, magician George Schindler will be among several magicians paying their respects at Houdini's grave at the Machpelah Cemetery in the Queens borough of New York City. Houdini is interred there in a bronze casket created for his buried-alive stunt.

Schindler, the dean of the Society of American Magicians, and the others at the cemetery will be remembering Houdini at a ceremony that includes Hebrew prayer.

"We used to perform the ceremony on Halloween, but it became too much of a zoo," he said. "So we moved it to the Hebrew date of his death. This year the dates coincide, so we are doing it on the day he was buried, Nov. 4."

Schindler and members of his society informally take care of the Houdini grave site. "We clean it up, clearing it of playing cards, handcuffs, coins," he said.

Schindler noted that in the "broken wand ceremony" the magicians hold for Houdini, the wand, broken in the silence of the cemetery, symbolizes the magician's death.

"Upon his death, his wife, Bess, left \$1,000 to the magicians' society for a Houdini Fund," Schindler said.

"The fund, now around \$300,000, is used to support magicians who have fallen ill or who have been injured. It covers expenses not normally covered by insurance like wheelchairs, nurses and comfort assistance."

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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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