



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
November 2011  
Volume 7, Issue 3

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## October's meeting

A few old friends were back this evening as we welcomed the International street entertainer of the year and Magic Circle Close-up champion, England via Michigan's own Keith Fields.

Keith started with a "little bit" of hat juggling, then launched into his trademark chop cup and ball routine, which ended with a surprise load of two lemons, a coconut and a pineapple!

Keith then causes a signed bill to disappear inside a hanky being held by a spectator, only to be found inside a salt shaker being held by someone in the audience! He also performed Running the Numbers - a book test where he got 3 out of 4 page numbers seen by spectators (not bad!), and even though the last number was wrong, the bookmark showed how many numbers Keith was off!

After a quick break, Keith performed another of his trademark effects – the Human Xylophone. A prediction effect was next, where Keith showed a prediction (in Chinese) of a spectator's thought-of Chinese dinner – which transformed into a menu and a number which pointed to the chosen dinner!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 9 7:30PM

Topic: LECTURE by Marsha Bergeron!

Beal Secondary School  
525 Dundas Street, London  
T-253

A terrific Ambitious Card routine (Blind Ambition) utilized a blank deck and simplified the moves for a very entertaining routine, which the spectator's signed card ending up inside a zippered wallet! Triangle of Terror was indeed terrifying for those in the front row, as Keith spun a triangle on a chain balancing on open cup of water!

And he ended the evening with Spot Paddles, Keith's own enjoyable routine incorporating the paddle move.

Keith could have gone on for hours (and we wish he had more time to do just that!). He was wonderfully funny and truly entertaining, and his magic was top notch! It was a tremendous event and we hope Keith comes back soon!

Mark Hogan

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# Making Your Patter Magical!

This is a unique opportunity to learn communication tips and techniques to turn your next performance into an incredible experience!

Have you had a show where your audience just did not connect with you? Spectators busy talking amongst themselves? Kids more interested in what's going on outside? People asking you to repeat what you just said?

Too often a performer focuses only on what he does and not on what he says or how he says it! If you can't communicate effectively, even the most incredible performance can be lost!

Join the London Magicians Guild on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30pm for this informative, educational lecture by award winning speaker Marsha Bergeron from Toastmasters International.

After the lecture, participants will be able to demonstrate techniques discussed and be evaluated by Ms. Bergeron.

Marsha Bergeron is a dynamic workshop facilitator, trainer and award winning speaker. Marsha has developed and facilitated workshops aimed at empowering people to excel in their roles. Marsha is a strong organizer and planner who is creative and innovative. Marsha has honed her communication

and leadership skills through Toastmasters International. She is the current Area Governor for Toastmasters International are 73, district 86.

## News Of Interest

**BOOM** 7  
BATTLE OF ONTARIO MAGICIANS

CLOSE-UP AND RESTAURANT MAGICIANS

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2011 AT 4 PM

THE EMBASSY  
56 KING ST. NORTH  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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HOSTED BY:  
*Kind of Magic*

WWW.BATTLEOFONTARIOMAGICIANS.COM

Okay - it's not really a battle but a fun night of supporting fellow magicians.

- Is your family losing interest in watching your latest magic trick ?
- Are you looking for a new Audience or your first Audience?

- Do you just want to come out and watch some GREAT magic ?

We want to see you at the Battle of Ontario Magicians on Sunday, November 6 at 4pm at The Embassy (56 King St. North, Waterloo).

Ticket Price \$5/person - Food and Drink are extra (No purchase is necessary)

This BOOM will be a little different, in the past we have always catered to parlour and stage magic, this BOOM is for the close-up worker.

We will open the doors to the restaurant at 4PM. At 4:15, Magicians will be strolling around the restaurant and approaching your table (or bar area) asking if you would like to see some entertainment. Each magician will have a 5-8 minute routine to show you.

Now this is a contest, so each spectator will be asked to rate the magician based on the entertainment value you received. Your scores will determine the BOOM VII winner.

To perform contact Phil at 519 342-5584. All are welcome - pros and hobbyists - all ages. Come show us what you've got!

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)

QUESTION: Want to know what Keith Fields (our October lecturer) is up to in November? (ANSWER: See the next page!)



# LAUGHTER ON THE NIGHT AFTER

A NIGHT OF COMEDY, MAGIC AND MUSIC!

STARRING DETROIT COMEDIAN BILLY RAY BAUER  
THE U.K.'S MANIC MAGICIAN KEITH FIELDS AND  
THE LEGENDARY GEORGE BROTHERS BAND

IT'S AN ALL AGES SHOW SO BRING THE KIDS OR GRANDMA AND  
GRANDPA OR YOUR NEIGHBORS OR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LAUGH  
OFF THEIR HOLIDAY FEAST

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH  
THE VILLAGE THEATRE

SHOWTIME 8PM

50400 CHERRY HILL RD.  
CANTON, MI. 48187

## The Legendary George Brothers Band



### Ticket Prices:

Adults(18-54)	\$20
Seniors(55+)	\$15
Children(under 18)	\$15

Tickets may be purchased at the  
box office with credit card at  
734-394-5460 EXT 0

A portion of the proceeds goes to Great Lakes Burn Camp

Great Lakes  
**BURN CAMP**

## Michael Weber lecture in Toronto - November 3rd

The Sid Lorriane Hat & Rabbit Club (I.B.M. Ring #17) is hosting a lecture by Michael Weber on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00pm at St. Leonard's Church, 25 Wanless Avenue, Toronto.

Admission is \$20 for guests, but only \$15 for I.B.M. club members!

Michael Weber is a master of deception; infinitely creative and diabolically clever. His ability to pick up anything off of a table and perform miracles that are (apparently) completely impromptu is legendary. His company Deceptive Practices (co-founded with Ricky Jay) has created magic and special effects for projects like Forest Gump, The Illusionist and The Prestige.

You can buy tickets ahead of time:

visit: [http://ibmring17.com/Ring17/?page\\_id=126](http://ibmring17.com/Ring17/?page_id=126)

## Greg Frewin - "It's all about theatre"

(Tony Lofaro - Ottawa Citizen)

Greg Frewin got his first magic kit when he was seven years old. It was nothing fancy, just a bunch of simple magic tricks, a magic hat and other paraphernalia to instruct budding magicians about the art of magic. His parents ordered the kit after he saw it advertised on television. Frewin spent hours entertaining his friends in his hometown of Hamilton.

But it wasn't until he was 12 and his grandfather took him to Toronto to see Canadian magician Doug Henning that Frewin truly became spellbound.

"Doug had a big illusion show, and after seeing that show, I told my grandfather that's what I want to do, I want to be a magician," said Frewin, 44, in a telephone interview from Niagara Falls, Ont., where he lives and performs. He performs here Friday and Saturday at the Théâtre du Casino du Lac-Leamy.

"Up until that point I had never seen a magician do a full, big illusion show on stage. For the most part I had seen the magic tricks my grandfather had shown me and what was in the magic kit. When I saw Henning's show it was a whole new world. I didn't know it was something that people did.

"Doug as a performer was very light and airy, and very happy. The show was very energetic and I just remember it just being an amazing show. So, at a young age I just fell in love with the whole theatrical side of magic."

Henning was probably Canada's best-known magician at the time. After starting out in Toronto, he made his mark on Broadway with a theatrical show that ran for four years, earning a Tony Award nomination. He starred in many TV

specials, became interested in transcendental meditation, and even ran as a Natural Law Party candidate in the 1993 federal election. He died in 2000 of liver cancer.

Frewin said building his magic credentials was a slow process.

He joined local magic clubs and studied everything he could find on magic. He was frustrated by the lack of information - unlike today, when the Internet is rife with information, illustrations and videos on all aspects of magic. Frewin went to college and studied wood shop, machining and theatre, all of which served him well as he developed his magic career.

And it has paid off. In the 20 years he's been perfecting his craft, Frewin has appeared in dozens of countries, hosted his own TV specials on NBC, ABC and CBC, and performed in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. He was named "Magician of the Year" at the World Magic Awards in 2009 and has been ranked as the "International Grand Champion of Magic" due to his many awards.

He currently performs about 250 shows a year at the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls, Ont., a 700-seat dinner-theatre that opened in 2005. The show he will perform at the Theatre du Casino du Lac-Leamy is essentially the same show. And using his woodworking background, he built about 90 per cent of the props in the show himself, said Frewin.

The 90-minute show has more than a dozen illusions and magic tricks, and includes several animals performing on stage as well as an audience participation segment. Frewin said he will also perform an original magic routine featuring photographs from the last deck of cards owned by famed magician Harry Houdini.

"It's an interesting routine because not only is it a card trick but it's also a card trick that has some history to it."

The routine is a homage to Houdini, Frewin said. "Before he was known as an escape artist he was known as the King of Cards. A lot of people don't know that he was a very good card magician."

Frewin likes to call himself an illusionist rather than a magician. "I do more of the stage illusions. That's not to say I don't do traditional magic, but I really lean toward the side of illusionists."

Magic audiences are more sophisticated today, he said, because so many tricks and illusions can readily be seen on the Internet, so magicians must devise stunts that both captivate and entertain.

Frewin said there are plenty of good magicians working today, including the one who is generally considered at the top of his game, David Copperfield. But Frewin's hero is Lance Burton, a magician who up until last year performed in Las Vegas.

"I grew up watching Lance on the (Johnny) Carson show and because of him I started to put birds in my magic act and that became my trademark for a while. He use to have birds in his act all the time."

A good magic show can transport audiences to a different level, Frewin said.

"I always say to people, 'It's not about the magic, it's about the theatrical side of the show.' When you come to my show, at first you're going to wonder, 'How does he do it?' But by the end of the show I want you to be entertained and be part of the show. It's not just about the trick, it's about the whole experience."

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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.

London Magicians Guild web site:

[magiclondon.brinkster.net](http://magiclondon.brinkster.net)

London Magicians Guild e-mail:

[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)