

2015/2016 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the September meeting, or mail them to: *Mark Hogan, 21-455 Hyde Park Road, London ON N6H 3R9*



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2015 Volume 11, Issue 3

October's meeting

We started off the evening with **Mike Fisher** showing us a Halloween effect using *Promystic's Colormatch*. Mike showed us a drawing of pumpkin and asked **Matthew Stafford** to colour the picture using a number of different coloured markers. When he was done, the colours matched a prediction in the colouring book Matthew was holding all along!

The theme this night was "*Three Card Monte*", and Mike lead the way by showing his variation of a **John Armstrong** version. Mark Hogan signed one of Mike's blank cards, and could not find his card due to Mike's expert manipulation of the three cards. To help, Mike put a sticker on the back of the signed card, but then after the monte moves, and letting Mark betting all the money in his wallet, his signed card was gone – and ended up inside Mike's wallet – what a terrific ending!

Then Mike dove into his Three Card Monte manipulations – and we all joined in to try some of his moves – the *Hype*, the *Double Flash*, the *Charleston*, **Dai Vernon's Optical move**, and the *Mexican Turnover* to name a but a few! Mike has become quite the expert on the Monte, and brought a host of books he has acquired on the topic. He spent a lot of time helping the members perfect the moves.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, November 11

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: SILKS AND VINTAGE MAGIC!

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

Matthew Stafford showed off his Color Monte, with some help from Peter Mennie. It's an excellent routine where the spectator can't win at picking

what color card is where – until a final, totally different colour card is revealed showing how much they owe! Matthew also performed a version of **Michael Skinner's Three Card Monte**, which **Mark Hogan** also had, and Mark showed the version of the same routine used by **Bill Malone**.

Mark also showed **Garrett Thomas's Stand Up Monte** (which he reverse engineered from a performer on the *Ellen* show). And Matthew ended the night with *Parade of the Queens*, where four cards (told to be all Queens) are displayed, and a thought-of Queen ends up being the only Queen reversed, and the only Queen with a different back!

You don't want to play the Monte game with any of us after this night! Many thanks to Mike for leading us through the many nuances of the Three Card Monte.

Mark Hogan

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:
magic_london@yahoo.ca

September's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, November 11
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: SILKS AND VINTAGE MAGIC!

Matthew says he has a number of silks he wanted to bring to the club meeting last month and forgot. So we'll give him another chance – and make a theme night out of it!

Show us your effects using silks – small, large, coloured, painted, gimmicked – whatever silks you may have. And if you don't have or know a lot of silk magic, here's your opportunity to learn and try a few!

Also, Mike Fisher is going to bring some vintage magic kits and tricks to show. If you have any vintage magic you'd like to show off, bring it on Wednesday – we'd love to see it!

News Of Interest



An American takes his trick to China

(Los Angeles Times)

Magician **Franz Harary** is driving through the Las Vegas of China, trying to remember the last time he did a show in the United States. "Three years ago, maybe?" he says tentatively. "I think it was some Christmas thing. Or maybe it was an Indian casino."

As he pulls into the parking lot of a new \$3.2-billion casino resort called Studio City, the gate attendant gives him a blank stare. "Do you have a pass?" he asks.

Harary is used to it. Though he's made the space shuttle disappear, levitated **Michael Jackson** and filled scores of stadium shows across Asia, the 53-year-old has neither the debonair air of a **David Copperfield** nor the goth theatricality of a **Criss Angel** to mark him as a celebrity offstage. His L.A. publicist even touts him with the somewhat awkward brag: "*The most famous magician on planet Earth is a guy you've never heard of.*"

"My name's in the computer," Harary tells the guard with not a hint of annoyance. "Have a look."

But now the Hollywood-based illusionist can just point to the Studio City marquee. On Tuesday, the casino opened *Franz Harary's House of Magic*, a permanent, \$40-million venue with a rotating cast of magicians.

Milt Larsen, founder of Hollywood's famed *Magic Castle* private club, says the scale of the project is "very unusual," with nothing quite like it attempted since Caesars shut down its \$35-million *Magical Empire* in Vegas more than a decade ago.

With room for 300 patrons per show (tickets: \$50) and plans for up to four performances daily, *Harary's House of Magic* aims to help Macau do what Sin City did 15 to 20 years ago: start shedding its seedy image and add more family-friendly entertainment to diversify the city's customer base.

How **Franz Harary** came to be headlining a fabulously expensive theater of his own design in Macau comes down to a complex convergence of commercial, cultural and personal factors, not to mention luck. But it all might never have happened if he hadn't sent a video to Michael Jackson in 1984.

At the time, Harary was a college student dabbling in creating halftime illusions for university marching bands. He sent the singer a video showing how he could make a van appear in an empty parking lot. In a pre-CGI era, it was an impressive stunt. The *King of Pop* hired Harary, and soon he was designing illusions for the *Victory Tour*.

That big break led Harary to years of work for musicians — followed by his own "mega magic" stunts (disappearing *Taj Mahal*, space shuttle) and touring show featuring outsized, high-octane tricks.

For years, Harary sported a metal-band mane and squeezed into spandex pants and rock-star boots; these days, he's gone more sensible sorcerer, with a messy pouf of blond hair, Dickies pants and Nikes. (He freely jokes that he's put on a few pounds and "doesn't look like his posters." At lunch at *Musso and Frank's* in Hollywood before flying back to Macau for the opening, he orders a Caesar salad "with extra everything.")

Harary caught another lucky break when he found himself in a meeting with Macau casino boss **Lawrence Ho** about four years ago. At first, it seemed to be going nowhere.

"But then I played him some videos of stuff I'd done, including an MTV hip-hop dance show called '*America's Best Dance Crew*,'" Harary recalls. "And Lawrence stands up and says, 'Dude, I know you! You're that guy!'"

Performing in China, he believes, is different from going onstage in the West. For starters, audiences aren't as keen on what Harary calls "*power magic*" — "Merlin, Harry Potter, 'Bewitched,' 'I Dream of Jeannie.' Using the power of my mind, move the straw."

And they don't need a lot of artsy atmospherics. "People only focus on solving the puzzle; they don't really enjoy the miracle," Tam says.

"They think: If I can solve it, I'm going to share that with all of my friends and show them how smart I am," Harary adds. "I've beat the magician, and even better, I've beat the American magician!"

Mets pitcher has “tricks up his sleeve”

(USA Today)

Before Game 3 of the World Series, Mets starter **Noah Syndergaard** insisted he had some tricks up his sleeve. Before Game 4, Royals manager **Ned Yost** used the same exact phrase.

Mets outfielder **Michael Cuddyer** actually has tricks up his sleeve: The MLB veteran doubles as an amateur magician so effective he once spooked teammate **Luis Castillo** into changing lockers. So before Game 5 of the *World Series*, someone asked Cuddyer about the proverbial tricks up the proverbial sleeves, and Cuddyer dropped a possible *Arrested Development* reference:

“I don’t think too much magic goes out on the field, too many illusions. Both teams you kind of see what you get and you get what you see. Tricks up their sleeve, I think those are great figures of speech, but it’s baseball. And you go out there and you throw the ball, you catch the ball and you hit the ball.”

To see **Michael Cuddyer** do some card tricks, visit:
<https://youtu.be/Bgk4b7Wm3sk>

'Airtight' effect - watch the balloons!

(Jay Sankey)

I was extremely surprised to find out that *Penguin Magic* is selling a re-packaged and unauthorized version of my original, deck-in balloon trick '*Airtight*.'

Many years ago, *Elmwood Magic* purchased a license from me to release an illustrated '*Airtight*' booklet. And from what I gather, Penguin recently bought that license from Elmwood.

But to produce a new instructional video, and have it 'presented' by some guy I've never even heard of, without asking me, is totally unprofessional.

And even if they had run it by me, I would have reminded them...the balloons *BREAK A LOT*.

Which is why I personally stopped performing this very unreliable trick back in the 90's.

I got tired of ordering balloons online, and never knowing how 'fresh' they were, until the balloon (once again) burst, right near the end of my show!

Like yourself, I've got enough to think about during a performance, without having to worry about props falling apart.

That's also why, in all these years, I've never released '*Airtight*' as a separate DVD or download.

The trick just can't be trusted.

So, to all my wonderful fans around the world: you have been warned.

Long live DEPENDABLE magic!

Motor City Close-Up Convention fast approaching

(JohnLukaMagic.com)

It's getting close. The Motor City Close-Up Convention will be here in **less** than one month. Yes, time does fly! If you're not registered yet, here's what you will be missing.

Four Shows

Four Lectures

Ten Dealers

Pizza Party

Plenty of Sessioning

The Best Attendees Anywhere

A Whole Lot Of Magic

In addition to our featured performers, [Asi Wind](#), [Justin Miller](#), [Steve Reynolds](#), and [Bill Citino](#). You will also be rubbing shoulders with the likes of [Kainoa Harbottle](#), [Ben Train](#), [Eric Jones](#), [Nathan Kranzo](#), [Tom Gagnon](#), and who knows who else may show up.

We are hoping to see you there. This year's convention is going to be one of the best ever. This is going to be a great opportunity to see a lot of good magic. Being a small convention you will get the opportunity to see what larger conventions usually don't provide: **CLOSE-UP MAGIC..... CLOSE UP!** You will also get a chance to hang out with the performers and get to attend four great lectures.

[Asi Wind](#) and [Steve Reynolds](#) will be conducting optional workshops. Check out the [Workshop Tab](#) on my website.

Treat yourself to a **GREAT** time and a **FUN FILLED** weekend! Register soon. Talk a friend into attending the convention.

All events take place at the Best Western Woodhaven Inn (<http://www.bestwestern.com/woodhaveninn>) located at 21700 West Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183. (Metro Detroit Area) Phone (734) 676-8000 Call the hotel for room reservations or hotel information. There is a special room rate of \$73 plus tax per diem for the convention. To qualify, when you make your reservations request the Motor City Magic rate.

The dealers will include: Convention Co-Producer, [Wunderground Magic](#), as well as [ABC Magic](#), [Patrick's Magical Surfaces](#), [Roy Kueppers Magic](#), [Lost Art Magic](#), [Eric Ross Magic](#), [Kranzo Magic](#), and [Gordon Miller Magic](#).

For more information go to: www.johnlukamagic.com

Quote from **Harry Houdini**:

“Magic is the sole science not accepted by scientists, because they can’t understand it.”

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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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