

Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2017

Volume 13, Issue 3

October's meeting

October's ring meeting was well attended with many members and guests in attendance. A very special guest – past IBM president **Joan Caesar** graced us with her presence as well.

The night started with "*The President's Trick*" where our president, **Mike Fisher** performed his presentation of the old classic *The Chinese Sticks*. He used some beautiful cherrywood sticks made by **Bob Koch** of Chicago.

The evening's main attraction was a lecture on *invisible thread* by **Keith O'Brien**. Keith has been working with many forms of thread for quite a few years, and has become quite the expert and a great teacher. His lecture included discussion and displays of many types of thread, thread reels and thread gimmicks.

Keith taught a few effects to the group as well as a great discussion on elastic thread loops, and how to make your own. Keith supplied everyone in attendance with elastic thread loops to practice with and keep.

It was a fun and very informative lecture. After the lecture it was time to go, and that's when everyone else started showing routines! **Matthew Kennedy** began the after hours session with his presentation of *Deja Zoo*, a fun animal themed mentalist effect. **Peter Mennie** performed a great effect where the spectator chose the matching card to the cards he chose, **Keith O'Brien** performed a great effect where the spectator thought of a card in a deck that

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, November 8

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: MAGIC AUCTION!

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

was spread out in front of him, then when the deck was squared the spectator cut the deck and cut to the exact card he was merely thinking of!

The evening concluded with most of us heading out to the restaurant and freaking out the waitresses with our new invisible thread skills!

Mike Fisher

November's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, November 8
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253

TOPIC: MAGIC AUCTION!

Back in September, our good friend **Lorne Overholt** offered a substantial amount of his magic collection and in November we will auction off many of the books, props and effects that Lorne has collected over his many years in magic.

As well, if you have some items you wish to auction, bring them along and see if you can make a deal (try to perform any effect or use the gimmick you are auctioning for best results!).

We all know that great deals can be found at an auction, so save your pennies and bring them to the club on November 8.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

News Of Interest



Browser's Bash tickets available

(BrowsersDen.com)

VIP Platinum tickets are now sold out for the fourth annual **Browser's Bash**, sponsored by the *Browser's Den*. But Gold, Silver and Bronze level tickets are still available.

This one-day, day-long event is being held on Saturday, April 21^s at the *Montecassino Hotel and Event Venue, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto, ON M3J 2P6*.

Tickets are available at various prices levels: *Bronze* (\$99 + HST), *Silver* (\$119 + HST), *Gold* (\$139 + HST). And all tickets include *lunch and dinner meals!* (really!)

Talent will be announced closer to the event. Talent announced to date includes **Dick Joiner** (Emcee), **Michael Close** and **Nicholas Wallace**.

For more information and to purchase your tickets, visit:

<http://www.browsersden.com/bash/>

Motor City Close-Up Convention performers

(John Luka)



Internationally renowned magician **Michael Vincent** has been named *Best Close-Up Magician* three times by the UK's *Magic Circle*, 3 times in three consecutive decades; 1983, 1991 and 2003. In 1993 he was awarded the title of *International Magician of the Year*.

His performances have been featured at the world famous *Magic Castle* in Hollywood California, celebrity parties, international casinos, and high end corporate events.

Two and a half years ago, Michael encountered a major setback when he lost his hearing. This is a dramatic event for a magician whose success revolved around his unique ability to communicate with his audience. However, in

testament to his unconquerable drive and passion for his art, Michael further honed his ability to read his audience, tuning his senses to read the nuances of communication, body language and micro facial expressions, turning an obstacle in to an opportunity to improve.

In a career that continues with drive, passion and dedication, his stylish and sophisticated performances take sleight of hand magic to a new level of artistic and authentic self-expression. It is this simple philosophy which has defined Michael's place in the history of magic.



Jack Carpenter has contributed over 40 years of his life to the art of magic. His sleight of hand techniques are truly one of a kind. Jack will take you down one path only to completely de-rail what you THINK you know.

From his published books, to manuscripts, to DVDs, Jack has spent a lifetime paving the way for the die-hard sleight of hand enthusiasts. Jack has been praised by some of today's top cardmen.

Jack Carpenter is a creative and technical expert. He has created highly original and influential card magic. From his earliest books, like *Modus Operandi* and *The Expert's Portfolio*, he showed us just how strong gambling and magic material could be. Lately, Jack Carpenter has been releasing more experimental, very cool sleight of hand moves and routines, including his latest release, *The Expert's Portfolio No. 2*.



George Tait, AKA **Patrick Redford**, has been bending the minds of audiences around the world with his "*Psychological Magic*" over the past ten years. He's entertained such notable talent as bands *Metallica*, *Kid Rock*, and *Ted Nugent*. He's a well respected author in the magic community and recently wrote a book for the general public called *Mind Tapped - Techniques to control minds*.

Tait has transformed his art form into both a real and emotionally powerful experience. He has succeeded in taking magic to a level not often reached by other performers. Early in his career Tait has directed, co-directed,

written and co-written a wide variety of theatrical productions that include *How to Kill a Piano* - his one man show, *Faces in the Crowd*, *Loud Thoughts and Silent Screams*, and *The Magical Mystery Musical*, among others.

More recently George he has been an honored guest performer and speaker at *Newcastle*, England's *International Magic Festival* and Las Vegas' *International Magic Experience*.

Currently he's on world tour with *Masters of Illusion Live*; one of the largest touring magic shows curenly traveling today. He's performed for literally every type of audience, from intimate dinner and cocktail parties, to corporate America, to theaters around the world.

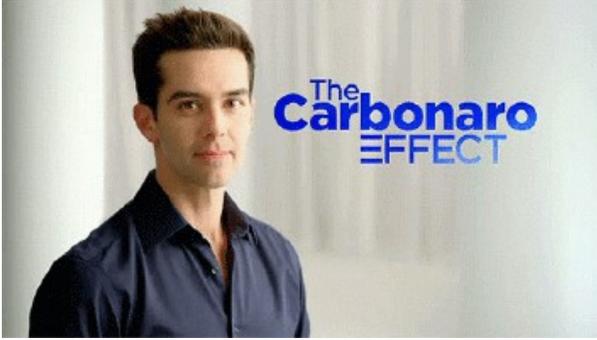


Robert Bengel has been lecturing to the Magic Community since 1982. Robert's first magic lecture, *Bengel's Best of Spades*, broke out and became a very well received compilation of effects that gave Robert a good first step into the community.

Robert's second lecture (major lecture), *Back to Basics*, became a highly sought-out lecture in the United States in the early 90s. Robert's third major lecture, *Back to Basics II*, was the logical follow up to *Back to Basics*, adding more audience-tested routines, concepts, teaching on Timing and Misdirection, and a section dedicated to friends of Robert with great subtleties that will make anyone's itinerary more professional, and more commercial.

Robert has done numerous "one-of" lectures for conventions, workshops, seminars, etc. in the magic community. Having refined his skills/talents in the corporate world, Robert has transcended these skills into the magic community, giving all of the information needed to better one's skills and understanding of magic, close-up magic, and most importantly, presentation skills.

For more information on the Motor City Close-Up Convention on Nov 3-5, visit <http://johnlukamagic.com>.



Michael Carbonaro looks to prove he's authentic

(Free-Times.com)

In addition to being a skilled magician and engaging entertainer, **Michael Carbonaro** is an excellent liar.

In the first three seasons of his TruTV network show *The Carbonaro Effect*, he's posed as a bank teller, a cellphone salesman, a doctor or whatever else is necessary to lure in an unsuspecting person and stun them with some of the best illusions ever created. Often in disguise, Carbonaro can turn a check for \$50 into an actual \$50 bill, he can pour a pitcher's worth of orange juice directly from a single orange, give himself a permanent tattoo using his phone, or even make someone believe his head is rotating 360 degrees, and it's not just through sleight of hand. His low-key, effortlessly logical-sounding explanations somehow convince people that the impossible has a perfectly rational explanation.

But because the tricks aren't happening right in front of them, and because the illusions that Carbonaro creates are so stunning, people at home sometimes think there's some TV trickery involved. "I think even if people are fans of *The Carbonaro Effect*, they still secretly wonder if the show is accomplished with actors and camera tricks," Carbonaro tells *Free Times*. "It's a TV show, so it's hard to trust that it's not done that way."

What's also interesting is that, despite the fact that Carbonaro has been a performing magician since he was 13 (he put himself through *New York University's* theater program by doing magic shows), people don't really know him as a live performer.

Hence the two goals of Carbonaro's current live tour — showing people that he's a stage performer first and foremost, and letting them know that there are no TV tricks involved in his performance.

"I don't think people have any idea what they're coming to see," he continues, "which is an amazing place for me to be. I play with that idea; I start the whole show off saying, 'You know I'm a magician, and because you know that, I don't have to lie. I spend a lot of time on the *Carbonaro Effect* lying and saying I'm not doing magic tricks. And here, I'm telling you I'm a magician doing magic tricks, so I don't have to lie for the rest of the evening."

Sometimes it takes a minute, but the complexity of that statement eventually sets in with every audience.

"They think, 'Wait a second, I don't think we can trust you,'" he offers with a laugh, "and that becomes the game of the show. The audience comes to be fooled and pranked and they know it."

Once the audience is on their toes, that's where the fun really begins.

"There's such an interesting release in the crowd when this object will appear from nowhere," he says, "and they're thinking, 'Oh my gosh, this is really happening right here right now.'"

What's interesting about both the TV show and the live show is that his isn't a straight-ahead magic act. Carbonaro often works improvisation and a good bit of comedy into what he does both in front of the camera and on the stage.

"I have a hard time defining what I do," he says. "'Magician' is sort of the umbrella for the whole thing, but more often I say 'entertainer.' When I was growing up, I wanted to be a special effects artist, and that kind of led me to magic, which kind of led me to performing and acting. I feel very lucky that they're all included in my TV show and stage show. They're all coming together to make one style of performance of lying in art."

The comedy part of it caught even Carbonaro a bit by surprise.

"I have people who come up to me after the live shows and say, 'I didn't know you were so funny!'" he says. "And I thought I was funny on the show! But then I actually realized that I spend most of my time playing very straight-laced and very tempered characters. I think that's why people like watching the show because they see people thinking, 'Why isn't this guy freaking out with me? Didn't the universe just open up?'"

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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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