

2019/2020 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the next 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 2019 Volume 15, Issue 3

October's meeting

The Byron Library provided the setting for the October meeting, but we still had a great turnout. And it was all because we had **Dom St. Jacques** lecturing for us tonight.

Dom knows how to pick great effects, and he sure didn't disappoint. He produced a deck of cards using a **Paul Harris** deck box vanish, and lead into **Daryl's Untouched**, where a spectator's selection – their lucky card – is also Dom's lucky card and has been protruding from his wallet for the entire trick!

Next, he performed a **Mark Elsdon** routine where the spectator finds their own four of a kind from a shuffled deck! After that was **John Bannon's Trick Shot Production**, where a spectator selected a card (a black 8) and Dom produced a black 8 billiard ball from his wallet!

During the break, **Keith O'Brien** wowed us with a new phone effect called "Stranger". A card was thought of and a random phone number was created and dialed. The stranger on the other end of the phone named the same thought-of card!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 13

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: FLEA CIRCUS BY MIKE FISHER!

**Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

Dom came back strong showing us the bluff pass sleight from the **Buck Twins**. That lead into **John Bannon's The 32nd Sense**, where a spectator's selected card ends up in the location of the amount of change Dom had in his pocket! He ended the night with **Stewart James' Likelihood**, where a shuffled

deck is dealt into three magical piles, and the value of the top cards was the position of a spectator's thought-of card!

It ended all too early as the library kicked us out. But Dom put together one terrific lecture – let's hope that's not the last lecture we see from Dom!

Mark Hogan

November's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, November 13

TIME: 7:30 PM

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**



TOPIC: FLEA CIRCUS BY MIKE FISHER!

Ladies and Gentlemen, prepare yourselves for the greatest and smallest show on earth as **The Amazing Corbin** presents his fabulous *flea circus* during our next meeting. Thrill to the fantastic feats of his fearless trained fleas as they walk the highwire, jump off the diving board and carry weights thousands of times heavier than themselves! Wait, what the heck does anything have to do with magic you ask? Where are the tricks?

The whole thing is a trick, a hoax, a clever combination of animatronics, puppetry and carefully chosen magic effects that Corbin has combined with his incredible showmanship. *The Amazing Corbin* is of course our very own **Mike Fisher** and he has traveled across Ontario all year with his flea circus entertaining, charming and fooling hundreds. (Yes, many believe there are actual fleas performing the tricks) During this informative night you will not only see a great act, but Corbin will open it up, showing you the inner workings and discuss how he built the prop and engineered the mechanics.

Learn about evolving a family friendly show through real world performances and trial and error. Mike will discuss writing his script, creating new & unique effects as well as filling the show with audience participation. All major challenges when creating an act that has been around for over 100 years and is typically a show with no audience participation. If you want to improve your performances, add more audience participation to your shows or learn about building your own props this is a presentation you shouldn't miss!

News Of Interest

“Magic at the Marienbad” ticket discount for club members

(Mike Fisher)

Good news! Club members can use code **LMG** when ordering *Magic at the Marienbad* tickets online for \$10 off! For more info and to order tickets, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MagicMarienbad/>.



Deception: A Magician in the FBI

(Magic-Compass.com)

The idea of a magician fighting crime is not a new one. In the 1920s **Harry Houdini** made several films where he played characters that used his escape and magic abilities to solve mysteries as an investigator of some kind. In the 1940s there was the successful comic book series, *Blackstone*, Master Magician where **Harry Blackstone Sr** was a crime fighting detective. That comic was later made into a radio show called *Blackstone, the Magic Detective*.

In the 1970s Television era we had *The Magician* which starred **Bill Bixby** as stage illusionist *Anthony "Tony" Blake*, who used his magic skills to solve difficult crimes. In the 1980s **Hal Linden** played magician *Alexander Blacke* who, with some help from his con-man father Leonard (**Harry Morgan**), solved mysteries.

ABC's *Deception* is America's newest magic and mystery drama. Since the time of *Blackstone* it seems that crime fighting magicians have had similar names. First *Blackstone*, followed by *Blake* then *Blacke* and now, *Cameron Black*. This time the magician was known as world's greatest illusionist until his greatest secret was exposed and his career destroyed. Of course, Cameron has good reason to believe this was no accident.

When his career is ruined by scandal, superstar magician *Cameron Black* has only one place to turn to practice his art of deception, influence and illusion, the FBI. Through the use of magic and illusion he will help the government catch the world's most elusive criminals while staging the biggest illusions of his career.



Magician shot with crossbow during a show as trick goes wrong

(Express.co.uk)

Illusionist **Li Lau** was rushed to the Netcare Settlers Hospital in Grahamstown with an arrow lodged in his head after being accidentally shot during a stunt performed at the National Arts Festival (NAF) in

Makhanda, South Africa. The failed trick, taking place on Sunday, saw Mr Lau, whose stage name is 'One Crazy China', and magician Brendon Peel performing during the duo's 'Carnival Sideshow and Other Magical Things' show. The crowd attending the act was immediately evacuated after Mr Lau became the unwilling target of the crossbow.

Witnesses are said to have seen some shocked onlookers crying outside of the venue. Organisers of the festivals are now believed to be offering trauma counselling to audience members to those needing it.

But despite being shot in the head and becoming the subject of a traumatising experience, Mr Lau survived and only received three stitches in the back of his head.

On the same day of the show, Mr Lau recorded a video for his fans, saying the show will "go on" - but failed to explain what went wrong with the trick.

In a video published on Facebook he said: "Hi everyone is Li Lau the illusionist, I want to thank everyone who came to the show and showed your support, we just had a minor incident this afternoon but I'm all well, it was just a precautions measure, we never put ourselves in harm or intentional risk, so just thank you all for your support.

And in an official statement, Mr Lau said: "The escape is something that I designed and created and we would never allow ourselves to be placed in direct harm's way.

"We apologise for the scare and were being overly cautious to ensure that I was okay."

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

World's best magic trick (?)

(youtube.com)

I saw a link to a Youtube video – it said “*World’s best magic trick*”. So I had to check it out.

Is it the world’s best magic trick? Well, it did earn **Eric Chien** the *2018 FISM world close-up championship*. And it is a pretty awesome routine!

Check it out yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV08tEMP8qU>

What people are watching magic

(Joshua Jay)

In September 2016, **Joshua Jay** published an article called “*What Do Audiences Really Think?*”. He collaborated with **Dr. Lisa Grimm**, a researcher and professor from *The College of New Jersey*, involving 526 participants from ages 18 through 80.

Clips of Joshua’s performances, and well-known clips from other magicians, were shown to the participants and used to gain valuable information about what audiences think of magic, what they love (and hate), how we can more easily get volunteers, etc. The following excerpt is from this study.

If it’s not live magic people are watching, where are people viewing their magic? Unsurprisingly, it’s the Internet. **Justin Flom**, **Lu Chen**, and **Rick Lax** have garnered tens of millions of hits with viral magic tricks that get bounced around the world; even my grandma forwarded me the clip of **Dan Zaleski** doing magic for an orangutan.

According to *iTricks.com*, this was the most viewed magician clip in 2015, with fifteen million views and counting. Many of us have performed for thousands or even hundreds of thousands of people, but you would have reached more humans if you uploaded a performance for just one ape.

How does magic rank in terms of watching clips on YouTube?

First, we analyzed the kinds of videos that get the most views, and we determined that pranks, technological marvels (robots, car crashes, fast planes, etc.), and animal videos fared the best. So we asked whether people would rather watch:

- a supermarket prank
- **a magic levitation**
- a record-setting fast car, or
- rare footage of a snow leopard.

We didn’t ask them about porn, mostly because we knew it would win singlehandedly. (You decide whether or not the pun was intended.)

The results:

- 36% - Supermarket prank
- **32.5% - Magic levitation**
- 18% - Snow leopard
- 12% - Record setting automotive

These results are encouraging. Magic beats everything except the prank video, and it's a very close second. This does *not* mean that most people enjoy humor more than magic, but merely that most people *think* they would enjoy humor more than magic.

More testing is required, and it's something I would very much like to explore.

FISM 2021 registration and hotel bookings now available

(FISM 2021)

The **FISM World Championship of Magic** is coming to **Quebec City** in **July 2021!** Registration to FISM and hotel reservations are now available.

The Delta Hotels Quebec is the official hotel for FISM 2021, but there are other hotels (e.g. *Chateau Laurier*, *Hilton Quebec*, *Palace Royal* and others) within a few minutes' walk or a short ride from the *Conference Centre* where all the action is!

For information on FISM registration or hotel information, visit the FISM 2021 web site: <https://www.fismquebec2021.com/?lang=en>

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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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