



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2022

Volume 16, Issue 2

November's meeting

We had a good group of folks out on a warm November night, with lots of people performing some really great magic!

Keith O'Brien started things off in a big way with "*Triple Coincidence*", where three numbers and three cards all came together in one big coincidence. He also got a spectator to find their own selection behind their back; had a selected card appear inside the burnt ashes of another card; showed us his terrific "*3-Fly*" coin across routine; and did **Mark Mason's** "*Tagged*" changing a Joker with a punched hole and ribbon into a spectator's selection. He also performed a coin through handkerchief; a marvelous Haunted Deck; a rising Voodoo Doll, and **Peter Eggink's** "*Voodoo Needle*" where a needle mysteriously moves on a pad as he wrote! Wow!

Mark Hogan read a spectator's mind with one of the words using in the popular Wordle game; revealed a spectator's thought-of time and card on a clock; and did **Simon Cassegrain's** "*Triumph Shuffle*" where a stranglely shuffled deck resulted in all reds and all blacks reversed except for two selections!

Serge Pereira was back and showed us a terrific colour changing card effect, followed by a clever use of *DFB* and *Architect of Predictions* to display a picture on his phone of a randomly selected celebrity (Elvis) holding a selected

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, DECEMBER 14

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: HOLIDAY MAGIC!

Location: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253

card! He also performed his own routine where a dollar bill changed to gum, from the gum pulled out a hanky; and changed the hanky back to a bill!

And that's not all! **Fraser Frase** showed us his version of Wayne Dobson's "Exchange" where a spectator's selected job is a bit more risqué than he thought! **James Atkinson** demonstrated **Bill Goldman's** "Monkey in the Middle" where a selected card appeared between two Jokers the spectator was just holding; and **Ram Cohen's** "Bipolar" where a thrown card changed front and back in mid-air!

And our two guests got in the mix! **Dave Meehan** did a great linking rubber band effect and Laxy Man's Handcuffs, plus a nifty two card transposition. And **Andrew Olmstead's** sponge ball routine found a vanished sponge ball in a spectator's jacket sleeve, jumped into a spectator's hand and kept multiplying, then he changed a folded bill into one that was joined together at the corners!

What a night of magic! It was great to see so many folks performing. Thanks to everyone who came out!

Mark Hogan

December's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, December 14

TIME: 7:30 PM

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

TOPIC: HOLIDAY MAGIC!

Christmas will be here in no time, so it's always a plus to have some holiday-themed magic for parties and shows. What better place to see and learn some holiday-themed effects than next month when we focus on holiday magic.

And not just Christmas – let's see tricks about any holiday, birthday, anniversary, or any other kind of celebration.

If you have any holiday-themed magic, bring it out and show it off. If not, of course just bring anything you'd like to share.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Rod Chow becomes first Canadian SAM President

(CTV News Vancouver)

A Vancouver man is the first outside of the United States to be made president of a very specific group: the *Society of American Magicians*.

Rod Chow follows in the footsteps of greats like escape artist **Harry Houdini**.

He said it all started with card tricks, then his act expanded to include money. His website describes him as a "[master money manipulator](#)" who is "sophisticated, stunning and sensational."

The magician who's often found performing at the *Richmond Night Market* or around Vancouver's Chinatown seems to have caught the attention of his peers.

Now he's the president of a major magic organization, a group he said he "really respects."

"All of the presidents before me were greats in magic," he told CTV News in an interview Wednesday.

As for how he rose to the top in a society previously only led by Americans, he said it was a time-consuming and difficult process.

"I worked my way up to this position. I had to serve on the national council for years," Chow said.

"This is something that I've always wanted in life, and I have a big responsibility but I am prepared to carry this out and do great things."

According to its website, the *Society of American Magicians* is the "world's oldest and most prestigious magic organization."

Membership includes a monthly magazine "filled with magic news," free lectures, meetings, conventions and discounted liability insurance.

While those outside the magic community may not be familiar, the society is actually 120 years old. It was founded inside a magic shop in New York, and more than 47,000 people worldwide have had memberships.

The group says the ideals it promotes "include the elevation of the Art of Magic, the promotion of harmony among magicians and the opposition of the unnecessary public exposure of magical effects."

"The SAM offers the opportunity to unite and associate with leaders in the World of Magic – not only professionals, but amateurs, manufacturers, magic dealers, book authors and magic collectors," its website says.

It costs between US\$25 and \$79 to join, depending on membership level, and the society offers discounts for college students and those in the military. Those assembly dues are annual, so to stay in the group, magicians need to pay the fee each year.

Those who aren't sure they're ready to commit can buy a four-month trial for US\$20.

There's also a *Society of Young Magicians*, with membership for youth aged seven to 17 at US\$20 a year, or a trial membership for \$10 for six months.

Video of Doug Henning on the Dick Cavett Show

(The Doug Henning Project)

A couple years ago, a 21 minute vintage clip of **Doug Henning** surfaced on You Tube, and in a "blink and you'll miss it" moment, it was promptly taken down. Well, thankfully it will permanently be on the site this time.

This twenty-one minute slice of heaven is **Doug Henning** on "*The Dick Cavett Show*." It's not the full show, but just enough to get your heart racing.



The only drawback, as you can probably hear, is the static over the audio and poor picture quality. However, the pros vastly outweigh the cons with this clip. So, sit back, relax, and listen to the eternal wonder and urbane wit of **Doug Henning** and **Dick Cavett**.

<https://doughenningproject.com/2022/11/12/doug-on-the-dick-cavett-show/>

Meet the Montreal magician with over a million TikTok followers

Like most other teenagers, **Raphael La Ferrara** spends a lot of time on *TikTok* — it's where he shares his craft, makes others smile and has amassed more than a million followers.

The 17-year-old Montrealer is a professional magician and content creator who uses everything from a deck of cards to colourful party cups to Rubik's cubes in his popular videos. His tricks often involve putting a personal and magical spin on an online trend.

He largely films his creations from the comfort of his family home, sometimes with the help of his mom and dad.

"I'm making these videos because I enjoy making them," La Ferrara said. "I never take anything for granted. I'm just so blessed for everything I have in my life and I'm able to perform gigs. I'm able to get bookings and it really helps me out."

The teen just hit 1.7 million followers on *TikTok*, which he joined in 2019. He also posts his videos on *Instagram* and *YouTube*.

His passion for magic goes back to childhood, when his parents bought him a small magic kit, and he then dug into a book he borrowed from the library.

Luigi La Ferrara says his son soaked up all that he could learn and would show his family a new act nearly every other day.

"Ever since then he's been just developing his craft, his tricks", the proud dad said.

What does La Ferrara enjoy most about being a magician? The reaction from others, he says.

When he was eight years old, he learned a trick with an elastic band and he remembers practicing in front of the mirror over and over again. After that, he started watching online video magic acts involving everyday objects like rings and coins.

"I started performing them at my school. When I showed my friends, they were just blown away. They were freaking out", La Ferrara said. *"I got some really good reactions out of them."*

His passion for magic has grown over the last nine years. The teenager started performing professionally when he turned 13, working weddings and family events.

"They would just watch all my tricks; it was the best feeling", La Ferrara said.

He was 14 when he started posting videos online on *TikTok*. He didn't think much of it at the time, but after a couple of months he hit 5,000 followers.

And then one of his creations went viral and gained 25 million views. La Ferrara was stunned.

"I was getting followers left and right, you know what I was freaking out that day", he said. *"It was one of the best days of my life. I literally gained like 100,000 followers overnight."*

The magician has nearly two million followers on the platform, leading to collaboration with brands and bookings.

La Ferrara wants to keep his passion fun, though. He said he doesn't pressure himself to create and publish new content constantly.

"And now I post whenever I feel like it," he said. "I think it's good for your mental health to take breaks."

For his dad, it is "mind-boggling" to see how many fans his son has to date. Luigi La Ferrara has played a role, too. He has helped with filming his teenager's tricks for passersby downtown, and enjoys the reactions.

"I'm just so proud of him."

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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

London Magicians Guild e-mail:
magic_london@yahoo.ca