

2024/2025 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the September meeting, or you can send a **\$40 Interac e-transfer** to: *magic_london@yahoo.ca*



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2024 Volume 18, Issue 3

October's meeting

We had visitors at the October meeting – eight members of the *Hamilton magic club (Doug Henning Ring #49)* came down to our club to perform and teach – and what a show it was!

Derrick Finn opened the night with some terrific close-up card magic. He spelled the colour, suit and number of 2 selected cards, finding not only their selections but their mates! He performed his own *Jazz Aces* variation where three Kings magically followed the fourth, and a lovely *Sandwich* routine where three selections were found sandwiched between the four Kings (which he later explained with during his detailed discussion of breather crimps).

Up next was **Renee Chouinard**, who did a lovely presentation to music and lights of an heirloom box containing a teacup, which disappeared leaving the box empty, only to be filled with blossoms and an old watch as a reminder to treat as precious the time we have!

Victor StanIewski did a great comedy prediction routine, where a card selection of different animals was made, and Stan's prediction appeared to be right (as he showed the audience the animals were all the same!) until the audience made the sound of the animal – the sound didn't match what the spectator selected – but somehow it did match Stan's prediction!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 13

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: OPENERS!

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

Travis Halyk (*Magic Travis*) presented his take on **Andi Gladwin's** *Phantom Deck*, where all cards in the deck became literally invisible except for the selected card! He also did an impressive coin penetration through a glass held in his hands.

Funny signs started **Doug McCoy's** presentation, who had effects where arrows changed directions; his gloved hand being punctured with a darning needle; a great presentation using **Ton Onosaka's** *Lucky Lady*; as well as his takes on **Daryl's** *Acrobatic Knot* and *The Whole Thing*.

Doug Hunt (the night's MC) described his recent retaking of his Guinness world stilt walking record, then **Scott Hood** started his act producing a Coke bottle from silks, then placing them in a bag, producing more silks from the bag and a open flute of wine! After his take on *Professor's Nightmare*, Scott then tied two silks together, made a third silk disappear, and the third silk was found tied between the other two! He removed knots in silks, then made the knots vanish and holes found in the silks where the knots once were! He ended with a marvelous dancing hanky inside a large glass jar!

Doc Dinshaw showed and taught us a fabulous *domino mentalism effect* where not only did he know the numbers on two covered dominos, but was able to telepathically send those numbers to a random spectator!

And if all this wasn't enough, **Derrick Finn** showed us some more effects using a breather crimp; **Doug McCoy** performed and distributed a prediction effect on the cover of *Genii Magazine*; and **Andrew Olmstead** ended with his own card transposition effect utilizing our "*Sleight of the Night*" – **Marlo's** surprisingly simple *Olam Jinx Switch*.

It was a terrific evening, meeting old and new friends and sharing some terrific magic! The London club will return the favour on **Tuesday, November 12** in Hamilton (and we'll have to up our game to match this night!).

Mark Hogan

November's meeting

DATE: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 13
TIME: 7:00 PM

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

TOPIC: *OPENERS!*

All magicians know that you only get one chance to make a first impression. So in any magic performance the opening effect is incredibly important.

The November meeting will be all about openers. What trick did you like to start with? What is it about those tricks that make them good openers?

So bring out some tricks that you like to perform first in any set of magic you do, and also come learn some new openers that you can use in your arsenal.

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
DEN OF MAGIC**
CANADA'S OLDEST MAGIC SHOP

Browser's Den 49th Store
Anniversary Party
(Browser's Den)

WHEN: Sunday, November 17th 11:00am until 4:00pm
WHERE: 2900 Steeles Avenue East (at Don Mills Road inside the market)

***** AUCTION begins at 1:00pm *** BIRTHDAY CAKE at 4:00pm *****

This will be our first anniversary party at our new location at *Don Mills & Steeles!* Our shop itself is smaller but we still have the same heart and dedication to help people enjoy the best hobby in the world! Many of you have been customers of ours since the beginning back in 1975. We hope that you will be able to join us on November 17th.

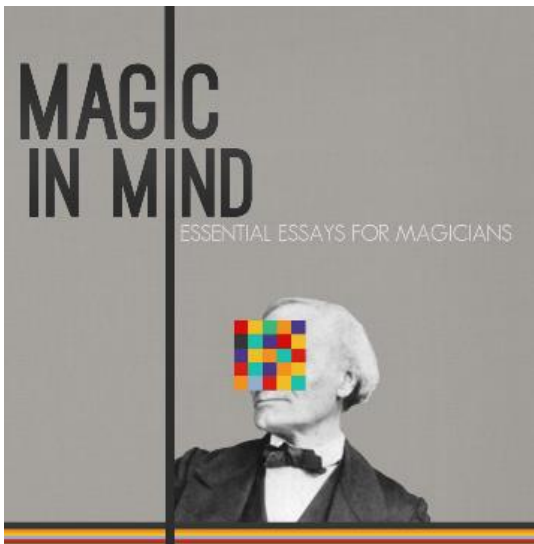
This is also the day that we remember our founders **Len and Bernice Cooper**. **Jeff Pinsky** purchased **Browser's Den** from Len and Bernice in November 1995. **Len Cooper** passed away in 2003. Since then at each anniversary party we hand out in Len's memory a full set of *eight Tarbell Course in Magic books* to someone under 26 years of age who has shown a dedication to the art of magic.

PLUS - In appreciation of your devotion to our shop this is the only day of the year where EVERYTHING in the shop is on sale all day long!

Everyone who comes to the shop gets to choose a playing card from a deck. On that card will be a number that represents the percentage discount on any non-auction items you buy during the day. You may use the card as many times as you wish. Discount cards range from 10% to 20% off.

For those who would like to bring in used magic to be auction off kindly drop off sometime at the new location in October (on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday)

Jeff Pinsky and the Browser's Den staff



An excerpt from *Magic in Mind: Tricks vs. Illusions*

(*Magic in Mind*)

A few years ago, **Joshua Jay** and **Andy Gladwin** from *Vanishing Inc.* released a collection of essays from some of the world's most famous magicians, called "*Magic in Mind: Essential Essays for Magicians*".

Here is an excerpt from one of those essays:

Tricks vs. Illusions

Stage bullet-catching is a trick. It makes the audience wonder how it is done, but it does not persuade anyone, even momentarily, that the performer's magic renders him invulnerable to rifle fire. **Robert-Houdin**, on the other hand, created an illusion. He persuaded his audience that no bullet could harm him.

Unfortunately, conjurers have formed the habit of referring to any large trick as an "*illusion*." The term is used as a description of size. If the equipment is big enough, the trick is called an "*illusion*" even though a ten-year-old child can see through it. This careless use of language is likely to confuse our thinking. We shall not follow the custom. Instead, we shall call anything a "*trick*" which challenges its audience to discover how it was worked. We shall reserve *illusion* for those feats which actually convince the audience. In most cases, the conviction will be neither deeper nor more lasting than the conviction of an audience at Hamlet that the prince has been killed in a duel. However, this is all the theater needs to create drama—and it is all a conjurer needs to fascinate his audience instead of being content to provide a little amusement.

There is a tremendous difference between even such short-lived illusions and none at all. If a play fails to create any illusion, it is worthless. On the other hand, if it succeeds in creating an illusion, the fact that the spell of the drama is broken with the fall of the curtain does not diminish its effect in the slightest. Fortunately for conjurers, a routine that fails to create an illusion is better than an unconvincing performance of a play.

It may still be highly entertaining as a trick. Nevertheless, as illusions have far more appeal to most audiences, there is no reason why we should not gratify them and ourselves by providing the additional interest.

The difference between a trick and an illusion depends largely on the conjurer's attitude. Illusions take many different forms. But, in the most typical examples, the performer claims some specific, supernormal power and makes this claim as impressively as possible. He then indicates that the purpose of his performance is to demonstrate the power. He provides this demonstration, and it appears to prove his claim.

The conjurer who presents a trick usually begins by admitting that it is a trick. On the rare occasions when he pretends to have some remarkable power, he does it half-heartedly as though to say, "*We all know that this is pure hokum, and that I only talk about magic, telepathy, or what not because it is part of the act.*" Such an attitude cannot create an illusion. If one actor in a play treated his part in this fashion, the play would fail. Furthermore, even when the man who performs a trick does claim a power, he usually leaves it vague; the trick is not treated as a demonstration of the power, and the effect does not prove the claim. He cannot expect to create an illusion, because neither he nor his audience knows what illusion he is trying to create.

Henning Nelms

Showmanship for Magicians - 1969

Quote from movie actor **Jeff Bridges**:

Julie Eng receives major Magic Castle award

(Canada's Magic)

I am deeply, deeply honoured to be *The Magic Circle's* **2024 John Nevil Maskelyne Award** recipient for contributions to magic literature.

Thank you to *Magic Circle* President **Marvin Berglas** and to the officers of the *Magic Circle* for this incredible acknowledgment and recognition—I am filled with profound joy and gratitude.

Magic has always been part of my life. My father, **Tony Eng**, involved me in his magic career when I was very young. I trailed after him throughout my childhood; and as I grew into magic, he naturally became my teacher, my mentor. I've always been surrounded and inspired by this magnificent art. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine such a diverse and exciting career in magic—one that has spanned performance to production and, indeed, to publishing.

To join the ranks of past recipients, including so many of my dear friends—I am truly and completely overwhelmed!

This award isn't a personal achievement; it's a testament to the collaborative spirit of our magical community. I'd also like to thank *Magicana* and its board of directors, and my friend and colleague David Ben for their support over all these years.

Specifically, with regards to *The Rich Cabinet Collection*, I would like to thank the wonderful Dawes family for inviting me into the inner sanctum of *Dane Hill* — I offer special thanks to **Adrian Dawes**, who was a true and devoted collaborator in the *Rich Cabinet* journey with me!

Most of all, I want to take this moment to recognize and thank our beloved **Eddie**. From the moment we started this journey together to build a nine-volume set, which is now *The Rich Cabinet Collection*, he steered us to this final moment with his strong and steady resolve, in his very special warm and gentle way. I will always be forever grateful for his kindness, his friendship, his guiding light.

Now, as I move into my new role as *executive director of Genii Enterprises*, I am so excited to continue the work in sharing this art we love so very much in creative and dynamic ways!



Thank you so much to the *Magic Circle* for this incredible honour!

Julie Eng

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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