

2007/2008 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your \$30 membership renewal dues to the September meeting, or mail them to: Mark Hogan, 133 Fairlane Ave, London ON N6K 3E5



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
October 2007
Volume 3, Issue 2

September's meeting

The bad news: summertime is coming close to an end. The good news: Magic club meetings are starting again!

A good crowd greeting the first meeting of the year. Our new prez Ron Keller described some of the ideas being developed for the upcoming year. He also gave a presentation on one of our own past club members who has made it big – Freddy Fusion! Ron also performed a new trick on the market - "SympathetInk" (Mathieu Bich) – where a selected card is found written on a paper after it is heated!

Jim Atkinson was first out the gates with an effect: The four Queens and two Jokers were displayed and one Queen was chosen. After mixing all four face down, 3 were removed and the chosen Queen remained – yet all the other Queens turned to Jokers!

Domenic St-Jacques showed off his poker skills by shuffling the four Kings into the deck, yet dealing himself all four Kings! Next was a "cheat on the deal" – and he got 4 Aces and a Joker! Finally was a "cheat with a partner" – but the partner got nothing and Domenic ended with a royal flush! He also

demonstrated an Allan Ackerman false shuffle.

Jeff Cronkwright blew some bubbles with two spectators, and was able to grab one out of the air and make it solid! And one of our guests, Dan Narejko, presented some of his coin sleights.

Mark Hogan presented a Ring and Rope workshop. First he performed his routine, then he stepped through its moves while everyone followed along with their own rings and rope. (OK – so the rings came from ring toss sets from the dollar store! It was cheap, and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun!)

Finally, Steve Seguin was presented with a Past President medal for his work over the past two years.

Next Meeting: (Bring a deck of cards!)

**Wednesday, October 10
7:00PM**

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

**Topic: CARD WORKSHOP by
DERICK FINN!**

October's Meeting

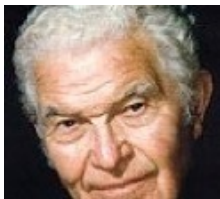
DATE: Wed., October 10
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
Room 253

Topic: CARD WORKSHOP by
DERICK FINN!

Derick Finn from the Kitchener Hat & Wand Club has lectured at our club in the past. He will be presenting a card workshop, which will include a series of card effects first presented; then explained in detail – focusing on technique and presentation. Even those who don't do cards will walk away with something!

(NOTE: Bring a deck of cards to this workshop!)

News Of Interest



Magic mourns the passing of Jerry Andrus

S.A.M. Honorary Life Member Jerry Andrus passed away on August 26, 2007 after a long battle with cancer. Jerry was a lecturer many years ago at our club. His innovative magic is known around the world.

From Whaley's "Who's Who In Magic":

Mentor of Ray Hyman, Loren Pankratz, etc. Lecturer. Invented the Linking Pins (1954, his version), Panoramic Shift (by 1955), & Paradox Box. 1979 AMA Best Lecturer. 1988 AMA Creative Fellowship.

Who's Where?

Here's a rundown of professional club members appearing in our area:

Peter Mennie

Fri. evenings: Bernie's Bar & Grill

Sat. noon: Joe Cool's

Sat. evening: Kelsey's (Woodstock)

Sundays: Boston Pizza

(Wonderland South)

Please let us know where you are publicly performing!!

11th Annual Motor City Convention Nov. 9-11

This year's Motor City Convention will take place Nov. 9-11 in Taylor, Michigan. All events take place at the Ramada Inn in Taylor, 4 miles from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

This year's featured performers include David Acer, John Rogers, Jon Armstrong and Diamond Jim Tyler.

For more information, visit <http://www.johnlukamagic.com>.



The Valuable Art of Blocking Part One

(From a series of articles from
Quentin Reynolds)

As a children's entertainer I've found that the worst behaved children generally attend the most expensive private schools. By worst behaved I'm talking about rude, obnoxious children who deliberately set out to cause trouble or draw attention onto themselves.

The first time I met such a bunch was in my second year of doing shows. It was also one of the very few shows I've had where I felt like giving up and leaving. I battled through to the end. But it taught me a valuable lesson and one I'd like to share with you today.

The party was for a group of seven year old boys who all went to a local and expensive private school. The mother was very pleasant and friendly. I didn't foresee any problems. I set up at one end of the room and let the mother know I was ready. Unbeknownst to me the birthday boy had contrived a plan with three of his friends to ransack the magician's props.

These first four boys ran into the room and straight for the props. Fortunately the mother came

straight in and helped gain control. With hindsight I suspect these boys had planned their campaign from notes made from seeing other magicians. Two of them sat front left and two then sat front right. During the show one pair would make a run up the side to attract my attention whereupon the other pair would dash up to the back of my table and grab the props.

This happened throughout the show. The mother came in again. We put them all together at the back. Now if you have any experience at all entertaining at birthday parties you'll know that children can move invisibly through the audience. Someone at the back is suddenly at the front and you never saw them move! These boys were expert at that. Born military strategists and the magician is the enemy. Strict words from the mother and strong words from me had only temporary effect.

The hour's show was a complete nightmare.

Now all of us will have the occasional difficult or even disastrous show - for whatever reason. That's life! But if we take the trouble to analyze it and ask ourselves what can we learn from it, we become better performers.

While I learned a number of lessons the main one was BLOCKING. Setting up my show to ensure controlled visibility and access to the performing area. Performing at private parties, especially in homes means that every layout is different. There may be doors, windows or furniture in convenient or

inconvenient places. Ideally you need to set up so's that the audience can see and hear you.

Depending on the room's layout you might suspect that crawling children might sneak up the side. Moving an armchair would prevent this. The seating might mean that some adults would choose to sit at the side of you. Putting your coat there would be a psychological barrier to them sitting there. If the viewing angles were bad I frequently put up my puppet booth to block them.

Besides my magic roll-on type table I carried a puppet booth and brightly painted puppet case. Again these could be strategically placed to block potential unwanted access from adults or children. Some adults think it's perfectly OK to sit behind the magician and take photographs, or just talk to each other.

You don't want people behind you - not so much because they may see how the tricks are done but they are a distraction from what the audience should be concentrating on which is you.

With effective blocking you control access to the stage area, you make sure the audience only see what you want them to see and you prevent unnecessary distractions in the performing area.

© 2006 Quentin Reynolds. Quentin Reynolds works as both magician and speaker.

You can read about one of his programs at <http://www.speakingschools.com> and for the mentalist visit <http://www.TheShielsEffect.com>

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks! Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to: magic_london@yahoo.ca

Shell Game
Vol. 3, Issue 2
October 2007

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: www.geocities.com/magic_london

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