

## **2019/2020 Club Membership Dues are now due!!**

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the September meeting, or mail them to: *Mark Hogan, 21-455 Hyde Park Road, London ON N6H 3R9*



# Shell Game

# September's meeting

The weather still feel like summer, but fall is here, and that means the *London Magicians Guild* is back in business. And what a crowd we had for the first meeting of the year – past members, new guests - there were more people than we have had in years!! What an exciting way to start things off!

And first up was a guest doing their performance to join the club. And **Alan Coombs** did not disappoint. He performed like a seasoned pro, with versions of classics like *Ring Thru Finger*, *Ambitious Card* and *Coins Across*. It was a no-brainer - Welcome to the club, Alan!

**Mark Hogan** then performed a host of effects he learned over the past few months. There was a mix of card and non-card effects to entertain everyone. They included: **Patrick Martin's** *Rabbit Spinner* (a novel way to select spectators from the audience); *Hands Down* and *Timer Force* from the **Other Brothers**, **Troy Hooser's** *Charming Chinese Challenge* (using washers instead of Chinese coins); *Armchair Mind Reading* from **Cales Wiles**, and **Matt Baker's** *Hive Mind*. He also showed a novel *Selected Card at Any Number* and Mark's own *Ring & String* effect ending with **Jay Sankey's** *Nest Egg* inside a nest of boxes, where a finger ring appears inside a matchbox in a card box in a nest of boxes!

Afterwards we broke up into smaller groups to show, learn and just find out how the summer was for folks. And many of us met at *Crabby Joe's* restaurant afterwards to keep the good times going.

## **Next Meeting:**

**Date: Wednesday, OCTOBER 9**

**Time: 700 PM (NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME!)**

# **Topic: LECTURE BY DOM ST-JACQUES!**

**BYRON LIBRARY (NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION)  
1295 Commissioners Road W, London (in Byron)**

It was a fun night and wonderful start to the new magic year! Hope to see you all next month!!

Mark Hogan

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## October's Meeting

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**DATE: Wednesday, October 9**

**TIME: 7:00 PM (NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME!)**

**PLACE: Byron Public Library (NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION!)  
1295 Commissioners Road W, London (in Byron)**

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## **TOPIC: LECTURE BY DOM ST. JACQUES!**

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We received an offer from our own **Dom St. Jacques** to do a lecture for us! And this is an offer we just couldn't refuse!

Dom is a fun guy and terrific performer who is well known in our circles for his fabulous card magic. Dom's selection of material and presentations are first-class. If Dom does an effect, we know it's a good one. We will all learn a lot from Dom!

The lecture will cover stand-up routines, working from a shuffled deck in use. Some routines will self-working, and some will be sleight intensive – so there'll be something for everyone.

**NOTE: Due to the CUPE strike, we are unable to use the school for our meetings. For October, we have booked the Byron Library. We are starting at 7:00 as we will have to be done our meeting at 8:45.**

Please come out in October and learn some terrific magic from our good friend Dom!

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### **We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!**

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:  
[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)

## News Of Interest



### Ontario Week of Wonder Magic Festival in Fergus - Oct 24-31

(O-WOW.ca)

*Ontario Week of Wonder (OWOW) Magic Festival* is a seven-day celebration of magic and illusion held in **downtown Fergus**. The festival runs the last week in October and coincides with *National Magic Week October 24-31*.

The OWOW Magic Festival features immersive magical experiences by magicians performing table-to-table, around town and at the historic *Fergus Grand Theatre*. Evening activities (Thursday through Saturday) include shows by internationally acclaimed entertainers at the Fergus Grand Theatre, as well as secret "after events" for festival pass holders, magic socials and more!

From **Thursday through Saturday**, there will be "secret sessions" (lectures and workshops) **for magicians only**, and are not available to the general public.

Entertainers for the week include some of the world's biggest names in magic:

- **Paul Rohmany**
- **Stephen Bargatze**
- **Rick Merrill**
- **Jay Sankey**
- **Carissa Hendrix**
- **Michael Close**
- **Nicholas Wallace**
- **Greg Frewin**
- Our own **Peter Mennie!**

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.magicfestival.ca/>



## Magic convention down under!

(gcmagic2019.com.au)

We would like to let you know that *Early Bird Registration* is now open for **GC Magic 2019** being held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia **17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October** this year.

## GC Magic 2019

The General registration fee is only \$359 which includes a Gala Show and Buffet Dinner valued at over \$100.

We're excited about our international line-up and below you will find more information about our guest lecturers and performers and also what's included in the registration.

Featured lecturers and performers include:

- **Richard Turner**
- **Producers from Penn & Teller**
- **Losander**
- **Arthur and Helen Coghlans**
- **Joel Howlett**
- **Greg Rostami**
- **Barry Govan**

You will also have an opportunity to *audition for the Penn & Teller: Fool Us show* in front of the show's producers!

We have a [website](#) and a [Facebook](#) page which we're encouraging everyone to like as we'll be posting special offers every now and then!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Regards,  
**Arthur & Helen Coghlans**

**Web:** <https://gcmagic2019.com.au/>  
**Email:** gcmagic2019@gmail.com

## How to audition for Penn & Teller: Fool Us

(gcmagic2019.com.au)

As mentioned in the above article, the producers of *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* are going to the GC Magic Convention in Australia looking for talent for their show.

Ever wonder how the audition process works? Here's the info the convention is providing to those looking to audition:

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If you're not aware of the hit US TV show *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* where have you been? Aspiring magicians from all over the world perform their best tricks to try and fool **Penn and Teller**, the world-famous magician duo. If the two cannot guess how the trick was done, the "fooler" gets to be on their Las Vegas magic show.

The producers of the show are coming Down Under in search of magicians and will give a lecture about the show, how to audition for it and also lecture about magic on TV. This is their first visit to Australia and the *GC Magic 2019 Magic Convention* is the only chance to meet them in the Australia region. If you are keen on auditioning, we're encouraging you to register early as places will be limited.

Here's some information regarding the auditions:

- The producers prefer to see a *full live performance* of a trick as they believe it would be played on their stage. If it is not logically possible to do a live performance (size of props, for example), you are able to bring in a recording of your live performance instead.
- *No act should be over 8 minutes and 4-5 minutes is preferred.* Anyone performing a longer act should know that, if they like if for the show, you will have to be willing to cut it down with their guidance.
- The audition is somewhat *informal*. Magicians should consider it a safe room and more akin to a workshop and discussion. They do not want to hear about an act - they want to see it!
- Every performance should have a *clear and clearly communicated plot, a unique trick or twist, and a well-rehearsed, concise, and original presentation*. The producers are not fans of elements that are plain 'red herrings' designed to mislead magic experts - this is quite different from misdirection done for the sake of a general audience - and they will often ask that red herring moments be taken out of a performance so the magic should be strong on its own.
- The mission of the performer on *Penn & Teller: Fool Us* is much more to entertain a million people more than it is to fool two judges. *Sincerity and*

*authenticity are appreciated.* If a magician plays a character on stage, the character should be more than skin deep.

- The producers are happy to see *all categories of magic large and small*, and they love to be surprised.
- Magicians who successfully audition receive return airfares to Las Vegas and hotel accommodation, as well as US\$750. If you then fool Penn & Teller on the show, you will be invited back to Las Vegas to perform in their stage act at a later date. Return flights and hotel accommodation will be provided again.
- These auditions will be closed and not open for general viewing.

## How much do people like 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.

We started out by asking people to rank their interest in a range of entertainment. And much like studies that found that pizza is addictive or that people buy more food when it's cheaper (both real studies), we found exactly what we expected: people would rather see a movie, go to a concert, or enjoy a comedian than see a magician live.

We also wanted to determine whether the *environment* played a role in the enjoyment of magic, so we tested for both seeing a magician live and watching magic on television.

Here are the results, ranking people's enthusiasm for each type of entertainment:

- *See a film:* 81%
- *Go to a concert:* 70%
- *See a comedian:* 65%
- *See a magician live:* 59%
- *Go to a party:* 54%
- *Attend a play:* 45%
- *Watch a magician on television:* 31%
- *Go to the dentist:* 3.6%

*But wait, you're thinking, this doesn't take into account who is doing the magic. A great performance of magic can change someone's perceptions of magicians forever.*

That's true, but that's not what we're testing. Here, we are only interested in a person's *preconceived* notions of magic. Seeing a great magician can be much more enjoyable than a bad film or a lame party, but we're trying to get into the headspace of people *before* the show starts. You might be the best (or worst) magician on Earth, but that won't change how your audience feels about magic *before* they see your show. And how someone feels about magicians does affect how that person will enjoy your show. In other words, this data matters to all of us.

Right off the bat, we're confronted with the unwelcome fact that most people would much rather watch a film than see magic. Magic ranks just fourth on this list of preferences, and seventh if the magic is on television. On the bright side, people like magic more than they like parties. This means that people enjoying magic are just as antisocial as the people who are performing it.

I was also glad to see people would rather watch magic on TV than visit the dentist. Had we found the opposite result, I would have to quit this study, quit magic, and learn how to fill cavities. Thanks, percentages.

Many of us lament the difficulty of performing live when we're competing with over-the-top (read: *stooged*) online magic. But we can take comfort in the fact that by a significant margin, people would rather watch magic performed live than on a screen

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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](http://magiclondon.brinkster.net)

London Magicians Guild e-mail:  
[magic\\_london@yahoo.ca](mailto:magic_london@yahoo.ca)