

2023/2024 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the next meeting, or send an Internet e-Transfer to magic_london@yahoo.ca



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
October 2023 Volume 17, Issue 2

September's meeting

After a nice summer break, the London magic club was back in business. And the theme for this night was "*Vanishes*".

Andrew Olmstead performed a terrific vanishing and reappearing coin routine using a handkerchief, including flipping the coin into the air and catching it in the hanky! It included some marvelous sleights that were new to many of us.

Mark Hogan showed us his version of **Dan Harlan's** "*Attraction*", where two selected cards vanish from a pile and reappear in a separate pile. Later in the night he performed **David Parr's** "*CopyCat*", but done to music!

Byron Berry brought out his phone charger and made it vanish; then displayed a candy box and made the candies inside it disappear; and also took a phone call in the middle of an effect and somehow made his phone disappear!

Keith O'Brien performed *Hide-A-Key* by **Chris Rawlins**, where a key attached to a keychain instantly vanishes, and reappeared on **Al Coombs's** chair! **Steve Sequin** made a request to see how people do their retention vanishes, which lead to a great discussion of a variety of vanish sleights, which included **Kohl Strange** showing us a wonderful coin vanish from **Danny Goldsmith**.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, OCTOBER 11

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: HALLOWEEN MAGIC!

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

Doug Hunt performed a great professional routine that he developed during COVID, involving a disappearing hanky and a specially designed magic wand! And **Scott Hood** took a hanky and made a second hanky appear inside it - - then made it disappear - then re-appear- and then disappear inside the first one!

Thanks to everyone for coming out and showing off their vanishes!

Mark Hogan

October's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, OCTOBER 11

TIME: 7:00 PM

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

TOPIC: HALLOWEEN MAGIC!

It's the time of year when we enter the realm of the paranormal. Spooky and mysterious things abound ... and magic is in the air. So let's show off effects that "bring out the spooky". If you have anything that fit the Halloween theme, we'd love to see it.

Come on out on October 11 for some Halloween magic ---- *but don't come alone!!* (scary, huh??)

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest

Two October lectures at Browser's Den

(The Browser's Den)



Chris Bruce Lecture

Date: Friday, October 13
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Browser's Den of Magic

Although you may have never heard of him, **Chris Bruce** has been busy performing sleight-of-hand magic for groups large and small all over the GTA since the 90s. He has had some of his original magic published in *MAGIC Magazine*, *Antinomy*, & *The Linking Ring*. This year Chris has had two routines in the May & June 2023 issues of *The Hermit*, a quality magazine for the discerning performer. Chris mainly performs with cards, with some coin and mentalism material sprinkled in.

His focus is making effects practical to perform. That is, developing your repertoire to the point where it is hard-hitting, but still practical to perform. Many effects from Chris' repertoire will be shared with an emphasis on how to develop your real-time performance and sleight-of-hand skills.

To buy a ticket, call the office at **416-783-7022** or if you use PayPal, you can pay online by clicking on the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=8DQAUGFB2UWMJ

Max's Busking Lecture

Date: Friday, October 13
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Browser's Den of Magic

Old Jeff has been asking Max to give a lecture on busking for nearly 20 years...no joke, that is the truth! This lecture will provide you with decades of knowledge that can only come from doing the work. Max will be covering the following in his lecture:



- *Why Busk?*
- *Where & When can you busk in Toronto? In the world?*
- *How to get a crowd, how to keep a crowd... and how to get them to pay!*
- *Problems of busking (police/law enforcement, drunks, other buskers, etc.)*
- *How Busking can make you a better magician and open doors for you!*
- *How much money can you actually make?*
- *Which tricks work for the street, and which do not.*
- *My Setup and why.*

Max will also be demonstrating some cool tricks and instructions that you can add to your shows that are guaranteed audience pleasers & will be open for a Q&A, so get your questions ready!

To see a coin performance by Max, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huqb-gBzX7Q>

To buy a ticket, call the office at **416-783-7022** or if you use PayPal, you can pay online by clicking the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9X638A7QD255E



Browser's Bash is back!

(BrowsersDen.com)

Dear Basher's & Denizens,

We are very happy to announce that we WILL be putting on another **Browser's Magic Bash!!!**

Mark your calendars for:

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024!

(Same location as in the past, **Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Drive. Toronto**)

You have all been so patient for so very long. Thank you!

Look for more exciting details which will be communicated over the coming months.

Thanks again!

The Jeff's, John Talbot & The Bash Team



Young & Strange Delusionists show at Centennial Hall on October 14

With over 50 million online views, direct from a 2 month run in London's *West End* and as seen on *NBC's Access Hollywood*: Britain's most famous comedy illusionists **Young & Strange** bring their smash hit show to us for a night of spectacular magic and illusion.

Young & Strange - Delusionists is fun for the entire family. It's a fully interactive and immersive experience, with extraordinary appearances, vanishes, mind reading and more. It's all tied together with a mind blowing, sensational finale that's filled with the biggest stage illusions, rivalling any Las Vegas show. Book tickets now to avoid disappointment.

'Young & Strange Triumph' - The London Times

'Young & Strange are stand out stars' - The London Evening Standard.

'That secret, kept quiet will make you one of the best magic acts the world has ever seen.' - **Penn & Teller**

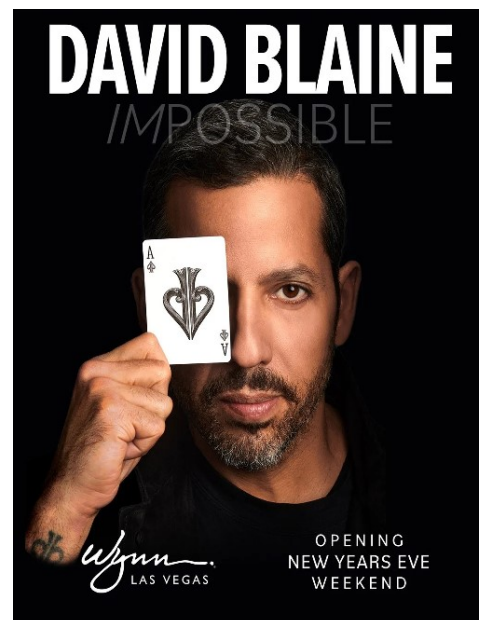
David Blaine makes a leap to Wynn Las Vegas

(Casino.org)

Daredevil and pop culture icon **David Blaine** is pulling what's known in magic circles as "the old switcheroo." Or possibly "ol' switcheroo." Dark horse: "ole."

Blaine announced he'll move his show from *Resorts World* to the *Encore Theater*, with a schedule of a dozen performances starting on New Year's Eve weekend. As with all Las Vegas residencies, this one could be extended if it's successful.

The new show is called "*Impossible*," with the "IM" presumably standing for "*interactive magic*." If you know this blog, we are a huge fan of affectation, so we're already excited about this new show.



The change of venue hasn't been commented upon by Blaine, *Resorts World* or *Wynn Resorts*. Which is pretty much confirmation of glorious drama.

Our sources aren't talking.

The “*extreme illusionist*” and master of monotone opened his show at *Resorts World* on September 30, 2023. It was fairly well-received, despite a large portion of the show involving watching the magician hold his breath.

To make things interesting, Blaine suffered a couple of injuries during the course of his show. He accidentally stabbed his hand with an ice pick during one illusion and dislocated his shoulder during a stunt where he dropped from an 80-foot platform into a pile of cardboard boxes.

Most decisions in Las Vegas are based upon money, which makes this move even more intriguing.

Resorts World's theater has about 4,700 seats, the *Encore Theater* seats about 1,500.

That's nearly 70% fewer seats off the top of our head, which is a complete lie because we've never done any kind of math without the use of a calculator.

Still, that's a lot fewer tickets to sell, and potentially a lot less cabbage for Blaine. We trust he's doing all right.

The best way to ensure sold-out shows is to play in a much smaller theater.

We didn't get to see **David Blaine** at *Resorts World*, but we hope to check the show out at *Encore*.

The dates are **Dec. 29, 30 and 31; Feb. 14, 17 and 18, 2024; March 27, 29, 30, 2024; and May 8, 10, 11, 2024.**

You can get tickets at [Ticketmaster](#), a ticket-buying experience not unlike slamming your hand down on an ice pick, come to think of it.

Ticket prices run the gamut, from \$91.50 to \$1,000.

If you don't know about **David Blaine**, please exit your fallout shelter and read this boilerplate language they use in news releases: “*Described by Howard Stern as the greatest magician who ever lived, David Blaine single-handedly redefined magic after producing and directing his original television special 'Street Magic' when he was just 23, which Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller called 'the best TV magic special ever done.'*”

The *New York Times* noted that Blaine has '*taken a craft that's been around for hundreds of years and done something unique and fresh with it,*' whilst The New Yorker claimed '*he saved magic.*' Over the last two decades, Blaine's nine primetime specials have seen him being buried alive in New York City for a week, encased inside a six-ton block of ice for three days, survived standing atop a 100-foot-tall pillar in *Bryant Park* for 36 hours without a safety net, endured 44 days inside a transparent box in London on nothing but water, and had over one million volts discharged at him continuously for 72 hours from seven Tesla coils.

Blaine also spent one week submerged in a sphere-shaped aquarium at *Lincoln Center*, before breaking the world record for breath holding live on the *Oprah Winfrey show* where he held his breath for over 17 minutes.

In addition to the many millions who have seen him on television, Blaine has also performed live for audiences of more than 20,000 in arenas around the world. He has performed intimately for every sitting American president including **Barack Obama**, **Bill Clinton** and **George W. Bush** as well as a number of international leaders and prominent figures such as **Henry Kissinger**, **Michael Bloomberg**, **Stephen Hawking**, **Muhammad Ali**, among others. His *TED talk* became one of **Bill Gates**'s personal favorites and is widely considered the most revealing testimony Blaine has ever given on the topic of his remarkable career."

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Vol. 17, Issue 2
October 2023

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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