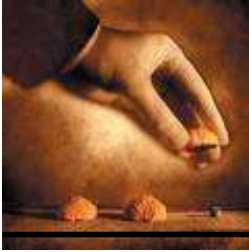


2026/2027 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

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
October 2026
Volume 20, Issue 2

September's meeting

We ended before the summer break at a restaurant, so why not start the new year at a restaurant too? There were over a dozen of us at Crabby Joe's Restaurant downtown to reunite with friends to talk about what we did during the summer ... and of course do some magic.

One big piece of business, though ... Congratulations to our new club president, **Andrew Olmstead**! Andrew has been a great supporter of the club for several years and it's great to see him "assume the mantle"!

Everyone was doing magic at our large table for the people close to them – but we did see some folks do magic for the waitstaff. **Byron Berry** had our waitress spin the stem of a watch to set a time, and Byron was able to remove the thought of the time from her mind! But not only that – he was able to remove time itself, and the hands on the watch disappeared! Our waitress was stunned ... but we still had to pay for our food and drinks!

Congrats to **Ethan Boonstra** and **Bert Warren** (our two guests) for learning and performing a prediction effect using the *redealing* technique. Bert immediately wowed the waitstaff with their newfound futuresight abilities. Great work!

Thanks to everyone who came out and started summer on a fun note. See you all in September!

Mark Hogan

Next Meeting:

Date: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: OPENERS!

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

October's meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 14

TIME: 7:00 PM

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

TOPIC: OPENERS!

What tricks do you use to start a performance? Do you have some tricks that quickly capture people's attention, and let people know you're worth watching?

Come out to the October meeting and watch folks perform what they consider good *openers*. Perhaps they are effects with many magical moments, or are so strong that you leave them wanting more.

Hope to see you on **Wednesday, October 14!**

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!
--

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Youth scholarships for Magifest 2027 in Columbus, Ohio

(VanishingIncMagic.com)

Calling all young magicians!

We're pleased to announce that our Youth Scholarship applications for Magifest 2027 are now open! This means that **any**

young magician has the opportunity to attend Magifest for FREE (as long as they're between the ages of 8 and 18 during the convention), along with a parent or guardian.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, we have **50 scholarship slots** to fill. Each scholarship also comes with free entrance for one parent.

Our youth attendees will spend time hanging out with magicians their age, get hands-on tuition from our talent, and get to attend exclusive, youth-only events.

For the parents of our youth scholars, this is a valuable opportunity to learn how to best support the interests of your young performer and meet other "magic parents".

How to Apply

To secure a scholarship for you and one parent, you must perform a free show to a non-profit in your area. This could be a church or synagogue or youth center, or charity...get creative! Provide photo evidence of your show and some sort of letter on behalf of the charity acknowledging your work, and that's it.

A few details:

You must be under 18 on January 1st, 2027, to apply.

The application deadline is December 15th, 2026 (we can't accept late entries).

To apply for the scholarship and register, visit:

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic-conventions/magifest/youth/>



**AMERICAN
MUSEUM
of MAGIC**

100th Anniversary Houdini Seance (John Luka)

To mark the 100th anniversary of **Harry Houdini's** death, the *American Museum of Magic* is recreating a historic 1978 *séance*.

Halloween will be a spooky day at the *American Museum of Magic* - especially if the ghost of the late magician **Harry Houdini** makes an appearance.

Following the notes of the first *Houdini Seance* hosted by **Bob Lund** in 1978, there will be an invited circle of distinguished guests gathered around Houdini's milk can escape in hopes of a visit from his spirit. To guarantee authenticity, local civic officials will supervise the trick-free event as historical props are brought out of display, including **Houdini's Spirit Trumpet** and *Milk Can Escape!*.

DATE: Saturday, October 31

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: *The American Museum of Magic*

107 E. Michigan Ave, Marshall, Michigan

Tickets are \$30 for general admission, limited to 40 seats. Children under 8 are not admitted.

VIP seating, those that want the privilege of sitting in the outer circle of protection, can reserve a seat for \$50 and will be gifted a Houdini pint glass. VIP seats are limited to 8.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

[100th Anniversary Houdini Seance | American Museum of Magic](#)



The legendary Juan Tamariz passes away at the age of 83

(rtve.es)

Whether with a deck of cards in his hand or jokingly pretending to play a violin, **Juan Tamariz** had an innate ability to catch the audience. The magician who with his mastery and sense of humor was able to reach several generations through television has

died at the age of 83.

*"With immense sadness, today I say goodbye to my father **Juan Tamariz**, an incredible person, much loved and admired by all," his daughter **Ana** announced on social networks, with a message in which she proclaimed that the memory and "immeasurable work" of her father will be "always" present. "I am very grateful for all the love he gave me and for all the love for magic he gave us," she said.*

Juan Tamariz approached magic as a child, with a box that he asked the *Three Wise Men* for in his day, and he did not give it up at any time in his long professional career. For decades, he amazed audiences with all kinds of "games," as he defined them. *"I like the word game better, because trick sounds like deception,"* he explained in an interview on RNE.

These magic games have accompanied different generations since Tamariz's first foray into the TV station TVE, at the end of the sixties. His charisma and sense of humor made him a beloved and admired character from the beginning, thanks to appearances in programs such as *'Un, dos, tres'*.

His work crossed borders, as evidenced by the *World Card Magic Prize* he received in 1973 during the *World Magic Congress* held in Paris, while at the national level he has accumulated numerous awards, such as the *Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts* awarded by the Government and the *Gold Medal of the Madrid City Council*. the city where he was born in October 1942.

The mayor of Madrid, **José Luis Martínez Almeida**, has lamented in his X account the death of the *"great master of illusionism", "a genius of magic who made several generations dream of his talent, his humor and a unique way of making the impossible possible"*.

A reference for the profession

Colleagues such as **Luis Piedrahita** define him as a "master", for creating a school, *"especially with letters"*, that has put Spain on the map. *"We are the summit of world card magic with great references and everything has*

been thanks to tradition, school, the way of thinking and above all the gigantic and excessive generosity that Juan had," said **Piedrahita** in an interview on RNE.

"Juan is the last great master left in the world of magic," said fellow magician **Jorge Blass**, who feels that he owes **Tamariz** his own vocation. In statements to *Canal 24 Horas*, he remembers him as a "generous" reference, capable of marking "a before and after". "He is a genius of magic who has transcended our country," he said.

The mentalist **Anthony Blake** also considers that "the greatest" has left, as he lamented on RNE, from where he recalled his first contact with **Juan Tamariz** in Oviedo and how he taught him to find his own way.



The Art of Stagecraft (Part 3)

(Conjuror.community)

Performing magic is much more than executing tricks flawlessly. The real magic lies in your ability to captivate the audience, and this is where **stagecraft for performing shows** comes into play.

Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 5: Audience Interaction and Engagement

An integral part of mastering **stagecraft for performing shows** is understanding how to effectively interact with and engage your audience. This can make the difference between a good magic show and a truly memorable one.

Connecting with Your Audience

As a performer, you need to connect with your audience on an emotional level. This involves understanding their expectations, reading their reactions, and tailoring your performance to resonate with them. It's not just about performing a series of [magic tricks](#), it's about creating a shared experience that will leave them amazed and entertained.

One way to connect with your audience is through storytelling. A compelling narrative can add depth to your magic tricks, making them more engaging and memorable. Try to weave a story that relates to the theme of your magic show or the specific tricks you're performing.

Humor is another powerful tool for connecting with your audience. Jokes and funny anecdotes can help to break the ice, lighten the mood, and make your audience more receptive to your performance.

Techniques for Audience Engagement

While connecting with your audience is crucial, it's equally important to actively engage them in your performance. Here are some techniques to consider:

- **Direct Participation:** Invite members of the audience to participate in your magic tricks. This can make them feel like they're part of the magic, increasing their interest and enjoyment. For example, you can ask them to pick a card for [card tricks](#), or assist in performing a trick.
- **Eye Contact:** Make regular eye contact with your audience. This can create a sense of connection and make them feel acknowledged and important.
- **Body Language:** Use expressive body language to convey your emotions and reactions. This can make your performance more dynamic and engaging.
- **Question and Answer:** Engage your audience in a question and answer session after your performance. This can give them an opportunity to express their thoughts and curiosity, making them feel valued and involved.

Engagement Techniques - Description

- **Direct Participation** — Invite audience members to participate in your tricks
- **Eye Contact** — Establish connection through regular eye contact
- **Body Language** — Use expressive movements to enhance your performance
- **Question and Answer** — Encourage audience interaction through Q&A sessions

Remember, the key to successful audience interaction and engagement lies in understanding your audience and adapting your performance style to suit them. By incorporating these techniques into your stagecraft, you can ensure a more engaging and memorable performance.

Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 6: Mastering Stage Presence

A key aspect of **stagecraft for performing shows** is the mastery of *stage presence*. Your ability to command the stage and captivate your audience can turn a good magic show into an unforgettable one.

Enhancing Your Stage Presence

Stage presence is the energy and charisma you project during your performance. It's what makes your audience feel connected to you and your magic. To enhance your stage presence, consider the following:

- **Confidence:** Believe in your magic and your ability to captivate the audience. Practice your [stage magic tricks](#) until you can perform them flawlessly.
- **Energy:** Your energy sets the tone for your show. Make sure it's high, positive, and infectious.
- **Body Language:** Use your body to express your personality and demonstrate the magic. Make your movements intentional and clear. This [article](#) explains seven tips for effective body language on stage.
- **Eye Contact:** Connect with your audience by maintaining eye contact. This can make your spectators feel seen and involved in the magic.

Tips for Commanding the Stage

Commanding the stage is about taking control and guiding your audience through your performance. Here are some tips to help you do just that:

- **Set the Pace:** Your show, your rules. Set the pace of your performance to suit your style and the nature of your tricks.
- **Engage the Audience:** Make your audience a part of the show. Ask for volunteers, respond to reactions, and involve spectators in your tricks.
- **Control the Space:** Use the entire stage. This can make your performance more dynamic and visually appealing.
- **Master Your Tricks:** Nothing commands respect like flawless execution. Whether you're performing [close-up magic tricks for shows](#) or [card tricks for magic shows](#), make sure you've mastered your material.
- **Narrate the Magic:** Tell a story with your magic. This can make your show more engaging and memorable.

Remember, stage presence and command are skills that can be developed with practice and experience. It's part of the art of stagecraft that will truly set your magic shows apart.

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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