

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
September 2007
Volume 3, Issue 1

June's meeting

Well, we didn't exactly "pack 'em in" - but everyone who did bother to show up at the year-end dinner & show at the Elephant & Castle Restaurant had a good time!

The club had several tables booked – but only one was actually used! Thankfully, most of the performers showed up, so there a show after dinner – and an excellent show it was!

First off was a special guest – Deal or No Deal's own Howie Mandel (or our M.C. for the night Mark Hogan with a bald head.) Mark ... er ... Howie performed a "Deal or No Deal" show for \$10 bucks as the "big money". There was even a suitcase girl – or was that Andy Parr in a really bad wig? After some really bad jokes and gags, the spectator won the "big money"!

Andy Parr made some excellent use of the board of playing cards he got at the auction. A spectator shot a suction cup dart at the board to select a card, which was the only card reversed in the desk!

Steve Seguin told us he had been studying different Cards Across techniques, and performed a dandy version (it fooled me badly!) with the

cards paced inside envelopes – yet the signed card (with a different coloured back) made its way to the other envelope!

The 2007 Al Munro Fellowship Award voting was very close this year. This year's award was presented at the show to Mark Hogan.

To finish off the night, Mike Fisher caused a borrowed ring to disappear and reappear inside a bubble gum machine! He followed that with his excellent Ring & String routine – and ended the night by turning my torn \$20 into 50 cents in Canadian Tire money – then into 2 quarters – and used the 2 quarters in the bubble gum machine to find my torn \$20 bill!!! What a great ending to a super show.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 12
7:00PM

Beal Secondary School
255 Dundas Street, London
T-253

Topic: LEARN A RING & ROPE
ROUTINE!

Let's hope we get a better crowd to see it next year!

Mark Hogan

September's Meeting

DATE: Wed., September 12
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
Room 253

Topic: LEARN A RING & ROPE ROUTINE!!

Never worked with a ring & rope? Now here's your chance! You will see and then learn all the moves of a ring & rope routine – and get to perform all the moves as you learn them.

Rings and ropes will be supplied at the meeting, or you can bring your own. So there's no excuse - come out and learn something new, or refresh your skills in an old classic!

News Of Interest



As usual, the CAMaraderie convention in Kitchener in June did not disappoint! The London contingent was strong this year, including our own Matthew Kim performing his amazing card

manipulation routine in the Stage Competition! They saw some incredible magic from the likes of Juan Tameriz, Oscar Munoz, Boris Wild, Steve Beam, Aldo Colombini, and others. The Gala Show had the likes of James Dimmare (this year's Canadian Magician of the Year), Ryan Joyce, Arden James, and an incredibly original act by Tony Chapek was a major highlight.

Many thanks to Joan Caesar for putting on the past three incredible CAM conventions!

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)

Mike Fisher

Sept. 2-9: Lincoln County Fair

Sept. 7-15 – Western Fair

Sept. 22 – Parkhill Fall Fair

TV reality show for the "next great mentalist"

NBC has announced that it has inked a deal for Phenomenon, the working title for a "live" reality competition series that will feature mentalist Uri Geller and Mindfreak illusionist

Criss Angel conducting a search for "the next great mentalist."

Phenomenon is based on a popular Israeli reality competition series called The Successor, which premiered earlier this year. Geller served as a judge and mentor for the Israeli show, and the NBC adaptation will follow a similar format, with 10 contestants having their "mystifying talents" tested through a series of weekly challenges in-front of a panel of celebrity guest judges and a studio audience.

"The match-up of two world-famous personalities, Uri Geller and Criss Angel -- who have demonstrated astounding skills -- makes for a riveting series format," said Ben Silverman, co-chairman of NBC Entertainment and Universal Media Studios.



Finding A Magical Mentor

Part Two

(From a series of articles from
Quentin Reynolds)

Last time I spoke about the importance of both having and being a magical mentor.

While Eric Sharp has been my main mentor, there are others who have,

at the very least influenced my thinking.

Alan Alan ran a magic shop in London known as Alan Alan's Magic Spot. The shop was on street level and catered for both magicians and laymen. He carried a good selection of magic and books as well as the jokes and simple effects popular with laymen.

Prior to this Alan was a very successful escapologist and had toured the world. Frequently he was the headline act in Europe's leading circuses. He was the first to escape from a straight-jacket while hanging upside-down from a burning rope over a cage of lions.

Over the years Alan had met and studied many of the world's leading entertainers. He would analyze what they did and why they did it. He can tell you in great detail their strengths and weaknesses.

During the 1980's I would go to London at least four times a year. Alan's shop was where I spent most of my afternoons. Between customers we would chat about magic and show-business. Or rather Alan would talk and I would listen. He would espouse the theory that "Magic is Theatre and Theatre is Magic". On the surface it sounded bland much but the more I thought about it, the more I realized its truth. We are in the profession of creating theatrical magical moments.

Alan had the enviable knack of taking a simple trick like the self-lighting light bulb sold in joke shops and building a presentation around it. Such a strong presentation that

even magicians would buy. He sold thousands of these effects over the years.

Watching Alan demonstrate was a lesson in magic as theatre. Every effect had its own presentation with a beginning, middle and end. Every step of the way was perfectly clear. No confusion whatsoever. And each effect left you with a satisfying sense of completion.

The really interesting point about Alan's presentations was that anyone could do them. By that I mean you could use his script without having to change a word of it. I pointed out that this was most unusual. Not only are we taught as magicians to come up with our own presentations but it is extremely rare to find a script that can be used as is.

Alan said that it was like buying clothes. Some need to be altered but occasionally some fitted perfectly and needed no alteration at all. It was Alan's genius and deep knowledge of theatre and magic that allowed him to come up with such direct and enchanting routines.

My biggest lesson from visiting Alan was to realize that every performance is a piece of theatre and should have a beginning, middle and end. Now you might say that's obvious and I'd agree it is. But how many magicians actually heed it?

Here's the thing. We recognize it when we see it. We see a magician with an original presentation for a standard trick. Our first instinct is that we want to use it ourselves. But isn't it far better to put on our

thinking caps and come up with our own unique presentation?

While Alan has influenced many magicians his star pupil is Michael Vincent, whose close-up work is a delight to watch.

© 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

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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.

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