

2015/2016 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

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
September 2015 Volume 11, Issue 1

June's meeting

June's meeting was our annual dinner – this year at Crabby Joe's on Dundas Street downtown. We were able to get the library room to have some additional privacy – but only five members came out for dinner.

While the turnout was disappointing, the food, drink, discussions, and magic were most enjoyable. On a warm spring night it was a nice way to begin the summer.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, September 9

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: WHAT YOU LEARNED THIS SUMMER!

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

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

September's Meeting

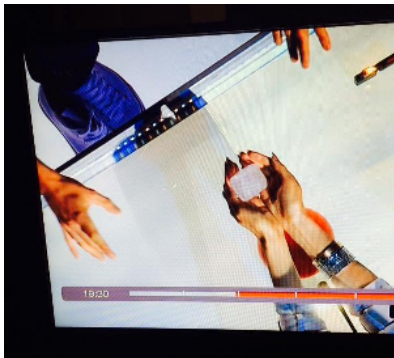
DATE: Wednesday, September 9
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: WHAT YOU LEARNED THIS SUMMER!

The summer is time to kick back, relax, and soak up the sun. And while it was a great summer for sun, there's a chance that many of you stayed indoors for a bit and learned some new magic.

So why not share? Bring out anything you learned, purchased, read, watched or worked on this summer. We'd love to see it!

News Of Interest



Britain's Got Talent magician exposed by eagle-eyed viewers

(Huffington Post)

Magician **Jamie Raven** might have sailed through to this year's 'Britain's Got Talent' final - but some viewers were rather less impressed by his semi-final act on Wednesday night.

While all four judges, **Simon Cowell**, **Amanda Holden**, **Alesha Dixon** and **David Walliams**, were left stunned by his illusion act, many viewers at home weren't so easily fooled - thanks to their pause buttons.

During Jamie's live act, each of the judges took a turn to reveal an object on the card they had selected.

A goldfish for David Walliams and ice for Alesha Dixon - so far, so impressive.

But eagle-eyed viewers watching the act at home quickly took to Twitter to point out that the magician already had his shoe off before Simon Cowell announced he had 'shoe' written on his card (see above picture).

One Tweet read: "Wouldn't call that magic clearly knew the words the judges chose (taking his shoe off)."

Tough crowd.

Then, after revealing a helicopter on stage, which Amanda had written on her card, things got ever so slightly toe-curling.

When Jamie confirmed he'd asked members of the audience to write down the random objects before the show, Simon then asked the crowd who had chosen the word 'helicopter'.

Cue a very long, awkward silence.

And tumbleweed rolling across the stage.

Still, the vast majority of viewers were, quite rightly, still hugely impressed and voted Jamie through to this Sunday's grand final.

We can't wait to see what he comes up with next - we just hope it doesn't involve a helicopter.

To see his performance, visit https://youtu.be/NAR_WSDaV9w.



Watch magician confuse dog with treats

(entertainment.ie)

Finnish magician and mentalist **Jose Ahonen** is back with a GoPro edition of his now famous *'Magic for Dogs'* videos, once more confusing and annoying the crap out of dogs who just want a treat. It's cute for us but imagine how frustrating it is for them?

We still think it's a testament to the loving, warm nature of dogs that this guy still has a face after pulling all this BS. A cat would have torn it right off.

See the video here: <https://youtu.be/yvP5ef-pnmU>

Blind magician brings enchantment to NYC's subway

(PIX11 News)

For four hours, a few days a week, you can find magician **Justin Sight** on duty at the Bedford Avenue subway station in Williamsburg.

Whether it's with a coin or a deck of cards, the 25-year-old knows how to win over a crowd.

What sets him apart from most magicians is that he is legally blind, having been diagnosed with *Stargardt's disease* when he was 10 years old.

"It really wasn't one of those things that I was down about," he told PIX11 News. "I always had the sense that it's just one of those things that makes me unique and that it's something you have to use to your advantage."

And Sight – whose real name is **Adam Jaslikowski** – truly has used it to his advantage, taking his love for magic to the New York City subway.

Sight has been working the L-train's Bedford Avenue platform for the past two years.

He's been getting a lot of attention lately after a subway rider uploaded a video of him that struck gold on YouTube.

His love for dazzling a crowd has turned into a lucrative business, where the magician has landed gigs at corporate parties and even performed for the *Milwaukee Brewers*.

"I'm really passionate about what magic does for people past entertainment value," he said. "I like to use the metaphor how the illusion could put them in touch with something real, something deep inside them."

While playing cards are the centerpiece of his act, the cards this magician was dealt in life hasn't slowed him down.

"It's just kind of accepting life for what it is, without any story about it of how it sucks or how great it is," he explained. "Just really accepting it as it is and just really being present for what it is [as] amazing things can happen."

See videos of Justin performing on his web site:

<http://www.justinsightmagic.com/>

Why the world needs magic

(Huffington Post)

Every trend in life tends to come in circles. The look or feel may change, but the underlying truth stays the same. This is the case with everything from fashion to entertainment.

Being that we're magicians, we'd like to focus on entertainment, more specifically the art of magic. When we were kids back in the 70s, magic and magicians had an undeniable presence in theaters and on television. A very charismatic hippie by the name of **Doug Henning** starred in the hugely successful Broadway play *The Magic Show*. There was an all-American family named the Wilson's that had a Sunday morning television program called *The Magic Circus*. The famous **Blackstone Jr.** toured the country playing to sold-out crowds, and before famed actor **Bill Bixby** became the Incredible Hulk, he played TV Magician/Crimefighter **Anthony Blake** on *The Magician*. Lastly, we saw the emergence of the man who would become synonymous with the word magic itself, David Kotkin aka **David Copperfield**. Magic seemed to be everywhere during this time. By the late 80s though, magic all but vanished from the mainstream like the tricks it conveyed.

After an almost twenty-year hiatus from the public eye, magic began to reemerge. As mentioned earlier the look and feel changed, but the essence of the trick could clearly be recognized. This change came in the form of **David Blaine**. This young streetwise magician gave magic a new and modern look. His lack of patter came across as unrehearsed and natural. His costume was nonexistent as he wore just plain jeans and a simple untucked tee shirt. And with the help of some careful editing he took the emphasis off of the magician and onto the audience reactions which proved to be genius. Blaine opened the door for other similarly attired self-proclaimed street magicians, most notably **Cris Angel**. Between the two magic was relevant again while becoming hip and cool as well.

Today the state of magic is very promising. Weekly television shows like *Masters of Illusion*, *Fool Us* with **Penn & Teller**, and the hugely popular *Carbonaro Effect* let people tune in to receive a daily dose of magic on the small screen. There are three box office breaking tours; *The Illusionists*, *The Supernaturalists*, and *Masters of Illusion Live*. Penn & Teller are on Broadway, not to mention the numerous magicians and illusionists performing weekly in Las Vegas. Finally, movies like *The Prestige*, *Now You See Me*, *The Illusionist*, and *Burt Wonderstone* keep the art of magic alive at the cinema.

Now that magic is popular again we ask the question, "Why the world needs it?" When you watch a good magic trick with just the right mix of theatrics and comedy it can be transformative. We all lust for the feeling of

innocence and wonder lost to our childhood. There's something magic offers that allows us to dodge reality if only for a moment. This is so important when we look around and see nothing but chaos in the world. News and social media tend to gravitate toward the awful parts of life and spend little time on the truly good things. Magic allows us to escape and focus on something fun and positive. Some say that magic is the world's second oldest profession which means it's not going anywhere.

It's popularity at times may fade but always seem to come back strong. So now when you have a choice to watch the news, check Facebook, or enjoy a magical performance, we hope you'll opt for an escape and choose the latter.

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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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