

**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

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
September 2019 Volume 15, Issue 1

## June's meeting

As we have done for many years, the June meeting was attending a local performance. This year we went to "*Magic at the Marienbad*", a new magic and comedy show at the *Marienbad Restaurant*.

**Mike Fisher** is the mastermind behind "*Magic at the Marienbad*", and was the "charming" host of the evening, playing his character of the *Charming Cheat*. **Peter Mennie** was the master sound technician, and **Mark Hogan** and **Mike** did some strolling magic to entertain the masses before the show. And it was a terrific turnout for the show – close to a sellout- and included eight magic club members, plus some family and friends.

First up was the stand-up comedy of **David Green** - "*The Punniest Comedian in Canada*". And that was no lie. The puns (both good ones and bad ones) came fast and furious, and had the audience in stitches. It got everyone in a terrific mood for the magic of **Graeme Reed** (known as "*Graemazing*"). Graeme did some terrific magic with beer, cards, dice, comic books and some great mentalism routines. The audience loved it, and even with a spectator or two trying to outwit Graeme, he never flinched and wowed the crowd. The energy was high for the entire show, and the reviews after the show were great.

After the show, we all met at *Chaucer's Pub* (which was very conveniently downstairs from the show!) for some drinks and more magic.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Date: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 11**

**Time: 7:30 PM**

**Topic: "STUFF YOU CAN DO" SESSION!**

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

It was a marvelous way to start the summer! See you all in the fall!!

Mark Hogan

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## September's Meeting

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**DATE: Wednesday, September 11**

**TIME: 7:30 PM**

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

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## TOPIC: "STUFF YOU CAN DO" SESSION!

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Want to learn some tricks that just about anyone can do? You know you do! And if I can do it, you can do it!

After the summer break, ease back into magic by coming out to see some pretty darn good magic that isn't too taxing on your technical skill.

Our own **Mark Hogan** has spent some time finding some good magic effects that most everyone can do, and he's sharing what he's found.

So come out in September - *bring a deck of cards* - and learn some effects you'll be able to do the next day (or even sooner!)

**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*. Families can enjoy an afternoon of magical experiences that complement existing October events in Elora and Fergus during *Monster Month*. 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**

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.o-wow.ca>



## Indian magician drowns performing Houdini escape

(Canada's Magic)

A magician has been found dead in India's *River Ganges* after a chains escape stunt went horribly wrong.

A crane lowered '*Wizard Mandrake*', born **Chanchal Lahiri**, into the river at Kolkata, while the Indian star's loved ones, fans, reporters and police watched from the river banks on Sunday.

But the tightly-shackled 40-year-old failed to emerge from the water after being released into the current from a metal hook in a bid to recreate a Houdini trick.

The tragic news was confirmed by deputy commissioner of the port division of Kolkata police, *Syed Waquar Raza*.

Before Lahiri entered the river he reportedly said it would be "magic" if he freed himself, but "tragic" if he couldn't.

The magician last successfully pulled off a similar stunt 21 years ago in the same river.

He was locked inside a bulletproof glass box and tied with a chain.

## Cartamundi to acquire United States Playing Card Company

(Mark Hogan)

The Belgian privately owned group *Cartamundi* has signed an agreement to buy The *United States Playing Card Company (USPC)* from its parent company *Newell Brands*. The acclaimed playing cards maker's focus is on North America and Spain. Through this acquisition, *Cartamundi* continues to invest in the global entertainment market.

The *United States Playing Card Company*, owner of the iconic brands such as **Bicycle®**, **Bee®**, **Hoyle®** and **Fournier®**, is the global standard within the world of playing cards. The business employs over 350 people and has manufacturing facilities in the U.S. city of Erlanger (Kentucky) and the Spanish city of Vitoria (Álava). In 2018 USPC realized net sales of approximately 112 million US dollars.

Cartamundi wants to expand its geographic reach through new countries and new channels. This proposed acquisition is a logical step forward, as USPC is a strong player in the growing cardistry, casino and specialty playing cards segments. The combined company will employ 2,500 people and operate 13 state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities across four continents. As such, Cartamundi has a strong local commitment. A commitment to its customers, but also to the local economy and the environment.

Cartamundi is Latin for “*Cards for the World*”. With a history dating back to 1765, Cartamundi is the world’s leading manufacturer of card & board games and digital solutions. With a network of owned sales offices, 11 state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and a workforce of over 2,200 people, Cartamundi is a prominent and growing supplier to the global cards, games and toys industry. In 2018, Cartamundi generated a revenue of approximately \$440 million.

Legendary games such as **Monopoly®** and **Pokémon®** run off the Cartamundi production lines, as do many different varieties of playing cards and card games for consumers as well as casinos.

With its strong brands such as **Color Addict®**, **Shuffle®**, **COPAG®** and **Grimaud®**, Cartamundi created a compelling range of playing cards, children’s card games and family games which can be found in all major retailers across the globe. All contributing to fulfilling the Cartamundi purpose of “*Sharing the Magic of Playing Together*”.

To see **Lee Asher’s** perspective on this acquisition, visit:  
<https://youtu.be/RDJuk9II6dM>

## Mark Hogan picks up the Order of Merlin at IBM convention

(Mark Hogan)

In July, **Mark Hogan** picked up the *Order of Merlin* (25 consecutive years) at the year’s *International Brotherhood of Magicians* convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. Below is a picture with IBM President **Michael Finney**.



This year's convention also housed a **Doug Henning** exhibit, containing many of Doug Henning's original costumes and props. Below is Mark beside Doug's original *Zig Zag* effect.



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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:  
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