

**2023/2024 Club Membership Dues are now due!!**

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the September meeting, or mail your cheque to: *Mark Hogan, 21-455 Hyde Park Road, London ON N6H 3R9*



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
September 2023 Volume 17, Issue 1

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## June's meeting

It was the last club meeting before the summer break, and we had someone eagerly waiting to perform to join our club.

**Byron Berry** was on the "hot seat", and he didn't disappoint. First, he showed us a nice version of **Paul Curry's** "Out Of This World" using a gambling theme. Then a selected card was lost and a random number chosen – Byron then cut to that number of cards and there was the selection! He also showed us his version of **Bill Malone's** "Cutting Tens". The results of the vote were unanimous: *Welcome to the club, Byron!*

This night's theme was *Impromptu/Every Day Carry Magic*. **Mark Hogan** lead off with a couple of "bar betcha" effects: He was able to determine which of three cups had a coin under it; and whether a hidden coin was heads or tails. And **Al Coombs** gave us his take on the popular "floating knife in the hand".

Some impromptu mentalism was done by **Leonardo Martins**, who showed how he uses *Magician's Choice*, and also taught us a wonderful center tear peek from **Luke Jeremy**.

**Keith O'Brien** performed *Any Thought-Of Card At Any Pocket*, and **Kohl Strange** amazed us with how he can make a coin fall upwards!

### **Next Meeting:**

**Date: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 20**  
**Time: 7:00 PM (NEW MEETING TIME!)**

**Topic: VANISHES!**

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

Thanks to everyone for showing off their impromptu magic and their every day carry! And we'll all get back together in the fall!

Mark Hogan

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## September's Meeting

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**DATE: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 20**

**TIME: 7:00 PM (NEW MEETING TIME!)**

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

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## TOPIC: VANISHES!

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Do you have effects where things vanish? Cards, coins, borrowed bills, borrowed rings, ... and maybe they magically reappear (or maybe they don't!).

Bring out any effects you have or know where things are there and then aren't. We'd love to see them - before they vanish! (See what I did there. OK - I'll make the bad jokes vanish.)

Hope to see you for the first meeting after the summer break!

**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



### Steve Valentine lecture in Toronto

(The Browser's Den)

*The Browser's Den* is very excited to announce the **Steve Valentine lecture!** They've wanted him to lecture at the shop since he first relocated to Toronto, but with his hand in so many cookie jars (film & tv actor, voice actor, consultant, international performer) it's been hard to find the time... but they did it!

**Steve Valentine** is many things, but in his heart he's a magician first. And, a seriously great magician to boot.

From headlining in Las Vegas and at Hollywood's world-famous *Magic Castle* (™) to performing for troops in the middle of a war and being the guest of... certain Royalty.

Not only has he starred in the most successful touring magic show in the world, *'The Illusionists'*, and created his own one man show *'Life and Other Deceptions'* but four years ago Steve decided to create a global online subscription service to help magicians, amateur and professional, not only learn better magic and improve their craft, but also improve their performances. Since then, his unique OTT service, *Magic On The Go*, has become a global force.

Being a serious student of the craft, he doesn't just learn a trick, he studies the various methods, traces the trick throughout the literature, and collects the tidbits, nuances and wrinkles that elevate a piece to the highest pedigree.

You can expect his lecture to pull from the arcane knowledge he's amassed for his *Magic On The Go* service, and the lecture will both leave you in awe and inspire you to take your own magic to the next level.

Learn from a true modern master, and be highly entertained at the same time.

The lecture is on **Saturday, September 23 at 6:30pm** at the **Browser's Den Of Magic** in Toronto. **The ticket price is \$25.** To buy a ticket, call Browser's Den at **416-783-7022** or click the following link:

<https://browsersden.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a3dfd9dc2ae59c744c11c2ee0&id=6dbe4d83eb&e=1447245cd8>



## Allan Slaight Awards - Canadian Rising Star 2023

(Magicana.com)

We are thrilled to kick off the ninth year of the **Allan Slaight Awards** by announcing the *Canadian Rising Star Award*.

This award recognizes an emerging Canadian magician, and it comes with a prize of \$5,000 from the *Slaight Family Foundation*, and also includes an engraved iPad to commemorate the occasion. Past recipients include: **Mahdi Gilbert, Luc Langevin, Eric Leclerc, Nicholas Wallace, Carisa Hendrix, The Sentimentalists, Jonah Babins** and **Neil Crowell**.

We are thrilled to add **ATSUSHI ONO** to this growing list of rising stars.

A dynamic professional magician from Calgary, Atsushi has turned his childhood dream into a thriving career. He raised his game this year by auditioning for *Canada's Got Talent* and made his way to the finale round.

Far beyond competitions, Atsushi seeks to further the art of magic. He sets out to bring joy with wonderment. Atsushi has revealed himself to be a thoughtful, hardworking magician, constantly pushing past stereotypes as he embraces the curious ways of being a professional magician. Atsushi's passion for magic and his quest to be the best performer he can be make him a true rising star.

## Allan Slaight Awards - International Rising Star 2023

(Magicana.com)

We are thrilled to add another dynamic magician to our burgeoning list of interesting and exciting performers. Today's award, *The Allan Slaight International Rising Star Award*, celebrates exactly that—an up-and-coming magician



from the global community. This award comes with a prize of \$5,000 and an engraved iPad, all courtesy of the *Slaight Family Foundation*.

Past recipients of this award are: **Henry Vargas of Brazil, Jorge Blass of Spain, Edward Hilsum of Great Britain, Noah Levine of the United States, Ding Yang of China, Diego Vargas of Costa Rica, Billy Kidd of Great Britain, and Mikayla Oz of the United States**. These magicians exemplify the evolving face of magic. Their devotion to the art is impressive, as are their innovative styles of forwarding magic.

We are pleased to include **NIKOLA ARKANE** of Northern Ireland to this list of bright and creative stars.

Meet this exciting magician from Belfast who has built a career as a well-rounded entertainer. Discover how Nikola has expanded her reach, reinvented her style and grown her repertoire with energy and devotion to her craft—and, you will see why **Nikola Arkane** is, indeed, a rising star.

Visit : <https://www.magicana.com/news/blog/international-rising-star-2023>

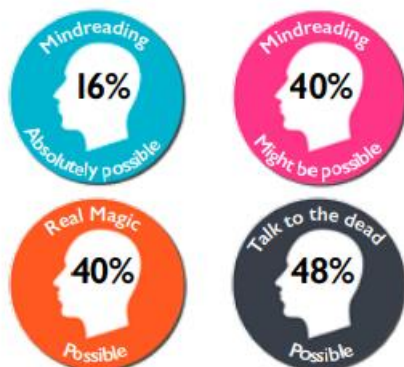
## Getting Real

(What Do Audiences Really Think)

In September 2016 **Joshua Jay** published the article “*What Do Audiences Really Think?*” in *Magic magazine*. In it he outlines the results of a study involving more than 500 participants on how they view various aspects of magic. The following is an excerpt.

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In order to enjoy magic, audiences must *suspend disbelief*. After all, there is no such thing as magicians doing real magic. But even something so fundamental as belief in magicians has never been tested until now. We were interested in finding out how far people would stretch their disbelief, and whether there are magicians, tricks, or circumstances that cause people to believe that what they are seeing is real.



To begin with, we asked if they think it is possible for a human to *memorize an entire deck of cards*. **Seventy-three percent** of people thought this might be possible, and the older the subject, the more they thought it would be possible.

Then we asked if people think it is possible for humans to *read the minds of others*: **sixteen percent** absolutely did, and

forty percent think it might be possible. Nearly **40 percent** think it might be possible to *do real magic*, and **48 percent** believe it may be possible to *talk to the dead*. **Thirty-five percent** of people also believe it might be possible to *move objects with the mind*.

This revelation shows a shocking open-mindedness about the possibilities for authentic magic, especially given the complete lack of evidence to support any of it. But certain performers — **Uri Geller, Derren Brown, and David Blaine** come to mind — have a performing style that is so realistic that many people do believe that what they are doing is real.

Whether it's talking to the dead or moving objects with the mind, just short of half the participants believe these things might be possible. Audience demographics differ wildly depending on where they are, who you are, and what you're doing. But this data suggests that in virtually every show you do, some of your audience believes that what you are doing is real. Is it possible to pinpoint who is most likely to believe? A self-identified belief in a God is positively correlated to belief in talking to the dead, mindreading, moving objects with the mind, and a belief in real magic. But since beliefs are not something we wear on our faces, this aspect isn't particularly helpful in choosing volunteers or audience members. This data could be useful to those who believe it's ethically wrong to claim supernatural powers in a magic show, and could equally be used for those wishing to make their performances appear more like the real thing.

Shell Game  
Vol. 17, Issue 1  
September 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.

London Magicians Guild web site:  
[magiclondon.brinkster.net](http://magiclondon.brinkster.net)

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