

2024/2025 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
September 2024 Volume 18, Issue 1

June's meeting

The last meeting before the summer break was sparsely attended but those who made it had a good time. There was some discussion about the "Magic Mondays" being planned with the *CherryHill Mall*, and upcoming events like the *Browser's Bash*.

But the big moment of the night was the performance by our guest **Sam General** in order to join our club. Sam did a couple of card effects that used his indigenous heritage to frame the routines, and did so marvelously. First, he described how cards are like elements in nature that each give off their own energy – and he honed in on that energy to find a selected card! Then he explained how court cards have authority since they have faces, so he inserted a court card face up under a face down selection in the deck, and the court card was able to speak the name of the selection! Sam pulled off a well-rehearsed and very entertaining performance – *Welcome to the club, Sam!*

We also saw **Mark Hogan** perform a couple of card routines. First was the duo effect *C10 Prediction* by **Dani DaOrtiz** and **Woody Aragon**, where **Peter Mennie** was able to predict the location in the deck of three different thought-of cards! He also did *The Aura* by **Dani DaOrtiz**, where a smartphone photo captured the aura of a person, which helped Mark determine an unseen selection from a shuffled deck!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 18 (NOTE THE DATE!)

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: ROUND ROBIN MAGIC!

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

After that, it was time to head to *Crabby Joe's* to get a head start on the summer! Thanks to everyone for joining us – and we hope to see everyone again in September!

Mark Hogan

September's meeting

DATE: Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 18 (NOTE THE DATE!)

TIME: 7:00 PM

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

TOPIC: *ROUND ROBIN MAGIC!*

The new year at the club is starting with something completely different - it's a great way to learn about all the members!

We'll sit in pairs and introduce ourselves to the other person, and also perform one trick we enjoy performing, or one that you are working on. After a few minutes, we switch seats and share again. Think of it as "magic speed dating", with the idea of getting to know our fellow club members better.

If you can bring one trick to perform, that would be great - perform that trick for each person - by the end you'll hopefully have mastered it! (If not, be prepared to share your interests in magic.)

It'll be a great way for each of us to get to know and establish a rapport with everyone else.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Browser's Den of Magic

Canada's Oldest Magic Shop

Browser's Den - new location and hours starting September 14

(Browser's Den)

We hope that all is well.

Browser's Den of Magic shop will be moving to a new location!

2900 Steeles Ave East ON L3T 4X1 (Inside the 'Market' at Don Mills & Steeles)

Currently at the above location we have a *Mini Browser's Den*. But as of *September 14* we are taking over more space!

Tuesday, August 27 will be the last day that the Dufferin location will be open. The new location is a two minute drive off of the 404 at Steeles.

There is tons of free parking!

Please note with the new change our shop hours will be:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Yours truly - Jeff & The Browser's Den Team



David Ben appointed to the Order of Canada

(Magicana)

Congratulations to Magicana's founder and artistic director, **David Ben**, on his appointment to the *Order of Canada!*

The Order of Canada recognizes individuals – trailblazers – who have enriched the lives of others; who have made a difference in Canada.

David Ben is one of those special individuals.

David is a unique individual who has made significant and lasting contributions to the Canadian arts community, specifically in performance art. As a leading figure in the world of magic, **David Ben** has spent 45 years exploring, developing, performing, preserving and sharing magic – its repertoire, technique and history – across Canada, and internationally.

While he is recognized as a fine sleight-of-hand practitioner, David is truly a multi-dimensional artist. A performer, writer, historian, producer, publisher, and, perhaps most importantly, a community activist – dedicated to sharing wonder through the development of *Magicana*, and its archives and community programming.

David truly represents the Order's motto: *DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM* – "They desire an better country."

We are delighted, thrilled and proud to congratulate David on his appointment to one of the most extraordinary levels of recognition for a Canadian citizen.





Lost in the Shuffle: Is a deck of cards the answer to a 500 year old murder mystery?

(Yahoo Canada)

When you think of even the most amateur magicians, one of your first thoughts is likely some sort of card trick. But in **Jon Ornoy's** documentary [Lost in the Shuffle](#), famed magician, two-time world champion

Shawn Farquhar, leads us through mysteries hidden in the artwork of every single deck of cards.

In the film, which was part of this years *Hot Docs Festival* in Toronto, Farquhar travels to six countries trying to prove a theory that each deck of cards has hidden clues to a 1498 conspiracy to kill a French King. Farquhar also creates a new routine that tells the story **Charles VIII's** demise, with the help of a number of different magicians.

The collaboration between Farquhar and Ornoy began when the filmmaker went to Farquhar's [Hidden Wonders](#) theatre in British Columbia for his birthday and had such a good time Ornoy sent the magician an email after the show. They started chatting and hanging out together, when Ornoy initially had the idea to do a tour film centred around Farquhar's work, but then that changed.

"One day he pulled out his laptop and showed me this *PowerPoint* that he put together about this court card conspiracy story, ... hidden in the art of every deck of cards you've ever held are the clues to this 500-year-old murder, and that was definitely a light bulb. That's a pretty good hook," Ornoy explained to *Yahoo Canada*.

It terms of what made this a worthy story to explore, Farquhar said it's "odd" that for the bulk of his career he used a deck of cards as a tool, but never really looked at them.

"This friend of mine **Steve Beam** did a little thing where he fooled me with a card trick, where the queen turned around, and I'm like, 'How did you do that?' He said, '*It's in every deck Shawn,*'" Farquhar shared. "I immediately was grabbing people's decks of cards, we were at a conference going, 'They really are in every brand. What? How did I not see that?' And that's a big question, that there are things that are apparent, right in front of you, that you will never see. That got me looking at, what else have I missed."

Travelling to multiple countries and conducting a number of interviews, Ornoy had the ambitious tasks of narrowing down all that footage in a way that serviced the historical aspect of this story, and the magic.

"I had planned out basically every scene for the entire sequence of the film, ... and then we sat down and started editing and most of that went out the window," he said. "We had a fair amount of control of what we're doing, this was not like a vérité documentary where we're following action as it's happening, ... but even then, in the process of making it things change, or someone says something you weren't expecting, and then you have to be able to kind of flow with that."

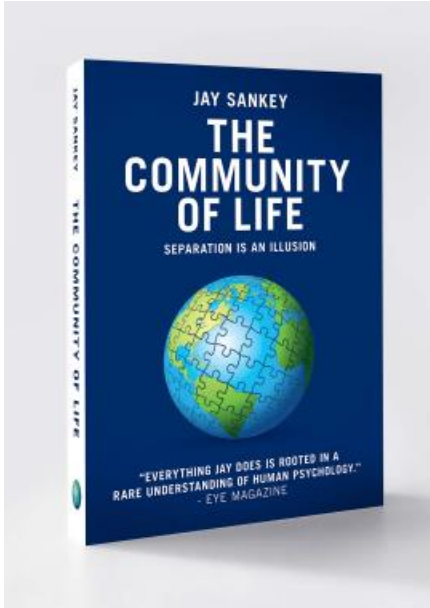
"There's multiple different kinds of story threads, so figuring out a way to make those all kind of integrate into a cohesive narrative, that was the real challenge."

Magic as a medium is really able to grab people's attention, making some obsessed with trying to figure out how a magician performs a trick, while others are just amazed, and maybe a little skeptical.

"Every night when I do a show at *Hidden Wonders* and as I'm performing I take a mental note, a picture of the audience, because I can see there's that nine-year-old kid ... in the front corner, with the 40-year-old guy who was super skeptical, the 22-year-old hipster who was dragged there by his girlfriend," Farquhar said. "I have just about everybody in this room, the demographics." "I can't think of another art that has that wide a spectrum for a single subject." In terms of where Farquhar believes his magic will evolve in the future, he said he'll never stop learning.

"I have more than 10,000 volumes of books in my home, just on magic," he said. "And some of them are in languages that I don't understand, so I will *Google Translate* read the book."

"There's a new book every month from magicians nowadays, ... and I buy them all. I'm addicted to it. ... I see some, they call themselves the master magician, I'll always be a student. I teach, I call it a workshop, ... [but] I still want to [have an] insatiable appetite for learning."



Jay Sankey has free e-book on seeing & thinking past illusions

(Yahoo Canada)

"I loved experiencing a brilliant side of Sankey that he's never shared through his magic or comedy."- **Bruce O'Connor**

Every since I was a child, I've always seen the world as a mysterious parade of illusions.

So it's no wonder, I wrote an unusual little book about trying to see (and think!) PAST these illusions.

"A mind-expanding mixture of extremely creative metaphysics and optimistic philosophy."- **David**

Shelby

"Jay's fascinating view inspired me to see our world in a whole new way."- **Rich Harris**

This *'little book of big ideas'* explores an ambitious variety of topics including personal identity, community, innocence, social media, the psychology of separation, historical humility and much more.

You'll find the link to the absolutely FREE 100-page e-book below.

I hope you enjoy it and it gives you some fresh 'food for thought.'

And if you feel your friends, family, or the followers on social media might enjoy the book, I'd really appreciate you sharing the link.

After all, none of our truths are separate.

And we're all in this together.

Warm wishes,

Jay

To download the absolutely FREE 100-page e-book [CLICK HERE.](#)

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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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