

2026/2027 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 2026

Volume 20, Issue 1

June's meeting

With the long, cold winter in the rearview mirror, and summer almost upon us, it was time to have a "*Start of Summer*" celebration at the *Piper Arms restaurant*! After booking the back room but not getting it, we were allowed to use it and seven hardy partiers came out (including **Serge Pereira** who we were glad to see come out!)

There was food ... and drink ... and magic! **Mark Hogan** tried desperately to complete **Joshua Jay's** colour-changing *Prism Deck* routine with a *Phantom Deck* ending where all the cards vanish except the selection. (It wasn't pretty - but it's all in how you finish!). **Harvey Poole** was showing off his rubber band prowess with some rubber band penetrations through his fingers and through a cellphone!

Byron Berry showed us a cool gimmick used to vanish a coin that just uses gravity to do the hard work! **Serge Pereira** (who we were glad to see after a long absence!) demonstrated a terrific way to allow more audience participation to **Simon Cassegrain's** *Triumph Shuffle*, as well as cutting instantly to any card anyone named! Amazing!

And **Peter Mennie** had the trick of the night with a variation on *Bank Night* using four window envelopes, each containing prizes. The spectator chose the "*Fist Bump*" prize, while all the others contained \$100 bills!

Next Meeting:

Date: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 (NOTE THE DATE!)

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: WELCOME BACK!

Location: CRABBY JOE'S RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN)
276 Dundas Street, London

Thanks to everyone who came out and started summer on a fun note.
See you all in September!

Mark Hogan

September's meeting

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 (ONE WEEK LATER THAN NORMAL!)
TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: CRABBY JOE'S RESTAURANT (DOWNTOWN)
276 Dundas Street, London

TOPIC: WELCOME BACK!

The nights are getting a bit "crisp" - so we're in on the end of summer. 🥲
But that means one thing ... the London magic club is starting up again!

The school is no longer unavailable in early September, so why not hit our regular spot to begin the new magic year. We'll meet at **Crabby Joe's Restaurant** at the corner of **Dundas and Wellington** (where many of us often go after club meetings).

Please bring any magic you've been working on during the summer.

If you haven't come to the club in a while, you are encouraged to come by, say Hi to old friends, and help kick off the new year. And everyone is encouraged to bring any friends you may have who are curious about magic and want to share in the fun.

Hope to see you at **Crabby Joe's Downtown** on **Wednesday, September 16!**

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!
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Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



2025 CAM Magician of the Year

(CAMMagic.org)

The *Canadian Association of Magicians (CAM)* has named **Gabriella Lester** as the **2025 CAM Magician of the Year**.

This prestigious award recognizes a CAM member who has demonstrated outstanding performance, professionalism, and impact within the Canadian and global magic communities.

Born in South Africa, at the age of 10 she met Canadian magician **Shawn Farquhar** who inspired her to pursue magic, and later became her mentor.

She did her first ever Vegas performance at the *Hard Rock Hotel* in Vegas at fourteen. Later that year, she became one of the youngest in history to perform **Harry Houdini's** infamous upside-down straitjacket escape. In 2022, aged 18, she performed a version of it on American magicians **Penn and Teller's** hit show *Fool Us*. She is now an associate producer on the show.

She was also seen on **Michelle Khare's** series *Challenge Accepted* while training her to perform Houdini's infamous *Water Torture Cell*.

She was a member of the Junior Society at the *Academy of Magical Arts*, which mentors young magicians between the ages of 13 and 20. She was also named *Canadian Rising Star* in 2024.

Starting in late 2025, Lester participated in the live show of the *Now You See Me* movies, along with other magicians from all over the world.

Congratulations, Gabriella!

New addition to the Martins household

At the June "Start of Summer" party at the Piper Arms, **Leo Martins** let us know some important news – a new baby boy! Leo is now a father to baby **Gabriel Martins**. Baby and mother Sylvia are doing well.

We expect to see Gabriel take after his Dad and start reading minds and predicting the future in no time!

2026 CAM Election results

(CAMMagic.org)

The **Canadian Association of Magicians (CAM)** recently held an election for the positions of President and Vice President-Elect.

The results are in. CAM congratulates its newest board members:

Shawn Farquar: *President*

Marc Trudel: *Vice President*

Their terms began on August 31, 2026. The outgoing board will meet with Shawn and Marc to help select the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Congratulations also to Ryan Joyce as he ends his 6-year contribution to CAM as its Vice-President and President.



The Art of Stagecraft (Part 2)

(Conjuror.community)

Performing magic is much more than executing tricks flawlessly. The real magic lies in your ability to captivate the audience, and this is where **stagecraft for performing shows** comes into play.

Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 3: Lighting and Sound

In the realm of stagecraft for performing shows, lighting and sound are two powerful elements that can significantly enhance the impact of your performance. When harnessed effectively, they can add depth and dimension, heighten suspense, and guide the audience's attention.

The Role of Lighting in Stagecraft

Lighting is a crucial aspect of stagecraft. It's not just about visibility – it's about creating mood, directing attention, and enhancing illusions. A well-lit stage can draw the audience in, while strategic spotlighting can highlight the climax of your trick.

Different lighting techniques can also create various moods. Soft, warm lighting can create an intimate atmosphere, while stark, bright lights can add a sense of drama or urgency. Experiment with different colors, intensities, and angles to find what best suits your performance style and the specific tricks you are performing.

Remember, the key is subtlety. Your lighting should complement your tricks, not overshadow them. It should guide the audience's eyes and enhance the illusion, not reveal the secrets. For more information on how to effectively incorporate lighting into your magic shows, you can explore our article on [magic show performance tips](#).

How Sound Enhances Your Performance

Sound, much like lighting, is an integral part of stagecraft that can greatly amplify the effect of your magic tricks. The right music or sound effect at the right moment can make a trick more compelling and memorable.

Sound can help set the tone for your performance, be it mysterious, playful, or dramatic. It can also serve as an audible misdirection, masking the noise of your movements or drawing attention away at key moments.

Moreover, sound can help build suspense or signal a climax. A crescendo in music can signal that something amazing is about to happen, priming your audience for the big reveal.

When choosing music or sound effects, consider your audience, the setting, and the mood you want to create. The sound should be an extension of your performance, reinforcing the story you're telling and the emotions you're trying to evoke.

Remember, the sound should not be overpowering. It should supplement your performance, not distract from it. For more guidance on how to use sound effectively in your magic shows, check out our article on [magic tricks for performing shows](#).

Lighting and sound are just two elements of stagecraft that can help elevate your magic shows. By understanding and mastering these aspects, you can create a more immersive and engaging experience for your audience. After all, a great magic show is not just about the tricks you perform, but also the atmosphere you create.

Stagecraft for Performing Shows Tip 4: Costumes and Props

When it comes to **stagecraft for performing shows**, the visual elements are just as important as your magic tricks. The right costumes and props can enhance your performance, making it more engaging and memorable for your audience.

Selecting the Perfect Costume

Your costume is a key part of your on-stage persona. It sets the tone for your performance and gives your audience immediate clues about your magic style and character.

When selecting your costume, consider the following factors:

1. **Theme:** Your costume should align with the theme of your magic show. If your tricks have a Victorian-era vibe, a modern outfit may look out of place. Similarly, a formal tuxedo might not suit a show full of comedic, casual magic.
2. **Functionality:** Your costume should allow you to perform your tricks smoothly. If a trick requires dexterity, make sure your costume doesn't restrict your movements. Similarly, if you need to conceal a prop, your costume should provide a suitable hiding place.
3. **Comfort:** You'll be wearing your costume for the duration of your show, so make sure it's comfortable. A costume that's too tight, too loose, or too hot can distract you from your performance.
4. **Distinctiveness:** Your costume should help you stand out. It's an extension of your brand as a magician, so choose something that represents you and is memorable for your audience.

Using Props Effectively in Your Show

Props can add excitement to your show and enhance your magic tricks. Here are some tips for using props effectively in your magic show:

1. **Choose Relevant Props:** Your props should be relevant to your tricks and your show's theme. For instance, if you're performing [card tricks](#), your props could include a special deck of cards or a magic wand.
2. **Use Props to Enhance Your Tricks:** Props can make your tricks more visually appealing. For example, colored scarves can add a burst of color to a [close-up magic trick](#).
3. **Practice with Your Props:** Just like your magic tricks, you need to practice using your props. This ensures that you can handle them smoothly during your performance.
4. **Keep Your Props in Good Condition:** Make sure your props are clean and in good working order. A broken or dirty prop can ruin the illusion you're trying to create.

Remember, your props are tools to enhance your performance. They should complement your magic tricks, not distract from them. Check out our guide on [stage magic tricks](#) for ideas on how to incorporate props into your show.

In summary, costumes and props are integral elements of **stagecraft for performing shows**. They contribute to the overall aesthetic of your show and can enhance your audience's experience. By selecting the right costume and using props effectively, you can create a magic show that's truly magical.

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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:
magiclondon.brinkster.net

London Magicians Guild e-mail:
magic_london@yahoo.ca