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World's best mag(ic)azine. Kinda!

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secrets

ALL NEW INSIDE

How to...

Be funny

David Williamson

False shuffle

Andrew Frost

B'Pool tips

Ben Hart

Dynamo
Scorpion attack

Exclusive interview by
YMC's Luke Oseland

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Welcome

New editor, mag and magic

This is like the bit in *Doctor Who* when there's a puff of smoke, flashing lights and a weird wail... when the time-travelling Doctor is reborn as a different actor. Well sort of. Your old editor Dr Will Houstoun has transformed into me. But what does that mean for this great magazine?

Well, I'm hoping to create the magazine I wished I'd had when I was a young magician. With your help I'm sure we can conjure up a brilliant mag packed with fun, tips and tricks to help make your magic that much better... and to make you smile along the way.

And what a great first edition this is. (He says humbly.)

Dynamo sat down with YMC's Luke Oseland to talk about his new show and some of the crazy things that went down while filming it. Scorpion. Ouch! He also gives YMC members some great tips on how to make your magic really stand out, and shares his experiences of his recent health battles and how he turned them into a positive.

Comedy magic sensation David Williamson reveals he used to be a shy introvert at school and explains how he grew into the crazy onstage character he plays.

And FISM winner and Penn & Teller fooler Javi Benitez gives YMC's double J-Day winner Jake Allen some tips on reaching the top.

And if those top names aren't enough, we've got a Blackpool survival guide with tips from ex-YMC member and *BGT* star Ben Hart. Plus there's so much more.

This is just a start. Please keep sending your ideas to me. I really want you all to be involved... even if it's to drop me a message to tell me what you like - and what you don't like - about the new magazine.

OK, I may not be a doctor but I have been doing magic all my life. Just to make you laugh - and me squirm - I've jumped in my Tardis to bring you a photo of me back in the day performing magic in a circus. Eek!

Stay magical.

> *William Spencer* - editor

editor@youngmagiciansclub.co.uk



Photo: Mark Hesketh/Jennings



BIG TOP LITTLE ME

Here's a young me performing at a circus. And a slightly updated pic above!



Where there's a Will!

It was great to see ex ed Will Houstoun recently delivering a knock-out show combining history and super strong magic. We miss you.

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BY ANOTHER DAY

Dynamo shares his tips on learning magic, coping with school and how to survive conventions

CALL ME

Photos: William Spencer

SCORPION MAN

Dynamo gives an exclusive interview to friend and YMC member Luke Oseland

LUKE: What can we expect from your new show *Beyond Belief*?

DYNAMO: The new show takes people on a journey. Before I got ill I started making it and it was going to be *Magician Impossible 2.0*. But getting ill helped change the angle, perspective and direction it took. And it ended up being a million times better than what it would have been.

It features the street magic that people know me for and large scale death-defying stunts. It also has my story and journey from rock bottom to where I am now, fighting my way back up. I've learned so much from the experience but it's

changed my magic and how I approach life in general.

LUKE: You got stung by a scorpion filming your new show. How much did it hurt?

It hurt a little bit. Luckily it wasn't a full sting from the tail, it was a pinch from the pincers. There's no venom in it. It was still a trip to the hospital. Potentially I could have died. But I've had worse.

LUKE: Well you're a superhero. Nothing can hurt you.

DYNAMO (Laughing): I'm no longer Dynamo, I'm now Scorpion Man.

LUKE: What do you prefer - TV, stage or arena?

DYNAMO: Tough one. If you'd have asked me this question three years ago 100% I would have said walkaround close-up magic. That's always been my forte, where I built my chops up. Since doing the O2 Arena there's not a feeling I can get that comes close to going on stage in front of tens of thousands of people. That is a different feeling... I can't put it into words. It's one of those things that I never not want to do again. When I did that tour - we did 111 shows in the UK - to be honest I could have done that show every night for the rest of my life.

Every time I did that show I found ways to fine tune it to make it better. Even now it's not perfect. The more you do it the more you can improve it. It's like any good piece of magic. There's material I've been doing since I was young enough to be in the Young Magicians Club that I'm still doing now. But if you'd have seen me doing it 15 years ago it looks way different from how it looks now because I've learnt over time to develop it into something that's not just a trick, it's real magic.

WILLIAM: Are you touched by the public's response to your illness? You're a national treasure.

DYNAMO: I've never been ashamed of my illness. It's not difficult to talk about. But when I started to have a difference in appearance because of medication I thought it's only right to let people know what was really going on so they had a bit of understanding.

I was incredibly shocked by the amount of empathy that people showed towards me. It was a really nice feeling. It was good to not feel alone in that time when I was at my lowest.

At the same time it was the outpouring of support that gave me the drive to make me want to fight back and create something to thank everybody. Which is what *Beyond Belief* is. It's a tribute to all of the fans and all of the support they've given me. Because without that support I probably wouldn't be as strong dealing with what I've been going through.

LUKE: If you could go back in time and give advice to a younger Dynamo, what would it be?

DYNAMO: Don't give a damn about what anybody thinks.

When I went to school I'd never really fit in. I was always an outsider, a loner. I thought differently to other people. At school I would go out of my way to try and fit in. I was always concerned about what other people thought about me. But the one thing I've realised over the last 15-20 years is that anything anybody thought about me at school is totally irrelevant now. They don't define me. School can be a popularity contest but it doesn't define the person you become in years to come. People might look at you and think people that do magic are geeks. I'm a geek. I don't care. Would you rather grow up to be like me and be called a geek or be that jock on the football field who now isn't happy? It's very easy to take things to heart, what people say to you when you're younger. Because when you're young everybody wants to be cool and thinks they know it all, whereas you have to go through life to realise you don't know anything.

LUKE: What's your favourite deck of cards?

DYNAMO: Black Fontaines. I think I'm going to have to make my own deck this year. So that will be my favourite.

LUKE: What's the best thing you've seen at this convention?

The best thing was seeing Andrew Goldenhersh pull a rabbit from his hair. [LAUGHS] If I had the hair I'd 100% do it. Javi Benitez's Gypsy Thread is also amazing.

LUKE: What book are you reading?

DYNAMO: Andi Gladwin's *Focusing on Magic*. Anybody starting out in magic should read this book. It's a guide on how you can learn. Even for someone who's been in magic for as long as I have, I learnt things from this.

And a non-magic book? One by Guy Kawasaki - he worked at Apple - called *Wise Guy*. It's a bunch of stories that he's learnt from his life. At the end of each chapter there's a wisdom that you can apply to any area of your life.

LUKE: What's the last film you watched and enjoyed?

"School can be a popularity contest but it doesn't define the person you become"



DYNAMO: *Le Mans 66* with Christian Bale and Matt Damon.

LUKE: What are you watching on TV?

DYNAMO: *Narcos Mexico*. It was really cool.

DYNAMO'S TIPS FOR BLACKPOOL

Take a notebook or an app on your phone to make notes because you're going to get bombarded with so much information.

The first convention I went to I made the mistake of just walking around the dealers room. I didn't even know what a lecture was. I didn't go to a lecture. There is so much wisdom in those lectures, you need a notebook. You get shown so much over the weekend that you forget a lot.

Take a notebook, go to the lectures and look at the dealers at the end or you'll end up buying loads of junk that you'll never use. People working behind these stands are

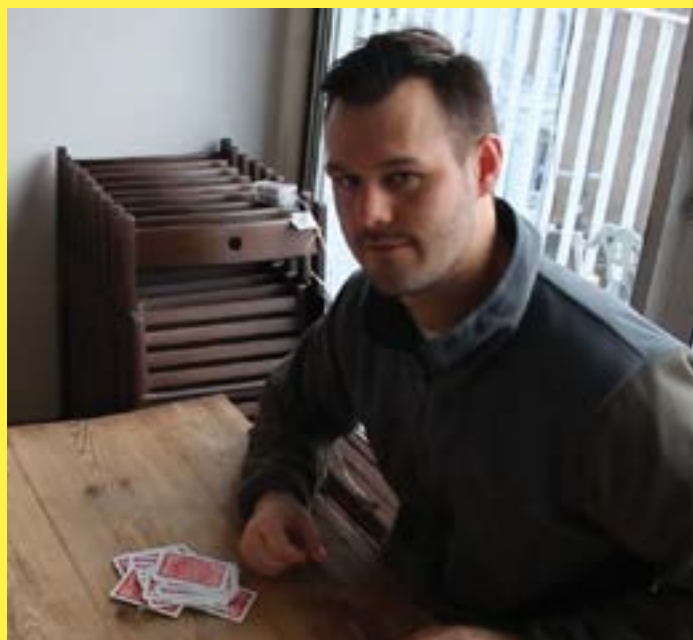
really good at demming and selling these things to you.

If you're going to buy anything from magic conventions buy books because when you read you learn and interpret things your own way. You and me could read the same book and not get the same thing from it. The written word is the best way to learn to find yourself in the magic.

It's very easy to watch a video and emulate what they do word for word. You end up becoming a good impersonator. You don't get to learn who you are. That's why reading is very important. Read read read read read.

THE

RUFF SHUFF



Slightly Obsessed move ace Andrew Frost shares a brand new control

The Ruff Shuffle is a very deceptive control that I came up with to go with my one-phase Ambitious Card. It is designed to be messy (rough).

Effect

A chosen card is returned to the deck. Packets of cards are sloppily pulled off the deck, mixed and tabled until the whole deck is mixed and the card appears lost in the jumble.

But in reality you have controlled the selected card to the top of the shuffled deck.

How?

When you have a card selected and returned, you deal the cards above the break down to the table sloppily. And when you get to the break you move the selected card back to the top of the dealing hand pile as you mix up each packet.



1 Have a card selected, looked at and returned to the middle of the deck. Keep a pinky break above it. I keep the cards on top a bit messy so the break doesn't show.

2 Push over some cards into your other hand, and push the top card back into the dealing hand in the act of mixing the packet.

3 Shuffle the small packet by mixing them in a random order, all the time conversing and maintaining eye contact.

4 Table the packet.

5 Repeat that action over and over. Ask: "Can you tell me when you think your card is on the table?"

6 When you get to your break table the cards above. Then simply keep repeating the process while ensuring the top card





is always pushed back and retained in the dealing hand.

7 Finally, drop the last packet on the top. The selection is the top card.

Congrats, you've just Ruff Shuffled a chosen card to the top while looking like the deck has been thoroughly mixed.

Tips

Keep the hands relaxed and casual. The more messy it is the better. It is a rough shuffle - Ruff Shuff.

8 When you get to the selection, angle the dealing hand up slightly so the spec sees the bottom of the cards, not the top. This stops them from ever seeing you pull the selected card back into the dealing hand. I don't recommend tilting upright from the start, but I do when you reach the break.

Most people think their card is on the table before it really is. This means you can get away with moving the selected card over each time fairly freely.

DON'T MISS IN NEXT ISSUE

Exclusive interview with Andrew Frost and Level One creator Christian Grace where they share the secrets of their creativity.

Plus Christian shares a brand new trick just with you.



Kevin's column

Another new year! I hope it is a great and magical one for you.

Welcome to the brand new look *Secrets* courtesy of your new Editor. As we reported in the last issue, William Spencer has now taken over the reins and Will Houstoun is certainly a tough act to follow. I hope you like his fresh and fun approach to your magazine – I know I do – and I am sure you will join me in wishing him a long and successful future with us.

I am writing this the day after our January workshop where there was a lot to celebrate. We have two great new workshop staff: Sarah Stott (who runs the online meetings of the Alakazam community) and Alexander Crawford who has been an occasional teacher at workshops in the past. They are both going to be regulars at our workshops and I know that you will welcome them. We also had three new teachers leading sessions at the workshop – all members of our parent organisation, The Magic Circle. Bharat Patel taught some of his favourite tricks and routines to those present, Paul Regan did a session on how to handle difficult audience members and I am particularly proud that Leon Thomson did a session in the theatre on the Dai Vernon approach

to performing magic. I say I am particularly proud as Leon is an ex-member of the Young Magicians Club, has gone on to become a full member of The Magic Circle and is performing magic (and coaching table tennis!) professionally. It was great to have him.

***“Do you think
it is nurture or
nature?”***

But the workshop was also notable for two other reasons. Almost one-third of those present were new members of the Young Magicians Club and at their first workshop. I really hope they enjoyed it and will come back to another one soon. The other reason was that 20% of those present were girls. Fewer than 10% of members of The Magic Circle are female so it is fantastic that YMC is attracting a significant number of girls. Magic has always been seen as a boys' hobby, but in recent years that has been changing and I really believe that YMC is reflecting, maybe even leading, that change.

I, along with many other thinking magicians, wonder why it is that magic does appear to be more attractive to boys and men than to girls and women. Of course there are many hobbies, and indeed careers, which seem to be preferred by one gender or the other. Do you think it is “nurture or nature”? I.e.: are we taught to have certain likes and interests or is it simply natural that boys like some things and girls like others? I would be fascinated to hear your views on this. Let me know at chairman@youngmagiciansclub.co.uk

I hope to see you soon. Enjoy your magic!

Kevin Doig, February 2020



Photo: Mark Hesketh Jennings

WORKSHOP CALENDAR 2020

Here are the workshop dates for 2020.
Put them in your calendar now!

Saturday 18th January 2020
(Plus Ali Bongo Show in the evening)

Saturday 22nd February 2020 Annual
auction. (currently no A.B. Show)

Saturday 14th March 2020
(Plus Ali Bongo Show in the evening)

Saturday 18th April 2020
(currently no A.B. Show)

Saturday 16th May 2020
(Plus Ali Bongo Show in the evening)

Saturday 20th June 2020
(currently no A.B. Show)

Saturday 18th July 2020
(Plus Ali Bongo Show in
the evening)

Saturday 19th September
2020 J-Day auditions.
(Plus Ali Bongo
Show in the
evening)

Sunday
25th
October
2020 J-Day.

Saturday 21st
November
2020 Mentors
Day.
(Plus Ali Bongo
Show in the evening)

THE MAGIC OF THE MIND

How to develop a growth mindset

I've worked with a number of World and Olympic champions over the years, including Andy Murray and six Premier League teams. So I know that there is a mindset for winners, in sport and performance, that will really help you enhance not only your magic, but also other areas in your life like education.

Hopefully you've already heard about having a growth mindset at school. It's one of the key psychological models of the past few years - and those that use it well are reaping massive benefits. It's the concept of fixed and growth mindsets. People tend to veer towards one type of mindset or the other, although in different situations and times you can use both. But if you can, try to develop a growth mindset.

Someone with a fixed mindset believes talent, ability and intelligence are fixed or permanent. They tend always to play it safe, not wanting their 'talent' (or lack of it) to be exposed. The type of behaviours these people demonstrate includes avoidance of challenging situations, blaming others for things that go wrong, and they tend to be those that might revert to cheating or taking short cuts. Ultimately they will never reach their potential.

Fixed mindset people are overly concerned with the performance of others and do not like being judged against others. Competition is always extremely stressful, as is any performance that is being evaluated. In magic, all our

performances are evaluated to some extent, so a fixed mindset person can never reach their potential if their focus is on what others think.

A growth mindset is a mindset of champions. It's what you should try to develop.

These people know they can always improve and are keen to face new challenges. They do not mind failing. In fact failure shows them that they are on the way to success... they are learning. No successful performer gets to the highest level or reaches their potential unless they are content to fail over and over again... and learn from it.

While the growth mindset person looks to others better than themselves for inspiration and guidance, they do not compare themselves to others but only to themselves - this means they are always looking at their progress in any area. While looking at others can also be inspiring, the focus is on self. The focus is also very much process driven. How do I do this? How can I improve it? Am I willing to work hard to improve?

Growth mindset people love performing. While nerves may always kick in, you mustn't worry... they are useful to let you know you are where you want to be.

Remember, confidence comes from preparation and mindset. Work hard to prepare, and when you perform focus on what you did during those hours of practice.



Master mentalist Roberto Forzoni is used to coaching megastar athletes. But it's not push-ups he teaches. He trains stars how to think their way to victory.

Photo: Mairi Hesreth Jennings

DON'T MISS IN THE NEXT ISSUE

More mindzapping tips and tricks from Roberto to help you perform at your best.

2 Top Tips

Here are two really useful mantras you should use to help you achieve a growth mindset:

1. Control the controllable.

Many things that might cause you concern or stress are things that you have no control over (e.g.: other people, where you perform, what your competition does, what teachers do or say). Fixed mindset people tend to focus on uncontrollable factors that are not useful when performing. Focus on the many things you can control.

2. Play the 'match' not the occasion.

Many performers in sport get side-tracked when entering a big competition; rather than focus on their processes they will tend to focus on the occasion (venue, status, others, crowd, audience, etc.). Again this is a case of focusing on things that are not helpful and could get in the way of your performance. Rather, focus on what you've practiced to give yourself the best opportunity to perform your best on the day.

"Failure shows you are on the way to success"

HOW TO BE FUNNY

Comedy magic legend David Williamson tells *Secrets* the methods to his madness

On stage Williamson causes chaos - custard pies, flying raccoons, wrestling kids. The crazier the better, the harder the laughs. William Spencer caught him after a show in a reflective mood, happy to admit his insecurities and share the secrets of his creativity and success.

William: Like the ringmaster you play, you are a true showman. Does it come naturally?

David: I was compelled. When I read *Amateur Magician's Handbook* by Henry Hay it spoke to me. I was 12. He said magic is not meant to be done in your bedroom. You've got to have an audience. You've got to get on stage.

I was an introvert. A true introvert. I still am. But I can turn it on - I've practiced - I've learned how to do that.

But I was a real shy kid who wouldn't speak to anybody, but I was compelled to get up on stage.

I used to ask my mother to drive me to this country & western bar that had an open mic night. And in between the crooners I'd get up and do zombie or billiard balls because I knew that you had to have an audience.

I told my mother when I was 8: I'm going to be a professional magician. Leave me alone.

My teacher gave me a reader about Houdini. I read that and did the French Drop and did it



pretty good. And my teacher said, "Wow maybe you'll grow up and be a magician." And that was the first time anyone had pointed at me and said you're going to be anything.

And when a school magician came to town, my teacher very kindly asked if I could help the magician carry his props to the van. And I felt

"When I started magic I was always very serious... On the inside I was a raging lunatic"



TRUNK CALLING

Taking centre stage as ringmaster in Circus 1903 allowed him to perform card to elephant foot

like I was in the club. It felt natural. I thought I could do this for a living.

You are naturally funny?

Ah! But when I started magic I was always very serious. I was a very serious student of the art. All the way up until I was 20 I was very serious, kinda boring.

On the inside I was a raging lunatic. My brothers cut up and laughed all the time. But magic was so important to me I didn't think about comedy.

And then I took a road trip to Atlanta and saw Tom Mullica behind the bar. And he was a clown. A true clown - in the best sense of the word - and a magician. I never laughed so hard. I never saw such great magic combined with the laughs. It was like being in the ring with Mike Tyson. I was beat up with comedy and magic and I saw the light. I saw it could be done that way. It was a revelation to me. It changed my life.

So how can young magicians learn to be funny?

“Find the comedy in situations rather than in props or lines that are canned”

STAR SECRETS

Be yourself. Don't try to be a character. The closer you are to the truth the funnier it is. People can smell phony.

So if you're trying to be a wacky character with wacky props or making people do wacky things for no good reason it's always going to be a way from the goal. Be honest, be yourself.

Everybody has a natural sense of humour. Be humorous and fun. Find the comedy in situations rather than in props or lines that are canned that people can read. Create funny situations and moments that feel real.. and that takes time. You can't sit down with a pencil and paper and write funny. I can't. You've got to field test it. Get out in front of the audience and be a tough critic on yourself. If it doesn't get a laugh, get rid of it.

In your act, how much is improvised, how much is scripted?

These days it's mostly scripted but I scripted it through improv. So now everything I do has been streamlined and honed through the years. There's not much that surprises me on stage anymore. Every once in a while something happens and you've got to go with it.

The key is to give yourself permission to go off script and look for opportunities. Always be on the surf for opportunities to go off script. Build that into your routines, your act. Give yourself the freedom.

Williamson on Slydini

Slydini was at a magic convention in Texas and we were working close-up. He didn't like the table they provided. They said, Mr Slydini, what table do you want?

And he walked around the hotel and he found the heaviest marble table in the atrium that had the giant bouquet of flowers on. And he said, This one.

So every room he went to there were five big Texans carrying this very heavy table with little Slydini behind.

He walked past me and winked at me. He was putting them on. I loved that about him.

For me that just said everything about him and the people in magic. You can't take it too seriously.

You've got to have fun all the time no matter what you're doing.

"The key is to give yourself permission to go off script and look for opportunities"

Sometimes you're mining for gold and you hit nothing. Get out, dig another hole. But no risk, no reward. If you can be real with people. More than: What's your name? What do you do for a living? That's just the beginning. If you can, dig deeper into what are their hopes and dreams, their cares, and what they had for breakfast.

I like to be provocative and see if I can get something out of people because people are interesting and people are funny and situations are funny. Be open to experiences that pop up organically.

You used to wear a shirt saying Magician For Hire. Did that crazy marketing work?

It wasn't that crazy, was it? I used to work at a county fair when I had Magician for Hire and my phone number on it. I never got one single job and I wore that for four years.

If it's not the marketing, it must be your work ethic?

It is the work ethic, I'll give you that. I don't give up. After I won the Gold Cups in 1981 at the IBM, for a year after that I washed dishes in a Greek restaurant every afternoon to pay

my way. I did magic at night at a dinner theatre. I didn't understand how to get tips. But I knew I had to perform. I had a supportive girlfriend who I eventually married. She had a good job. I never gave up. I did have a good work ethic. I spent money on marketing materials and took it seriously.

Show business is two words. You've got to have the show part but you've also got to be smart about the business part. It was Darwin Ortiz who took me aside at a magic convention. He could see I was up and coming, in magazines, the flavour of the month. He said you owe it to your parents and the people that care about you to figure out how you're going to make a living and a career out of this. You can't just hop from convention to convention for the rest of your life. You've got to get serious about this and make a plan. And think down the road.

At first I was taken aback. Why is he talking to me like this? But it was the most caring wonderful conversation I had at that point in my life. I needed a reality check. And I thank him for that.

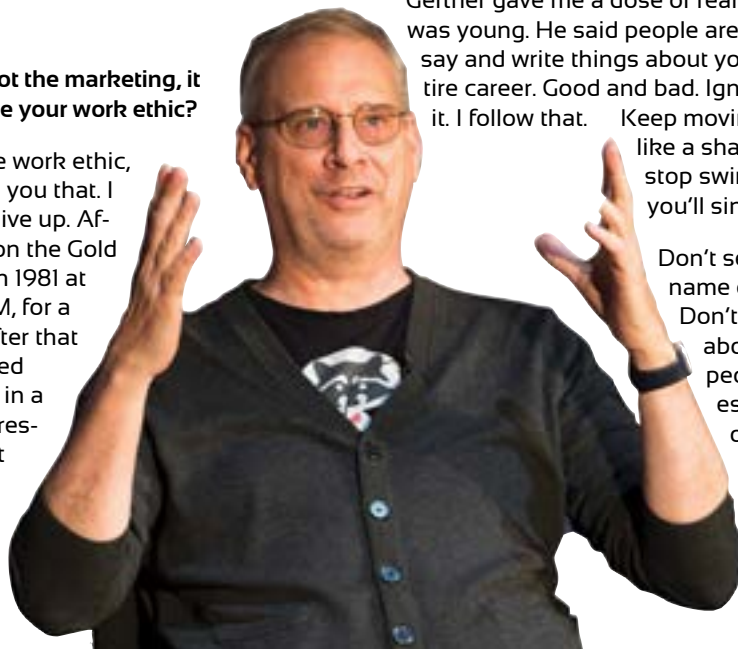
How do you deal with negativity amongst magicians or the public?

That's only in England. But I love it though. That's why I sit with all my snarky friends at the conventions. It's too much fun. There's such a wit in this country that it's natural. And, I learned that if anybody puts their head above the parapet there are plenty of people ready to knock it off.

You can't listen to other people. Paul Gertner gave me a dose of reality when I was young. He said people are going to say and write things about you your entire career. Good and bad. Ignore all of it. I follow that. Keep moving forward like a shark. If you stop swimming you'll sink.

Don't search your name on Google.

Don't worry about what people say, especially other magicians, other performers. The more you can



Photos: Sean East Photography



A SHOE-IN

Teaching kids his coin from shoe trick. "It's just a Goshman pinch." And receiving Honorary Member of The Magic Circle (Professional) title from Pres Noel Britten.

get away from magicians the better. Camaraderie is great and I value all my friends. I have lifelong friends in magic. But every once in a while you have to go out and live a real life. That's where you find material. That's where you find situations, inspiration to bring back into your magic.

You probably won't find too much in the world of magic to inspire you. Or you become a copycat. And that's what you want to avoid.

Any tips for young magicians?

Always chase originality. And I've said in the past, Originality is overrated. I don't think I do anything that's original. I don't. I do things that are inspired. I do them and twist them to make them my own.

Strive to make your own mark and be original. There's tonnes of material in the old books that nobody's looking at. I used to play a game; I'd grab *Tarbell* or *Greater Magic*. Flick the pages, stick my finger in, and make myself actually read every word of that routine. Even though it may look like some kind of Hofzinsler's candle with a shell under a table with a velour flap with a bit of string. Something I would never do. But within there I would find

a phrase, patter, a principle I'd find amusing.

In Circus 1903 you perform card on elephant foot - wow. And shoe in box. And coin under shoe. Why are you obsessed with shoes?

There's something about shoes. Shoes are funny to me. Feet are funny. I just think shoes are funny.

You're 58. What's next?

59. Ha ha. I'm going to work on a US tour of The Illusionists. After April I have no work. Hopefully something will come along.

I would love to put together my own little show that I could travel around with.

"Strive to make your own mark and be original"

But I enjoy being in these large productions with lots of people. Because for years I would work solo at corporates, on cruise ships. It gets lonely.

Any plans to retire Rocky?

So long as people want to see it I'll still do it. It's just a tool to interact with the kids and create fun. Kids are very sweet. People ask me how I make the kids do things. You can't make a four year old do anything. Ha Ha.

You get a lot of awards. Do they make you smug or proud?

Smug! LAUGHS. Why didn't they come sooner? Why didn't they recognise my genius?

Success for me is having a life and career and raising a family with magic. I watched my dad as a farmer and factory worker working really hard to keep bread on the table. I work really hard too. I consider myself a blue collar magician. If you can travel the world with card tricks and make a living and have a life, more power to you.

I talk to people at shows and they say, "Well I just do these birthday parties." Then they are succeeding. Any performer who is out there doing it, there is no shame.

DAVID WILLIAMSON REVEALS HIS FAVOURITE...

Magicians

Del Ray

Slydini

Goshman

John Carney

"There are hundreds"

Tricks

Cups & Balls

Ambitious Card

Torn and Restored Transposition. I've been doing it since I was 15. It's probably one of my favourite go-to tricks.

Moves

I use the pass all the time.

Top change

Diagonal Palm Shift - I'm working on that... it's like a new shiny toy.

Audience reaction

Bursts of laughter. Spontaneous laughter. That's my favourite reaction. Laughter that I didn't cause, that someone on stage caused.

Tips for YMC

Get a girlfriend who has a good job. Ha Ha. That's my number one tip.

Don't do the double undercut ever. Do something different.

Always chase originality.

WINNERS TIPS



RIGHT SAID THREAD

Javi Benitez gave the best lecture of The Session 2020, including a performance of his heart stopping Gypsy Thread. Unbelievable.

JAVI & JAKE

His 3 tips for YMC

1

Be passionate about everything: About magic, about spectators. About art. About music. Everything.

2

Never stop. Even if someone tells you, Nah nah nah. Just go for your goals. Go go go.

3

Never stop enjoying life.

Photos: Sean East Photography



YMC double winner Jake Allen meets FISM god Benitez



THE EIGHT WONDERS OF THE WOWED!

OUR brilliant cartoonist Stuart Scott has the best job title ever - Writer, Magician and Adventurer. I just love that.

He's created a brilliant new series based on the eight types of effects magicians perform. And he's used eight different characters he created for *The Circular* magazine to illustrate them.

Can you name all eight types of tricks? Can you perform one from each category? Which do you think gets the best reaction? And do you have a favourite?

We start Stuart's brilliant series with Production.

I think everyone at The Session was blown away by Andrew Goldenhersh's rabbit production from his long curly hair. (See the puzzles page for the photo.) Not everyone agrees with using animals, of course. And for very good reasons. But the impact was astonishing.

Bonkers.

Now what Production are you going to practice today?

FREE CONVENTION TICKETS

MISSED OUT on this year's Session convention?

Want to go next year but don't have the money for a ticket?

Well, Joshua Jay and Andi Gladwin have announced that young magicians can get in for free if they do one free show in their local community and show evidence to prove it.

That's right. Free entrance for you and a relative.

It's part of their Youth Scholarship, designed to "ensure that every young ma-

gician who wishes to improve and learn about magic should have an opportunity to do so".



This year, young magicians sat down with Dynamo and David Williamson for a private session. And they also got to experience the full convention, mixing with brilliant magicians from around the world.

This is an amazing opportunity. Not only will it get you out and about doing great shows locally, it will also give you the chance of a lifetime to visit a convention and kick your magic into overdrive.

Next year, you could be joining them. Here are the details:

vanishingincmagic.com/magic-conventions/the-session/youth-scholarship/



THE HART OF MAGIC

Ex-YMC member and *Britain's Got Talent* star Ben Hart shares his approach to our art

> *Words: William Spencer*

> *e: editor@youngmagiciansclub.co.uk*

> *Main photo: Sean East Photography*

Ben's tips for conventions like Blackpool

Make sure that you watch as many lectures that you can. But remember that sometimes the most important information can be learned from having real face to face conversations. You should never be afraid or intimidated by a group and you must always go over and speak to your idols.

How to break into a group if you are shy

If you can find the confidence to say, I'm not very confident so forgive me if I'm quiet but do you mind if I come and listen to your conversation, perhaps, that might be a good way to get in.

Why I love conventions

Conventions have allowed me to build friendships and a network of other magicians in other countries. As I've grown as a professional performer this has been very useful. Now when I travel to any city in the world I can meet up

with other magicians. And it's very nice to be at conventions where you get to catch up with people from other cultures and with other interests.

What I'm up to now

I'm at The Session because it's the pre-release of a book I've got coming out with Vanishing Inc. So I'm here because I too wanted to see it. And I'm performing a show and lecturing in Blackpool so I won't really get to see any events in Blackpool, but I'm pleased to let people see my work.

My favourite trick

That's a very hard question. It's not a trick I do

very often. The first trick I did well was the acrobatic matchbox and I'm very fond of that. It's very visual and powerful magic.

My favourite magicians

Penn & Teller by miles. They're my favourite by such

a long way nobody else is on that list.

My favourite move

The paddle move because there is so much magic you can do with it and so many everyday objects you can do it with. In fact one of my



"Magic is a tool that allows people to connect with other real life people"

"We're always told to reduce the props and make things everyday, but sometimes you need to make things extraordinary"

favourite tricks is one with four pieces of paper stuck to a knife. It's in beginner magic books and I still do it as part of my working repertoire.

How I learn

I've always read; I've never learned magic from videos. Videos are probably a good way to learn, but when I was getting into magic there weren't really any ways of streaming videos. I was just before the internet became useful for learning magic. So I still prefer to learn from a book. I've got quite an extensive library. I like diving in to see what excites me and work out how to give something old a modern twist.

But most importantly I look for, How can I give the magic a very striking visual image? You must remember that even though in magic we're always told to reduce the props and make things everyday, sometimes you need to make things extraordinary.

My advice for YMC members

Always listen to your audiences. And when you're young that can be very tough. Maybe they're not yet ready to experience magic because they are - dare I say it - not mature enough. Audiences in school can be tough.

But you must keep listening to them because sometimes magicians forget that they are in the room with real people. Especially as we now learn so much from our screens.

We must remember that magic is a tool that allows people to connect with other real life people.



Huge congratulations to past YMC member Ed Hilsum for winning the Magic Circle Close-up Magician of the Year on Jan 20. It makes him the first person to ever win all three of the club's titles. When he was 10 years old he "dreamt of one day being a member of the famous Magic Circle. Now it feels like home".

Photos: Mark Hesketh Jennings

IAN ADAIR
REVEALS HIS
FAVOURITE...

Magicians

Lance Burton

He told me he bought my *Encyclopaedia of Dove Magic* when he was a very young magician.

Robert Harbin

Knew him well. Outstanding magical inventor.

Channing Pollock

My idol from way back in the 1950s. I came into dove magic because of him.

Tricks

Dove Catching Net

Catching 'live' doves in the air using a net. Assistant holds the basket to catch them.

Zig-Zag Girl

Harbin's greatest illusion. I saw him perform it for the first time at The Magic Circle.

Nudist Deck

Gaffed deck. I have two... one regular sized cards, the other jumbos. Great effect.

Moves

The Paddle Move

Possibly the greatest move ever for so many paddle effects. No one has worked out who it.

Elmsley Count

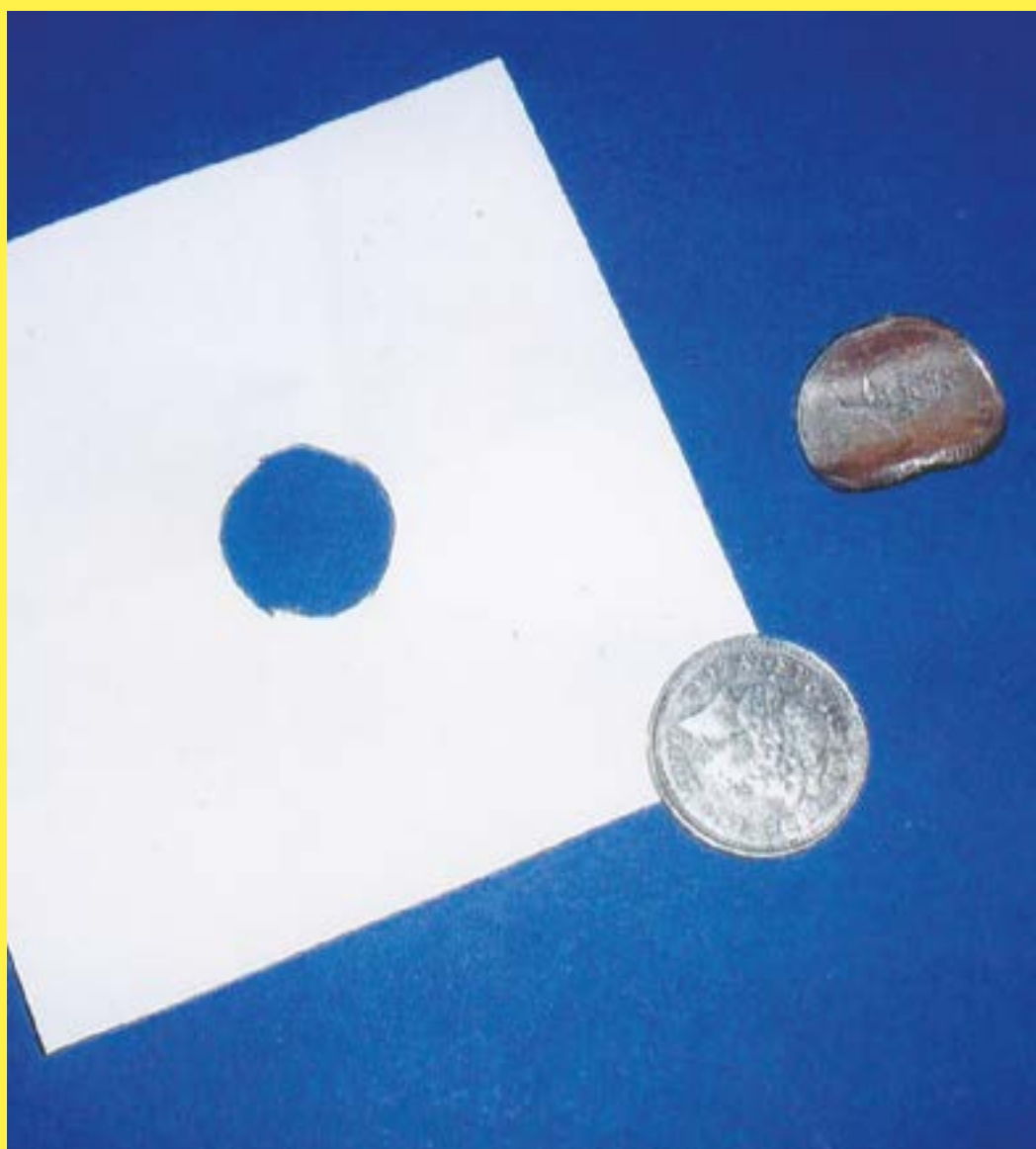
So many card effects can be performed using this

Classic Fan Force

The best way to force ANY card from a regular deck.

FOLDING MONEY

Ian Adair gives a modern twist (literally) on a classic coin puzzle



I love introducing puzzles in my close-up magic.

Here I use a well-known puzzle which is a wonderful lead into what appears to be a genuine trick.

Effect

The puzzle uses a square of paper which has a hole cut through its centre, this being smaller than the circumference of a 10 pence coin. The puzzle is for a spectator to push the coin through the hole, without cutting or tearing it larger. It seems impossible.

First stage of the puzzle

Lay the coin flat on a table. Place the square of paper over this so the audience can see the coin through the cut-out hole. Now, simply push the coin through the hole, using your index finger. Yes, you have cheated, but it's all in fun!

The correct way to accomplish this is for you to fold the paper in half, drop the 10 pence coin inside (audience see it through hole) and then using both hands, bring up each side so the hole widens and allows the coin to drop through.

Now... the magical way

This time ask the spectator if it is possible for the 10 pence coin to be pushed through the hole without folding the paper. This really sounds impossible.

For this, you require a gaffed 10 pence coin. This coin is bent in half, using a vice and a hammer. Do this yourself if you're old enough,



or get someone to do it for you. The coin is gripped into the vice and then hammered down. It's impossible for anyone to bend it back to its original shape. Prior to presentation have the gaffed coin gripped and hidden between the fleshy part of the thumb of the right hand (SEE PHOTO 1).

In performance, hand the flat piece of paper to the spectator. With the back of your right hand facing the audience, pick up the genuine 10 pence coin and pretend to bend it, using the fingers of both hands. A bending action is executed back and forth here. While doing this, the genuine coin is allowed to drop into the palm position of the right hand, while the gaffed coin is exchanged.

Keep the pretence of bending the gaffed coin until you feel you are now ready to toss it on the table surface.

At this stage the audience will be stunned at how you managed to bend the coin. However, continue by picking it up, using your left hand, and now simply drop it through the hole. (SEE PHOTO 2)

You have magically solved the puzzle, and while all eyes will be centred on the folded coin (for them to examine) you can easily ditch the genuine unbent one in your pocket.

ANOTHER GAG USING THE GAFFED COIN

The same actions of pretending to bend the genuine coin for the bent one are executed here.

Deliver the patter lines: "Last night I presented a two-hour magic show in front of a huge crowd.

"After the show I approached the person who said they would deal with payment. I couldn't believe it – he handed me a 10 pence coin" (display genuine coin resting in your left hand).

"I explained that I was expecting folded money. He took the coin and look (do so) he bent it in half and told me that this is folded money."

Toss the bent coin on the table and wait for the gasps of astonishment.



DATE SURPRISE

Chris Wardle is back with a poker chip and diary miracle that anyone can do.

Effect

The performer displays a set of 6 poker chips, in different colours and all with different numbers on them. A spectator is asked to turn over any 3 chips, to create a random set of numbers.

A large page-a-day diary is now shown and flicked through by the performer, whilst a spectator calls 'stop' at any point. A bookmark is placed on the chosen page.

The poker chip numbers are now added and they total 33. The effect seems to have gone wrong – as no month has 33 days in it!

However, when the diary is opened up at the chosen page, it is seen to be the 3rd of March, 3, 3 – the third of the third month – so the total and the date match exactly!

Method

This is based on a number force which has been around for a long time. There is a version of it in David Britland's excellent book *Psychomancy* published by Martin Breese books in 1986. I have altered the numbers used so that 33, rather than 39, is forced.

From The Works or a Pound Shop, buy a set of plastic poker chips and on a mix of colours write these numbers with a Sharpie permanent pen:

- 0 with 1 on the reverse
- 2 with 3 on the reverse
- 4 with 5 on the reverse
- 6 with 7 on the reverse
- 8 with 9 on the reverse

10 with 11 on the reverse

Have the chips laid out with either all ODDS face up or all EVENS face up. The different coloured chips help to distract from the numbers in play. When you ask the spectator to turn over any 3 chips, this automatically forces 33.

E.g., 0, 3, 9, 10, 4, 7 = 33

The diary has the 3rd of March page cut little shorter, so that it acts like a short card in a deck of cards. This means that it can be thumbed to easily and stopped at that page.

Due to the nature of the routine it appears that something has gone wrong – but then you reveal that the diary and date match perfectly after all.

Enjoy.

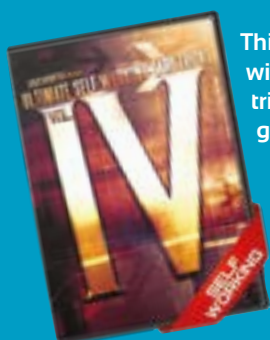


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WE will review the best magic tricks for you. And, ideally, they will be reviewed by YOU. If you're interested in testing out new tricks, please contact editor@youngmagiciansclub.co.uk.

This month we have some great prizes to give out to lucky readers.

Ultimate Self Working Card Tricks V4 (Big Blind Media)



This is packed with devious tricks from greats like Ban-

non, Gardner, Walton and Tucker. And they are all move-free, leaving you free to focus on your performance.

Do you want to review this?

Ian Rowland Penguin Live

This isn't new, but it's great. And we've got five copies to give away to budding mentalists.



Outcome by Martin MacMillan

A cracking mentalism effect using either supplied alphabet cards or a borrowed deck of cards. Powerful magic and an ingenious method.



Just drop me an email to editor@youngmagiciansclub.co.uk and I'll pick winners at random.

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It is with great regret that we need to announce that Davenport's Magic Shop in Charing Cross will be closing for the final time on Thursday, 30th of January 2020.

This is due to the redevelopment of the Underground Arcade that we have called home for some 36 years. We are looking for a new central London location for our shop, but at present have not found anywhere that would suit our needs.

We will continue with our mail-order web site, which has over 14,000 items available for shipping around the world, including the very latest magic tricks, books, accessories, and videos.

We will also be developing our renowned magic classes, workshops and courses for both adults and children, please see our web site for more details of these, with the forthcoming dates and locations.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends and customers for your support over the years. We have had some wonderful times, met some wonderful people, and are immensely grateful for your friendship. Thank you all so very, very much.



Photo and questionable Photoshop: William Spencer

TAKE YOUR PIC

Photo: Sean East Photography

This rabbit was produced from magician Andrew Goldenhersh's hair. Yup, that's right: His hair. (Not hare, arf arf.) Here's Circle ace Laura London (above) looking after this furry star at The Session.

Can you spot all the differences in the pics?



R N U K K C I R T A P O W Q A R U J N J
 G A C O O L J A G Z V O O O U H O E W A
 Z N M G G B U X Q R W K Q H S H L L A M
 Z T E M L A N C E B U R T O N A E B Y I
 H V U P A Y E L G S S E J K I R A I N E
 E E F L E L L T N N L W I A O T F D E A
 A C N M H E E O O B I M F R L U A E D L
 V A I R G C S A A N M Z I R E R R R O L
 M L A I Y A S V H O B C A N C O E C B A
 B A R R V E E N N C H L O M R B H N S N
 W U C E G I V S A A I W O W A R C I O L
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 H E R E L K C U B Y N N A D G T J L A N
 O O M E N Y A P R E T S A M I I G U R O
 W A N N O T T I F M A S P W C Y P A T R
 N D O G Y M H O M A X M A V E N V P R Z

BLACKPOOL WORDSEARCH

How many of these stars of this year's convention can you find in the grid above?

Lance Burton
 Arturo Brachetti
 Uri Geller
 Gaeton Bloom
 John Archer
 Wayne Dobson
 Mac King
 Ben Hart

Danny Buckler
 Max Maven
 Rafael
 The Evasons
 Richard Wiseman
 Craig Petty
 Jay Sankey
 Michael Ammar

Henry Evans
 Marcelo Insua
 Jamie Allan
 Lior Manor
 Sam Fitton
 Paul Stone
 John Kimmons
 Master Payne

Patrick Kun
 Ryan Schlutz

BONUS GAME:
 How many funny
 reactions to
 magic can you
 find? (E.g.: Wow)





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