

SECRETS

the magazine of the Young Magicians Club



BLACKPOOL SPECIAL



Volume 18 Number 2
April 2011

Davenport

www.davenportsmagic.co.uk

We have been dealing in magic for over 100 years and there is little we don't know or can't assist you with. Like thousands of other magicians, delight in browsing round our web site for inspiration and ideas or better still, take the time to visit us in our studio in the Strand. You will never forget the experience of seeing the latest in magic demonstrated and explained.

We also do Beginner and Intermediate classes in Close-up Magic, so if you feel you are ready to take that extra step towards becoming a professional performer phone and ask us for details.

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Blackpool Special Montage

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The Young Magicians Club Team:

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- 'Secrets' Editor:** Mandy Davis
- Webmaster:** Andrew Webb
- Workshop Team:** Steve Dela
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All competitions, articles and letters should be sent to the address above or e-mailed to: **mandy@TheMagicCircle.co.uk**

editorial



How are you enjoying the new web site? From the people I have spoken to so far, it seems to be a huge success! Everyone should now have their log-in details and you will all know how exciting a place it can be! I love being able to pop in there and instantly chat to any of you who happens to be around at the same time. I also enjoy looking at the back issues of Secrets, the photos of conventions that have long gone, the videos...

This issue brings you four pages of photos from Blackpool – the convention was, as always, a wonderful experience of fun, friends, and masses of magic! We saw some great acts, and some terrible ones! I also met

lots of YMC members running around the dealer halls buying as much as they could carry - so I expect to hear of some great new acts being put together for the future! It really was good to meet up with some of you who I don't see often, others who are new members – and, above all, catch up with past members eager to tell me how much they look back on their time with YMC as a most important part of their magic background.

In May we will be heading to Weston-Super-Mare for the Bristol Day of Magic – will you be there? This really is the best one-day convention you can attend and a great starter if you have never been to one before! There will be some great names in magic performing - David Williamson will be his usual self, Rafael Benetar is another super performer you should not miss and, don't forget – we have a one-hour YMC workshop too! So don't miss that – especially if you don't often make our other get-togethers! We always have excellent teachers at the Bristol day.

We are delighted that member Jack Taperell has talked to Lee Asher and written a great interview piece for us. If you would like to try your hand at this sort of journalism please feel free to do so and let me know who you will be talking to and when to expect the finished article.

We also need more Member Profiles for Secrets magazine – so email me and ask me for the form. Then fill it in and send it back with a high resolution photo of yourself.

That's all from me for now – get turning these pages and find the gems we have for you this month!



Photo by Gordon Drayson

STOP PRESS: FREE SEATS FOR ALL YMC MEMBERS FOR YOUNG MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR HEATS. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS:

Mandy

NEWS



Dominic Chambers, recently graduated from the Young Magicians Club, used his magic touch to impress the judges at the Melbourne Magic festival.

The seventeen year old amazed audiences with his tricks and illusions to be named the Australian Junior Magic Champion.

Dominic was placed first in both the close-up and stage magic competition categories.

The Melbourne Magic Festival Championships is the biggest magic competition in Australia and audiences walked away wondering what was real, and what was an illusion, after being dazzled by the best magicians from across the country. Dominic included a classic card trick for the close-up competition and made half his body disappear during his performance for the stage magic event.

Dominic said his talent for magic tricks came from his grandfather, Chris Latham, who is a member of the Magic Circle here in the UK.

Now a member of the Australian Institute of Magic, Dominic said he hopes to wave his magic wand and transform his hobby into a successful career. He also hopes to perform at the World Magic Festival in Melbourne in 2011.



Dominic Chambers

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J-DAY DVD 2010



Gala Show Finale!

The JDay DVD is ready! If you want a copy, including footage of Derren Brown, send a cheque for £12.00, payable to the Magic Video Company, to: YMC - DVD, The Young Magicians Club, Centre for the Magical Arts, 12 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD.



Derren Brown



J-Day winner
Nick Lee
with Jack Delvin

YMC WORKSHOP DATES 2011

16th April
23rd July
12th November

21st May
17th September

18th June
23rd October
(Sunday J-Day)

Workshop fee £5.00 paid on the day. Workshops will run from 11am - 4pm and will be held at The Magic Circle HQ (address on page three). Please be sure to bring packed lunch (drinks will be provided free), a deck of cards, notebook and a pen as minimum requirements for the day. **Please note: you must register in advance each time. Email: mandy@themagiccircle.co.uk**

THE BEST IN ONE-DAY CONVENTIONS!

Weston-Super-Mare is a great place for a day out, or a family weekend away, particularly in May. So bring one and all to the Bristol Day of Magic and you will guarantee a great time for everyone!

The convention is filled with lectures from top international stars, a superbly funny one-man show, a huge hall full of dealers with some wonderful magic for sale, and a fantastic gala show which is open to the public too! Don't forget the one-hour workshop that YMC will be holding just for juniors – we always guarantee to have some top stars of magic involved and they will teach you some unforgettable effects and ideas that will stay with you forever.

The café at the venue has great food too - so you don't have to leave the building for the daytime activities, nor will you go hungry. In the evening the theatre for the gala show is just across the road.

Bristol Society of Magic is proud to present the

51st BRISTOL DAY OF Magic

Sunday 8th May 2011

Winter Gardens & Playhouse Theatre Weston-Super-Mare

The largest one day convention in the UK

Featuring

★ David Williamson (USA) ★ Jay Scott Berry (USA) ★ Rafael Benetar (Spain) ★
★ El Loco ★ Ed Hilsum ★ Jason Steele and Joanne ★

Gala show Close-up shows Lectures
also featuring Mel Mellers (One Man show)
David Williamson, Jay Scott Berry and Rafael Benetar
massive dealers exhibition

Registration forms downloadable from www.bristolocietyofmagic.co.uk
or Andy Mac (0117 942 2449) 8 Nottingham Road Bishopston Bristol BS7 9DH

So be sure to apply soon before it's a sell out!

FREE SEATS - The Young Magician of the Year has been running since 1961 making this year's competition the 50th anniversary of that first event which started Johnny Hart on the path to magical fame.

The heats will take place in the theatre at The Magic Circle Headquarters, Stephenson Way on Sunday 8th May 2011 and will be open to all YMC members free of charge! However seating is obviously limited to the size of the theatre so this will be first come, first served. Times will be announced nearer the date.

The Final will take place on Sunday 31st July and the organisers are pleased to announce that it will be compered by former Young Magician of the Year, Richard Cadell. Tickets for the afternoon show on that day will be £8 and those for the evening competition £16. These will be on sale from the box office from 16th May onwards - book early to avoid disappointment on 020 7387 2222.

LETTER TO A YOUNG MAN

Recently, I received a letter from a sixteen year old magician who has been performing magic for three years. He hopes to become a professional and so is anxious to get some advice. Here are some of the things I wrote to him:

When asking someone who doesn't know you or has never seen you perform, for advice you must realize that the advice offered will necessarily be general rather than specific to you.

When we ask someone else for advice we also need to ask ourselves a few questions. What is our intention upon receiving this advice? Are we, for example, simply collecting people's opinions as others might collect books or props?

Or is our intention to make some real changes in our lives, some changes in the way that we relate to our magic, so that we grow as magicians?



Since you are sixteen, the first and most important thing is school and getting an education. Next, this is also the time for you to read and study - and practise and practise and practise - and learn. This is the time for you to learn about the art of magic. My advice is to learn as much as you can. Watch as much magic as you can on television and, especially, in live performance. Don't jump into negative criticism about what you see. Be more intelligent than that: learn from what you see so that your magic benefits from what you have learned.

Take card magic, for example: if card magic interests you, make a conscious effort to learn all the sleights and moves that you can. At your age, your fingers are young and pliable and you are able learn sleights and moves quickly. As you grow older, this will change. When you are older, you may be surprised at how much of your card technique was learned before you were twenty-one years old.

Spend time reading. Don't simply read magic books. Read some biographies of famous and successful people. Ask yourself what elements in their lives contributed to their success. What obstacles did they need to overcome—and how did they do it?

Back in the 1990s, when I was writing a series of articles for Genii magazine, I received a letter from the late well-known professional trade show magician Mike Rogers. In his letter, Mike made three exceedingly practical suggestions that all beginners might consider.

First, don't buy magic tricks simply to learn their secrets. (Mike added that more tricks are probably sold for this reason than any other.)

Second, don't buy a magic trick based upon how easy it might be to perform but instead on how well it can be used as a vehicle for your own personality.

Third, Mike believes that beginners like to have actual props, things to hold and use, rather than books. Still, he insists that magic must be learned from books, not from gadgets. Hence, he suggests setting a rule for yourself: For every trick you buy, also buy a book.

If you chose to follow Mike's suggestions, you may develop a more thoughtful relationship to magic and you will also save quite a bit of money!

I appreciate Mike's idea of buying a book for every trick that you purchase. I would, however, make this further suggestion: for every book you read that was published after 2000, be sure to

read at least one book published before 1950!

There are many other things that I could add, but let me close with one final thought. After you have learned to perform a piece of magic really well, don't presume that you now know much about it!

I say this because after you have performed this piece of magic five hundred or a thousand times, if you have been attentive to what you are doing, you will be utterly amazed at how much you now know, marvelous and important details that you never even imagined were there to be learned.



Adapted from an article in Genii magazine published in January, 1997

TRICKS

LAST ONE OUT IS THE JOKER!

By **Ian Adair**

The great thing about this effect is that the cards, and the deck, can be left on the table for anyone to examine or handle.

EFFECT:

Five cards are dealt off the top of a shuffled deck, their faces not shown to the audience.

The performer states that he has always been regarded as a 'Joker' and commences to deal the cards from top to bottom of the pile as he spells the word J.O.K.E.R. He hands a spectator the card arrived at on the last letter – R – but asks him/her not to look at it yet. This is repeated another three times, three further spectators each receiving a card after the spelling. This is repeated until one card is left to the performer.

All four spectators reverse their cards – these being indifferent ones, a mixed bunch!

When the performer reverses his card it's the JOKER!

APPARATUS:

A deck of cards.

SET-UP:

Prior to your performance select four indifferent cards, making sure they are a mixed lot. At the same time find both jokers and discard one, using the other so you resulting in having five cards. Using a pencil, mark a small dot diagonally, on both corners on the back of the joker

card. Place those five cards on top of the deck in any order.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

This effect uses the 'spelling' method using a five lettered word, in our case the word JOKER.

Fan the cards making sure the joker is not exposed.

Execute a false shuffle.



Remove the top five cards from the deck and hand them to someone, face down, to mix up. When returned to you, look for the marked card (the Joker) and, if it isn't the second card down from the top of the pile of the five, continue to mix up the cards whilst pattering. Stop the shuffle when you finally have the joker card second from the top.

Explain that you are often looked upon as a joker.

Hold the pile of five cards, backs uppermost, in your left hand. Start the spelling game. Tell your audience that you intend dealing each card whilst the word JOKER is being spelled. State that you will be left with the very last card. As each card is given a letter, it is placed to the bottom of the pile. When the letter R of Joker is announced, the card landed on it is handed out to a spectator who is asked not to look at its face at this stage.

Repeat this procedure until you are left with one card and state that this final card has been left to you. Ask the four spectators to reveal their cards. The audience will see that these are of different values and suits. Reverse your card and show that it is the JOKER.



RECOMMENDED MAGIC

Graham Reed mimc Recommends:
SUBLIME INFLUENCE by Michael Murray

Trick £8.99 from www.magicbox.co.uk



Sublime Influence is one of those valuable tricks you can easily carry in your wallet and it's ready to perform at any time:

In brief a plastic card, with a 'Pepsi' logo, is shown to subliminally influence the way a spectator reacts.

You are provided with an extremely clever logo card (which does all the work) and a few numbered cards which, although well and truly mixed, end up in the order predicted by the Pepsi card – but the way the card makes the prediction is truly fascinating – a genuine talking point.

Sublime Influence is an ideal 'quickie', the perfect partner for a card trick routine and an excellent introduction to some 'mind-reading' effects.

Value 8/10 Worth the practice? 8/10 Amaze your friends 8/10 - Recommended – 9/10



Easy

THE SECRETS OF HOUDINI COULD BE YOURS!



I am sure that every single one of you knows of the great Houdini, the extraordinary magician who became internationally renowned for his daring escapology.

Here was a man who knew the power of marketing and used it to bring enormous audiences to the theatres where he was performing.

His life story is a fascinating one – and his secrets even more so. Now **Graham Reed**, magician, Member of Inner The Magic Circle and advisor to Paul Daniels, is offering you a super prize!

He has donated a first edition of The Secrets of Houdini by J. C. Cannell; this was published in 1932 and is in fair condition for its age. It will certainly become a collector's

item in due course and Graham has suggested that this book should be offered to you as a prize.



The competition is simple:

1. What is Houdini's real name?
2. What is the name of his wife?
3. What is the full date of Houdini's death?

Answers on an email, headed **HOUDINI**, to mandy@TheMagicCircle.co.uk.

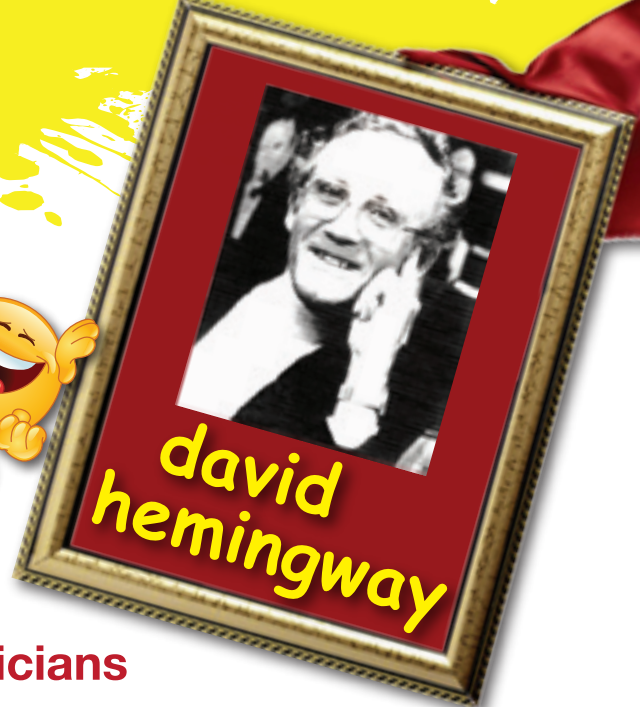
Closing date: 30th April 2011

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proudly unveils:

COMEDY PRO-FILE



The Comedy Magicians Handbook

by David Hemingway

After years of preparation, this fabulous book by magical comedy great,
David Hemingway, truly stands as the definitive handbook for Comedy Magicians

Written and collated by David Hemingway, established performer, magical creator and successful author after 35 years of experience and observing and recording advice from the World's top comedy performers. With an introduction by Noel Britten, Comedy Pro-File is an invaluable source for ALL performers. It contains techniques and advice on the many aspects of using comedy in stand up, emcee work and after dinner speaking.

Not just another 'gag-book', Comedy Pro-File includes many major articles on the HOW of 'entertaining with humour'

Noel Britten

published by: International Magic
& Designer Magic Publications

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E: admin@internationalmagic.com

89 Clerkenwell Road, London
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NEWS EXTRA FROM INTERNATIONAL

The 40th Anniversary Year
of The International Magic
Convention, London



INTRODUCING:

The London Festival Of Magic
14th - 17th November 2011

A full week of workshops, lectures & shows

FOLLOWED BY:

The 40th International Magic Convention
18th - 20th November 2011

Our 40th weekend full of first class magic, lectures,
close up & gala shows, special events & international
close up competition, plus dealers & so much more.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FEBRUARY

Read more about it at www.internationalmagic.com





Yann Frisch



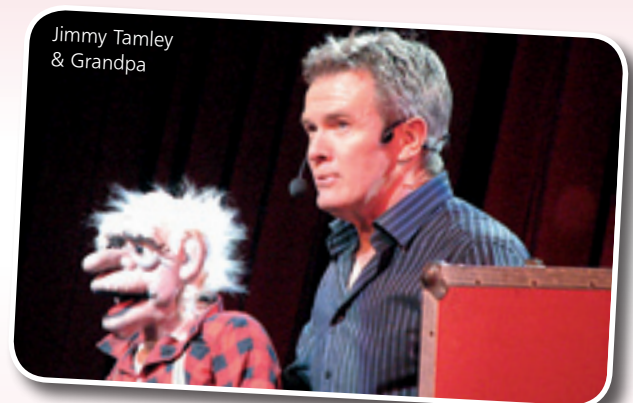
Ken Dodd



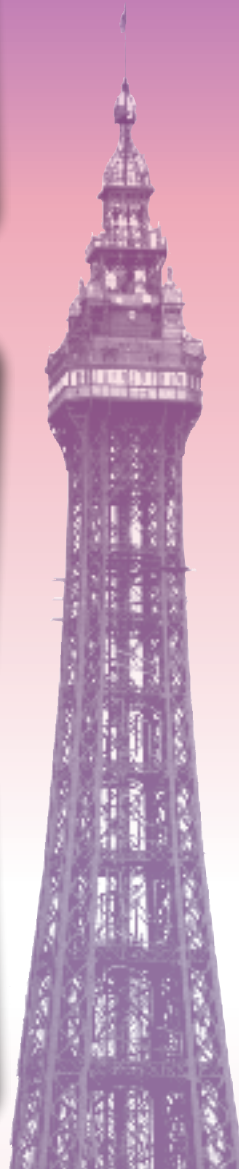
Jonathan Hawley & Co.



Clive Webb & Danny Adams



Jimmy Tamley & Grandpa



BLACKPOOL

EUROPEAN FISM 2011

The Winter Garden is having a facelift! Parts of it were looking very smartly refurbished and it was still the greatest place to hold a magic convention!

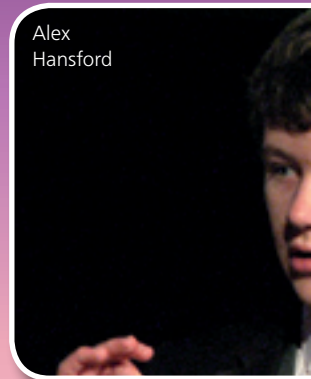
This year was the first European FISM Championship and the Friday and Saturday were filled with competitions. The dealers' halls, as always, were crammed with people selling every type of magic you could ever want and the aisles were filled with magicians busily looking for the next great miracle to add to their repertoires.



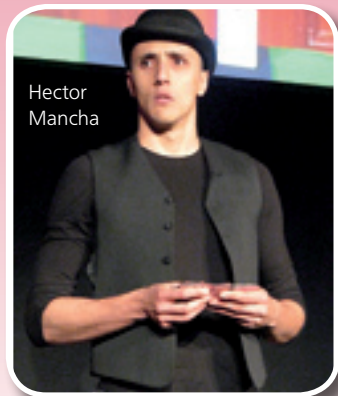
Miika
Pelkonen



Vittorio
Belloni



Alex
Hansford



Hector
Mancha



Hayashi



Kenn Dodd &
Mark Raffles



Eric
Eswin

The Close Up Competition included parlour magic too and ran all of Friday day time while the stage contest started that evening and ran all the next day. On Saturday night we were able to see the awards being presented and a selection of the winners reprised their acts which brought us a super show, only marred by the off-colour humour of the compere. Thankfully he was removed soon after the start of the second half. We were privileged, too, enjoy acts from star names Richard Osterlind and Tom Anders.

Sunday saw close up shows, lectures and a final sweep of the dealer hall. I also took the time to visit Jon Marshall's wonderful sideshow event and see the amazing Dr. Diablo with his pain defying magic.

Then the gala show gave us plenty of highlighted



Rune
Carlsen



Domenico
Dante



Gerrit
Brengman



Kristian
Nivala

BLACK EUROPEAN



Roy
Johnson



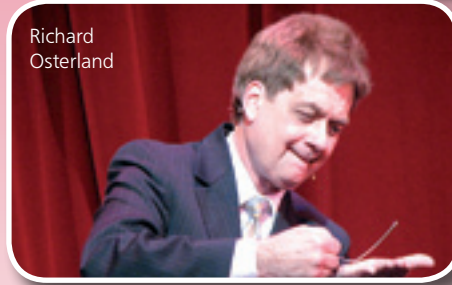
Matthew Wright



Paul Sommersgutter



Tom Anders



Richard Osterland



Dimmare



Arthur Casson

moments – from Clive Webb and Danny Adams who performed slapstick style routines between the acts, to the wonderful presentation to Mark Raffles from Ken Dodd. Watching the two of them on stage, adlibbing their way along, was a great lesson in comedy timing despite their advancing ages. Ken Dodd, true to form, kept going on stage for over half an hour!

Personally, I particularly enjoyed Scott Penrose, Dimmare and Michael Finney, all of whom were amazingly good as always.

And so ended another brilliant weekend and all that was left was the long and tiring train journey back to London – but filled with memories of another great Blackpool convention.



Cubic Act

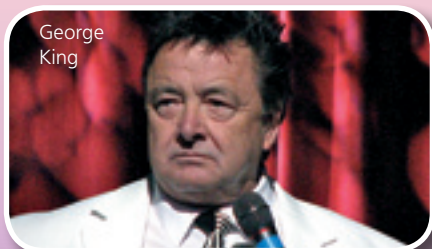


Yann Frisch



Woody Aragon

BLACKPOOL FISM 2011



George King



Yann Frisch



Jon Marshall



Dr Diablo



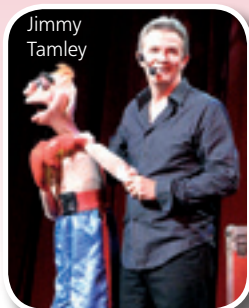
Jonathan Hawley & Co.



Clive Webb & Danny Adams



Dimmare



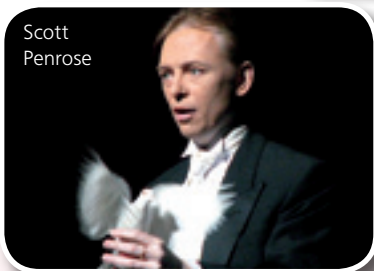
Jimmy Tamley



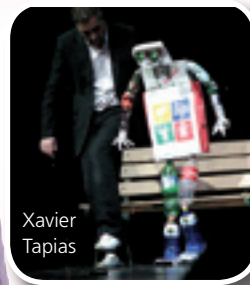
Michael Finney



Salvano Junior



Scott Penrose



Xavier Tapias



Roy Gardner & James

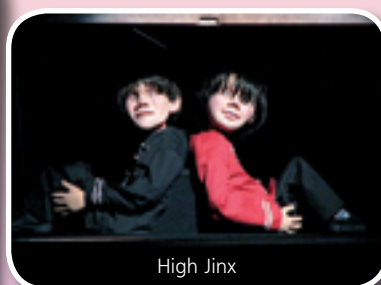


BLACKPOOL

EUROPEAN FISM 2011



Siobhan Jordan



High Jinx



Michael Jordan

MEMBER PROFILE

Adam Waggott



What Kind Of Magic Do You Enjoy The Most?

I enjoy close up magic the most because it gives the spectator more of an experience (one on one); also it's probably one of the most visual types of magic. I enjoy the look on the spectator's face when the spectator can't figure out how it's done.

What do you like most about Secrets?

Seeing what happened at all the latest conventions and seeing what will be happening in the future.

Strongest non-magical performing influences?

My Music teachers (Miss Clark & Mr Buckley) for running a band at my school every week and giving me more confidence in front of crowds.

Strongest magical influences?

John Harding when he performed a kids' magic show at a church near where I live

What is your favourite magic on TV?

Penn & Teller Fool Us / BBC's The Magicians

Which magician would you most like to be and why?

Penn (Teller's other half) because he is funny, clever, talks A LOT and his tricks are amazing.

If you had your own TV chat show and could interview any three people - real or fictitious, dead or alive - who would they be?

Roald Dahl, Derren Brown, Penn & Teller

Top tip for getting into magic?

Don't have too many tricks - start with one and practise, practise, PRACTISE until you have it perfect, then start with another. Don't go over around five main tricks. And focus on them!!!

Some people I would like to thank in magic for either their help or encouragement?

Everyone from the YMC and John Harding for introducing me to magic.

Age: 13

Current Home?

Liverpool

Joined The Young Magicians Club?

January 2011

Hobbies apart from Magic?

Music, computer

Favourite magic book?

Vortex by Tom Stone

Favourite magic DVD?

21 magic by Sweden

Favourite Non-Magic Book?

Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl

Favourite Film?

Bruce Almighty

Favourite Magicians?

John Harding (Magician where I live and the person who got me into magic), Derren Brown, Michael Vincent, Penn & Teller

reviews

The Mysterious Puzzle of the Missing Dollar Bill

by Nicholas Einhorn

■ Reviewed by Matthew Field



Some practice



So three guys walk into a hotel ...

Thus begins an old brainteaser in which they share a room for \$10 each, it turns out to only cost \$25 if they're sharing, the bellhop can't divide the \$5 he's supposed to return by three so he gives them each back a dollar and keeps \$2 himself. The men started with \$30, paid \$27, the bellhop has \$2 where's the missing dollar?

The very creative Nicholas Einhorn took that puzzle and made it into a very nice trick, in which the scene has been shifted to a restaurant (\$25 for meals makes more sense than

for a hotel room) and, after explaining the head-scratcher, illustrates with real money (or play money if you wish). Sure enough, as he runs through the scenario, a dollar disappears. The effect is repeated. Another dollar gone.

You will have to make up a very simple gimmick and learn one very easy move for this one.

21 pgs., Booklet, colour photos throughout. £12.99 post free direct from www.Einhorn.co.uk (email Nick at info@einhorn.co.uk for more info).

Value for money? **8/10**

9/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? **8/10**

Multiplicity

by Max Maven

■ Reviewed by Matthew Field

How clever is Max Maven? He is **very** clever. This DVD is devoted to the topic of Magician's Choice, also called Equivoque, as well as the ploy of Multiple Outs.



Some practice

3 hr. 15 min. DVD. £53.30
Post free from
www.world-of-magic.co.uk

Value for money? **8/10**

8/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? **8/10**

These are powerful but often misused tools for the magician and mentalist. The proper way to force an item is taught on this extra-long DVD, with Max often appearing with Eugene Burger, another master of the technique. And then there's the Multiple Out, where an effect concludes differently for each choice a spectator might select. Simple in approach, this is another powerful concept when intelligently applied.

This is really a double DVD on one disk and is priced accordingly. It is worth every penny and is a welcome addition to the magic literature, highly recommended.



Double Back by Jon Allen

Reviewed by Matthew Field



Some practice

Gaffed cards and 19 min. DVD. £13 post free from www.OnlineMagicShop.co.uk

Value for money? **7/10**

8/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? **8/10**

This is a transposition effect similar to Dr. Daley's Last Trick. You show two Fives and two Kings, place the Fives on the spectators hand, showing you hold the Kings. Suddenly you are holding the Fives and the spectator now has the Kings.

The trick looks great and Jon did this for me recently, fooling me badly. There are gaffs involved (check out the title of the trick for a clue) but they can be very cleanly handled and the one sleight, an Elmsley Count, is taught.

This is a re-release of the trick, now with an excellent DVD. It's easy to do, easy to carry and appropriate for beginner-level card handlers. It's a real fooler.



The Master Pushoff

by Andy Gladwin

Reviewed by Matthew Field



Tough!

Will take lots of practice



Andy Gladwin made a wise decision and decided to master one technique as well as he could, and he does it very well indeed. It's a technique for executing a Double Lift or Double Deal without the need for a get-ready. In other words, Andi can simply push off two cards as one, just like that, with nothing phony-looking going on. And that is a very useful skill to acquire.

On the two DVDs he teaches the aspiring student how to acquire the skill, solve problems, learn refinements, how to do a Second Deal, a Double Deal and lots more. A second disk is devoted to effects using the technique, about a dozen in all.

Acquiring this skill will take work and practice, but the result is worth it. It will open up a new world of possibilities, and the DVD set is highly recommended.

2 DVD set, 2 hrs. Including 24 page. pdf. £24.99 plus £2.50 p&p from www.magicbox.co.uk

Value for money? **8/10**

9/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? **9/10**

LEE ASHER

UNCOVERED



"It was originally titled "The Grave Turnover," said Lee. "Gary Ouelette (NBC producer and Canadian Card Man) saw me perform the routine at the 1991 FFFF convention in Buffalo, NY and re-named it 'Asher Twist' - thanks Gary!"

Early in his career Lee performed as a character called "Cardius Sharkus" but later discovered that audiences actually prefer him to be himself, not a personality he could put on at a moment's notice.

Lee Asher is a very well known American card magician, famous for card handling techniques such as the "Asher Twist" and, more recently, the stunning "Thunderbird - The Modern Ace Production". Lee has generously given up his time to answer some questions about himself and his magic in an exclusive interview for YMC members.

I asked Lee who his performing influences were in his formative years. It turned out that he was inspired by any magic performed well.

Lee's father is a very well respected magician and collector, so you might think that there would be a certain amount of pressure on him to become a magician. "Not at all," says Lee. "Like I tell others, magic chose me! It held my interest, allowed me to be creative and express my feelings in a healthy - artistic way and it still does!"

"You're always urged to study the great legends and masters from yesterday. Take a moment and visit: www.MagicVideoBlog.com. Here you'll find some of the greatest performances of magic, of all time. Each one of these videos inspires and influences me."

At an early age, Lee was always intrigued by playing cards more than larger props.

"They're also a lot easier to get onto a bus than a Zig-Zag illusion!" he said.

Today, Lee is also known in the magic community for Jerry's Nuggets playing cards. These "Jerry's" (as they are affectionately known) were printed in 1970 for a casino in Las Vegas. The first time Lee encountered them was in Frank Simon's book "Versatile Card Magic".



At fifteen Lee's first creation, "The Asher Twist", came into focus. This is a move which invisibly turns over the bottom card of a packet in the action of spreading the cards and was originally created to clean up the cards after an Elmsley Count in a Cannibal Kings routine. It wasn't planned - it just worked.

Lee explained, "Earl Nelson [super-awesome card guy] volunteered his hands for the photos. I'm not sure what influenced Mr. Nelson to choose Jerry's Nuggets, the day they shot those pictures, but it absolutely had an impact on that particular deck of playing cards for years to come."

"When I moved to Las Vegas, to go to university, those cards became the preferred deck of choice for

By Jack Taperell



several reasons.

"Firstly, they were inexpensive. Back in the early-90s you could purchase a deck of Jerry's Nugget cards for 75 cents plus tax. Secondly, they forced you to exert certain hand pressures in order to properly manipulate them. I'd refer to Jerry's Nugget Playing Cards as 'trainers' because they were used to develop strength in my hands. And most importantly they were, and still are, pretty stylish!"



travels on YouTube: there are five Japanese videos and each clip takes you to different parts of this exotically beautiful country. Google 'Lee Asher' and 'Japan' and you'll quickly find a direct link to them.

"If I had to detail one highlight, it would be: Asking my girlfriend to marry me in Tsukiji Fish Market. She said yes!"

Our conversation then turned to discussing what the most important advances in magic were during the last decade.

"But what is so special about them that they regularly fetch hundreds of pounds on websites such as e-Bay?" I asked Lee.

"Well... it's subjective. Some people believe they're one of the finest decks ever printed; others think they are terrible and aren't worth any amount of money. The best way to describe all of this is by quoting the old cliché "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

Lee has also recently produced a line of super high quality playing cards called 605s which are manufactured by the Spanish firm, Fournier. I asked Lee why he decided to make the cards with Fournier instead of the more traditional United States Playing Card Company.

"The main reason why Fournier was chosen to print the 605s is because of the high standards and rigorous quality control they bring to the manufacturing process. Constant innovation, the desire to improve the quality of their playing cards and the exquisite attention to detail have made Fournier one of the world's leading card manufacturers. In my opinion USPCC is good - but Fournier makes a better high-end card."

"That's a tough question," Lee began. "It's either in the way magic information is disseminated through the internet or the advancement of playing card printing techniques. There's absolutely no factual data to back-up these two statements, but my choices sound good!"

I then asked Lee for the best advice he could give to YMC members? According to Lee, the best tip anyone can give you is to have fun!

"If you're not enjoying yourself, then you're not doing it right!"

Finally, I asked whether there were any projects due to come out that he could tell us about.

"I have a few things I've been working on for a while. Pulp Friction is past due so that needs to be finished sooner, rather than later. There are some plans to produce magic with the Ellusionist. If you want to be one of the first to know, join my mailing list. Visit www.LeeAsher.com and enter your name into the ripped Ace of Clubs."

In November 2009 Lee travelled to Japan for a fifteen city lecture tour. I urge you to watch his

I thanked Lee wholeheartedly for his kindness and generosity in giving up his time for this interview.



PUZZLE PIZZA

ADD YOUR OWN TOPPINGS BY SENDING IN YOUR PUZZLES!

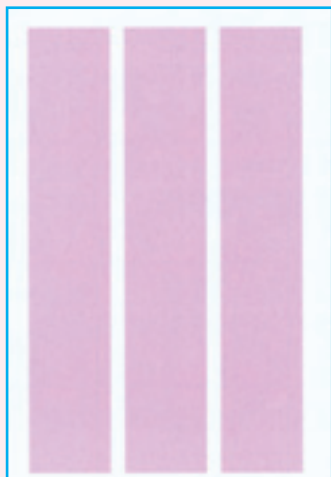
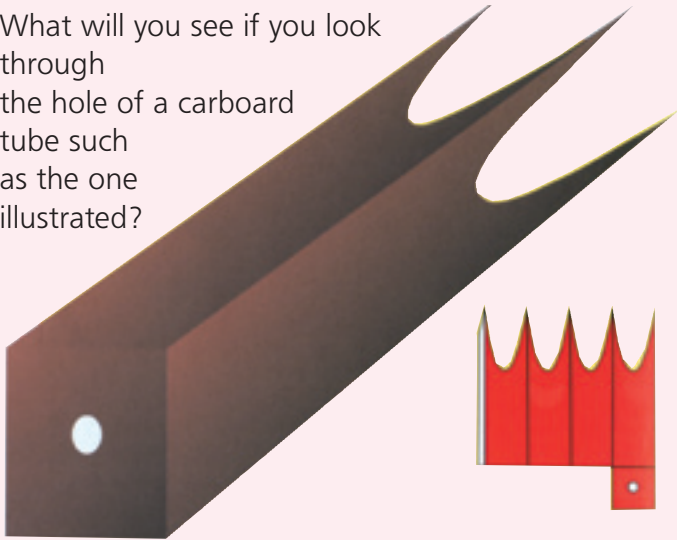
Congratulations to the following who won our Bristol Day based competition:

- Jamie Longcake
- Jack Kleeman
- Joe Fitch
- Oliver Graham-Smith

See page 9 for this months great competiton!

Tube Illusion:

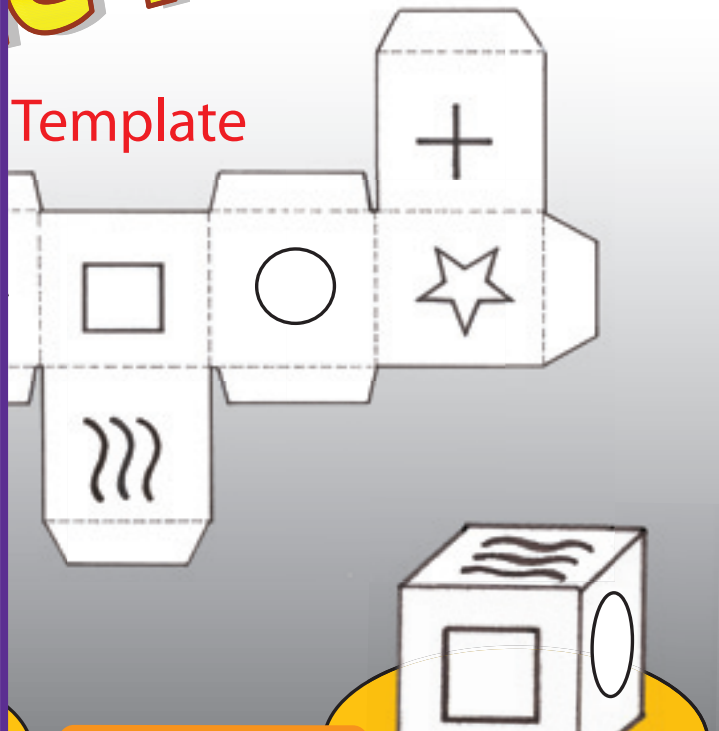
What will you see if you look through the hole of a carboard tube such as the one illustrated?



Can you make a perfect star from three identical strips of translucent paper?

e Portion

Template



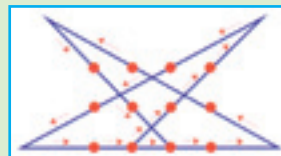
Pair the Props *Solution*

- A.3 - "Halve - It"
- B.4 - "C & R. Tie"
- C.1 - "Enchanted Vase."
- D.2 - "Pen thru' Note"

**Dennis Patten's
Puzzle Solution
Secrets
February 2011**

Ahmes's Puzzle Solution:

16,807 measures of flour. That's $7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7$. This puzzle which comes from the ancient Egyptian 'Rhind Papyrus,' was written by the scribe Ahmes in 1850 b.c. Perhaps the worlds oldest puzzle, it has inspired a great many variations over the thousands of years since its creation.



The Twelve Point Problem:

The Six Line Problem:



TRICKS

RED-COVERY

BY IAN ADAIR

No faked cards are used in this effect so you will be able to find everything required in a matter of minutes.

EFFECT:

Removing a blue backed deck from its case, the performer states that before the show he removed one card from a red-backed deck and inserted it amongst the others. The deck is fanned, faces to the audience, a spectator being asked to merely point to one of the cards. When this one is reversed it's the only red-backed one in the blue-backed deck.

APPARATUS:

A regular blue backed deck.

Two cards removed from a red backed deck, one of them being the Joker, the other an indifferent card (for this explanation I am using the Four of Diamonds).

SET UP:

This is easy. Remove and discard one of the two Jokers from the blue backed deck. Replace this card with the red-backed Joker which is now placed on the front of the deck, on top of the regular blue-backed Joker. Insert the other red-backed card (in this case the Four of Diamonds) into the centre of the deck, first removing the blue-backed one which matches it and isn't needed. Place the deck inside its case.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Pick up the card case and state that before the show

you removed one card from this blue-backed deck and replaced it with a red-backed one. Remove the deck from its case and fan some of the backs to show that the deck has blue backs. Now fan the faces of the cards towards a spectator, requesting that one of the cards should be touched. Whichever card is pointed out, the performer removes it and brings it to the front of the deck, on top of the red backed Joker card.

A 'double-lift' (two cards turned over as one) is executed to show that the selected card has a RED back. The audience will clearly see a Joker card beneath as this is being done.



A second double lift is executed so the face of the card is once again seen. Fanning through the deck the performer now looks along the spread for the only red-backed card and inserts the blue-backed selected card next to it, pushing it down to the level of the others, holding the fan in the left hand, the right hand

finger and thumb holds on to the selected card.

When the deck is reversed, the finger and thumb are moved over onto the next card (the red-backed one), a neat flourish which gives the impression that the card really has a red back.

Of course it is best to pocket the deck or, better still, remove the red-backed card (red showing out), plus both Jokers, so the deck becomes a regular one, ready for use in further card tricks.

Have fun performing this one!

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