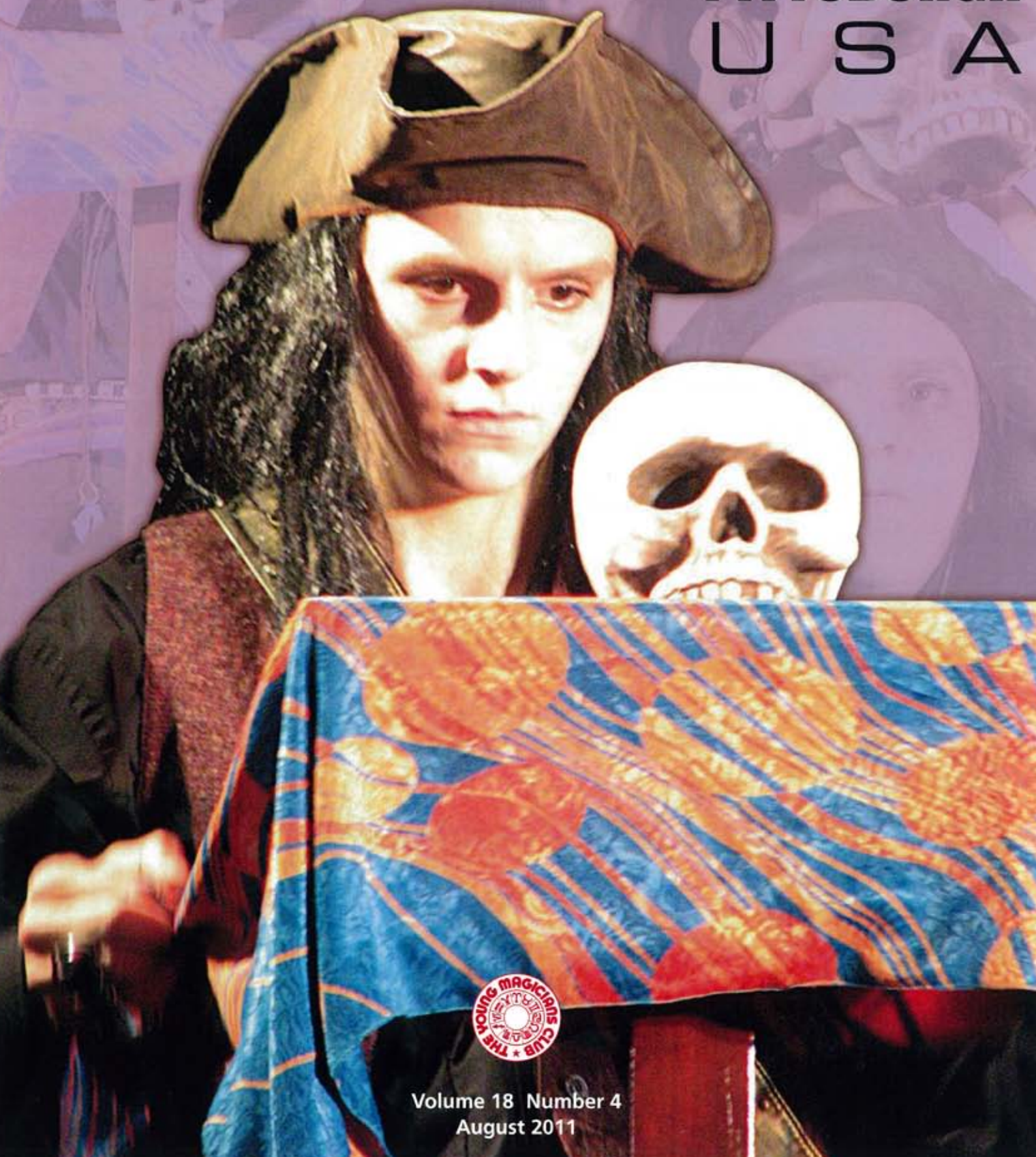


SECRETS

the magazine of the Young Magicians Club

SAM
CONVENTION
PITTSBURGH
U S A



Volume 18 Number 4
August 2011

Davenport's

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.

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J-DAY 2011

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SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2011

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AND A SPECIAL GUEST INTERVIEW TOO!

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Cover Picture:
James Wilson performing at the SAM Convention.

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editorial

Mandy's Magic Words

It has been the most exciting two months and all totally unexpected! First I got a wonderful chance – to go and see Derren Brown's new show, Svengali, which was as inspiring and enjoyable as all his live performances tend to be. I had a fantastic time and was delighted when I met up with Derren for a few minutes afterwards. I was hoping to write a review of the show but – if I do that I will spoil it for anyone who hasn't seen it. So I can't say more than that you should take every opportunity to see him live if you can. It's something every young magician should do!



Photo by Gordon Drayson

Next, July found me in Pittsburgh with less than a week's notice that I was going! I attended the Society of American Magicians' convention and was able to see our own YMC member, James Wilson, perform in one of the shows there... Full details in the special pull-out pages of this issue.

There is so much magic for you right now too - so much to see in the coming months. The September IBM convention in Southport has a special YMC rate for you for a weekend away full of magic. See the back page advertisement for details.

The weekend before that there are three amazing events: Saturday 17th September is YMC Auditions Day for the finals of the stage and close up competitions which take place at J-Day on 23rd October. The competition acts should be 8 – 10 minutes long and rules can be obtained from Kevin. Tickets for J-Day are available this month - see advertisement on facing page.

Sunday 18th September has the 40th Anniversary of Young Magician of the Year: an all day event of lectures and shows featuring past contestants of this prestigious competition. Full details over the page.

On the following day, Monday 19th September, we celebrate 100th birthday of John Calvert, an extraordinary magician who will be appearing in a star studded tribute at the London Palladium; and there is a great offer on tickets for YMC members from the producer Paul Stone – again, details over the page!

And with J-Day in October you have still November to come and the International Magic Weekend which will feature Eugene Burger who you know from the pages of this magazine! So be sure to arrange your timetables in order to see and experience as much of this as possible – you don't want to miss anything!

Mandy

TV EXCITEMENT FOR DANIEL



YMC Member Daniel Kramer, got the chance of a lifetime with some great TV exposure when he appeared on ITV's prime time programme 'Fool Us: Penn & Teller'.

Daniel said: "I did two tricks and I'm happy with how they went. Penn and Teller enjoyed both. I tried to block them out while I was doing the tricks and perform just to the audience. When I looked at Penn and Teller at the end, they were both smiling, laughing and clapping. It was a very weird experience but all great fun."



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• YOUNG • M A G I C I A N OF THE YEAR REVISITED

THE
 MAGIC CIRCLE

PRESENTS

Young Magician
 of the Year

REVISITED

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of
 The Magic Circle's Young Magician of the Year Competition,
 you are invited to join past participants of this prestigious event in a full day of
 presentations, lectures, close-up performances and an evening stage show featuring*

**Richard Wiseman, Marc Oberon,
 Russ Stevens, Richard Cadell, Graham Jolley,
 Paul Kieve, Andrew O'Connor**

Amethyst	Nicholas Einhorn	David Owen
Noel Britten	Richard Griffin	Bertie Pearce
Angelo Carbone	Ben Hart	Scott Penrose
Keith Cooper	Philip Hitchcock	Colin Rose
Paul Dabek	Michael Jordan	Martyn Rowland
Steve Dela	Matt McGurk	Martin Scott Price

18 SEPT 2011

Doors Open: 10:00am
 Planned Finish: 10:30pm
 at The Magic Circle Headquarters,
 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

Registration for this fabulous event is:
 £27 for young magicians under 18 & their guardians
 £35 for members of The Magic Circle
 £45 for non-members
 Contact: noelbritten@themagiccircle.co.uk

YMC WORKSHOP DATES 2011

17th September

23rd October (Sunday J-Day)

12th November

For members only. 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). 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: kevin.doig@tesco.net

PALLADIUM PARADISE - FOR MAGICIANS AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR YOU!

Paul Stone, who produces some of the world's greatest magic events, is bringing together 100 magicians in honour of the 100th birthday of John Calvert - a true master of Magic.

This takes place at the London Palladium on Monday 19th September and will be one of the greatest shows you will ever have the opportunity to see.

And here's the best news:
Paul contacted me to say:

"I'd like to offer you a special deal for your 'Secrets' young Magicians. If they mention the code 'Secrets', and are members of YMC, I will upgrade any £25.00 booked seats to £50.00 tickets. This obviously will also apply to their families or people attending with them."

Wow! What an offer! Don't miss out - book it as soon as you can as tickets are selling fast.

Go to:
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and don't forget that code!

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Magicians

100

Megan's Memories

By Megan Knowles-Bacon MMC



Clockwise from top left: Thomas Dodson, Joe Strickland, Nick Lee, Belinda Stewart & Me.

Wow, where do I start?

I think the end is a pretty good place - my last ever YMC workshop on 21st May 2011! As always the day was full of fun and laughter, but I couldn't help but feel a little sad when it ended. Then I thought: I have so many magical memories, from the past eight years of my membership, that I could probably fill this magazine. So let's see if I can share with you just a few of my favourites...

In May 2003 my Nan, Mum and I went to watch a local magic club, Bexleyheath Magic Society, perform at a nearby church hall. We didn't have a clue what to expect but it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening - during which somebody mentioned the "Young Magicians Club". By now my mum was sick of being the audience for my Stephen Mulhern and Marvin's Magic tricks so, after the show, she promptly got the details for YMC. Within a few weeks I was a member.

The first workshop I attended was in the July of that year. I was a very small, shy, ten year old so my first memory was looking up at a room full of tall boys and thinking, "Where are the girls?" Fortunately the other female member that day, Belinda Stewart, found me, took me under her wing and we have been friends ever since. The first thing I learnt was how to shuffle and that 'a good magician always carries a pack of cards'.

I enjoyed the workshops so much that in the following eight years I only missed three of them (pretty good considering Mum originally said I could only go every other month!). The workshops included some wonderful things, from card tricks to presentation skills. Personally my favourite workshops were those where we had to get up, move about and interact with each other. I remember once having to put together a piece of drama including a magic trick in the story - but without it being the main focus. These sessions showed me how presentation is the most important part of performance; this has really helped me to develop my magic.

I have been placed in several competitions over the years, both close-up and stage. My first was 'Magic Idol', January 2004, organized by past member Chris Harding - I was shocked to be placed third. This gave me a boost to my confidence and encouraged me to perform more. I have won several prizes including J-Day and second place in the biennial Young Magician of the Year competition. Looking back I cringe at some of the acts I did, and the costumes I wore, (in particular fairy wings) but they all helped me to find what I am best at and my own unique style.

Being made a mentor at the club has been a really valuable experience too as it has helped me to develop communication skills - and it looks good on my CV! The Young Magicians Club provided me with many amazing outside opportunities too.

I was part of the official launch of the Magic Circle's Centenary stamps alongside Stephen Mulhern, who was my idol at the time, and Holly Willoughby. I later worked with Stephen on the first two series of Tricky TV. This was really exciting, working with a film crew and being televised. In 2008 Mandy helped me to gain a scholarship from the SAM to attend the Sorcerer's Safari magic camp in Canada. This was an amazing adventure, spending a week with some incredible magicians. I came home with new skills, new friends and bags of



From left: Holly Willoughby, Troy von Scheibner, Me & Stephen Mulhern.

confidence. This paved the way for my current act which has helped me to become more successful. I have performed at many wonderful places including The Magic Circle HQ, The International Brotherhood of Magicians' Eastbourne Convention and for Amnesty International. Last year I performed in the Stars of Tomorrow show at the SAM convention in Atlanta, which was really exciting, and the comments I received there were really touching and memorable. This convention still remains my favourite ever show.

We have had some amazing teachers at the workshops over those years - but the best by far was definitely Ali Bongo. He would always be there ready to help out, and give advice, and his smiley face was a welcoming sight at every workshop. We could always rely on Ali to fill any spare time with interesting stories and clever tricks. He was full of great ideas, lots of fun, always encouraging, and is now sorely missed.

Whilst I was having fun at the workshops my mum, dad and little brother George would visit various London attractions. On the first workshop they were reluctant to leave me, and stayed near-by, but over the years they went further and further away and saw a lot of wonderful places. They also made friends with other members' parents so I wasn't the only one who benefited from the workshops.

During my eight years as a member I have made some brilliant friends who I still meet with regularly in London. We have a really good time together, constantly laughing and, of course, exchanging magical tips and ideas. It is really important to me to have this close circle of friends who I can talk to about magic and who understand it, my school friends really don't! I urge everyone at YMC to build close bonds with other members and meet up more often if you can.

Without becoming a member of YMC I probably wouldn't have pursued my magical hobby.



The late Pete McCahon (Past Secrets Editor) and Me (standing on a chair)

I wouldn't have known any professional magic and would have got bored with Marvin's sets eventually. Magic has had such a massive influence on my life, from building confidence, making friends and even for my GCSEs! I think I have the best hobby in the world. It has led me to meet some really interesting people, visit wonderful places and it makes life really exciting!

The past eight years have flown by. Although I am now proud to be a member of The Magic Circle, and love going to their Monday meetings, I still miss the YMC workshops. However I have been very fortunate to be awarded a scholarship to attend the Jeff McBride Magic and Mystery school in Las Vegas this summer - I really can't wait!



Ali Bongo and me with multi awards!

I must take this opportunity to thank: My family and friends for their support (and money!).

Roy Marsh and Rob Page for getting me started in magic.

The entire YMC team: Kevin, Katherine, Steve, Belinda, Tracy, Peter... there have been so many great people over the years, sorry if I forgot you.

Special thanks to Mandy for all the extra help and advice; my days at YMC wouldn't have been as rewarding without you.

My advice to all members is to come to as many workshops as possible, take part in everything, perform at every opportunity, make friends, listen to the teachers, team and other members and of course practice lots! Most importantly, have fun and enjoy every minute because, as I have found out, it is over way too quickly.



From left: YMOTY 2009 1st Michael Jordan, 2nd Me and 3rd Carl Scutt

I have learned not to try to fit in, by doing the same as everyone else, but to try to do something different and stand out - and most importantly be myself. I am extremely proud of my achievements and feel I have come a very long way from the shy, simple performances I used to give.

Revealing the Method

By YMC Member BEN LAWSON



Continuing on from Ben's previous 'Soap Box' article in Secrets June 2011, he has this fantastic trick for you to try...

Effect

The magician overhand shuffles a deck of cards, all of which are different, and spreads them face down on the table. He then squares the deck up and asks a spectator to name a number between one and ten. The magician then counts cards off the bottom of the deck and stops at the number called. This card is set, face-down, to one side and the process is repeated until four cards have been selected. The magician squares the deck up and leans back. He tells a fairly vague explanation of card cheats and how they would use their skills to win big on games of poker or blackjack. He describes how they would create the illusion of chance whilst secretly controlling the positions of key cards such as the Aces. He turns over the cards previously selected and - voila! The four Aces have been selected.

He graciously accepts the applause and places the four Aces on top of the deck. He then explains the concept of the false shuffle and proceeds to riffle shuffle, then overhand shuffle, the deck. At the end of this, however, the four Aces are still on top. The process is repeated, and even a spectator is allowed to shuffle, but the four Aces remain on top.

Apparatus

1 x deck of playing cards

Duplicates of the four Aces.

Working and Presentation

Before the trick begins, place the four Aces from the pack on the face of the deck - this means that, if the deck was placed face down, the Aces would be on the bottom. Have the duplicate Aces in an easy to reach position - I normally perform this sitting down so the aces are simply in my lap. Make sure the audience cannot see them though...

1. Patter about gamblers as you overhand shuffle the cards, face down. If you are skilled at false shuffling, then you simply need to maintain the position of the Aces. If not, it does not take much practice to overhand shuffle the top half of the deck, then "clumsily" insert the bottom half so that it remains on the bottom in order.
2. As you square the cards up, get a break under the bottom four cards and in-jog them towards you (this simply involves moving the bottom four cards out of position so they stick out the back of the deck). Make sure the audience does not see this (easily covered by the hand).
3. Ask a spectator to give a number between one and ten. Deal cards from the bottom of the deck (but not the in-jogged Aces) equal to one less than the selection

From your own



- on the number itself take one of the in-jogged cards instead. You should have a pile of indifferent cards and one Ace, face down. Place the Ace to the side.

4. Repeat the procedure for the next three Aces. Each time, place the Aces in a separate pile.

5. Gather up the indifferent cards and place them back on the deck. More patter at this point and reveal the four Aces.

6. Take the four Aces and place them face down on top of the deck. This is where the false shuffling comes in. If you have mastered this skill, this is your time to shine - and explain to your spectators that you are false shuffling. For those of us (including myself), who revile from sleight of hand, here is a simple way:

Riffle Shuffle: The best shufflers know how to get exactly equal amounts of the deck and shuffle them



together evenly. We don't need to do this. If you riffle the half with the Aces on top a little slower, then the final top cards will remain in order on top.

Overhand shuffle: Again if you make this look clumsy, then you can get away with almost anything (just like Lennart Green). Just keep the four Aces on top of the deck - I recommend overhand, then riffle, then overhand again.

7. Reveal the four Aces to still be on top. Replace them, then genuinely shuffle the deck (still telling the audience

you are false shuffling!), and hand it to a spectator. Try to keep the pace up here - the less time they have to think, the easier the final step will be.

8. While the spectator shuffles, get the duplicate Aces ready in your right hand. The experienced will be familiar with the "palm" necessary - for those not in the know, it means to hold a playing card with the two short edges contacting the ends of your fingers and the fleshy part of your hand. If you hold your hand face down, the card should be barely visible.

9. Take the deck back in your left hand and, as you turn back to the table, place the duplicate Aces face down on top of the deck. This may sound brazen but it utilizes a principle known as the off-beat - as the spectator hands you the card make a joke about their shuffling (always gets a laugh, trust me) and laugh along with the audience as you subtly add the extra cards. You can't be too obvious with this, of course!

10. Reveal the four Aces on top of the deck again. Note: the deck cannot be examined at this point, as the true aces are within it, but a neat convincer is if you ribbon spread the cards face down on the table at the end, before disposing of them.

And there we have it! Not the most exciting trick in the world but it utilizes the principles discussed. We provide a method, a real method, which then becomes a fake method. We have explained the trick but not the trick they have seen. It is very hard to control the position of cards shuffled by a spectator. And remember - this principle is not limited to card effects. Vanishes, productions, predictions, all can have a brand new twist added to them!

PN (performance note): When counting out cards, and asking a spectator to choose a number, try and keep the numbers small. If a person gives a number like thirty, then it can take a long time to actually reach that number, causing a rather large gap in your performance. Unless the trick requires it, stick to low numbers.

Ron MacMillan's
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SAM CONVENTION PITTSBURGH USA



James Wilson



Woody Arragon



Bruce Kalver



Ed Ellis



Jay Sterling

One Monday I was at home answering a Skype call and the following Monday I was in Pittsburgh!

The call was from the Society of American Magicians, who asked me to become their next British Ambassador, and so I was there to collect the award. This convention was the North American FISM, the competitions were both the usual national ones and also the opportunity for the World Magic Olympic judges to choose finalists to perform in their contests in Blackpool next July.

The stage heats were in three sections and the close up performances were in two. The convention lasted from Tuesday night's registration and dealer hall opening until Saturday's banquet and gala show.

This convention was dedicated to Hank Moorehouse who died less than two weeks beforehand and the tributes were heart rending. Hank had been a performer as well as the producer of many of the past SAM convention shows.

I enjoyed the late night shows but late night lectures are hard going as I have



Hank Moorehouse



Hector Mancha



Jason Andrews



Andost



Blake Nielson



Lee Young Woo



Mike Chao



Isabelle Dodd



Fred Becker



Lion Fludd



Ma-Sa-Ya



Mark Weidhaus
Outgoing President



Patrick Przysiecki



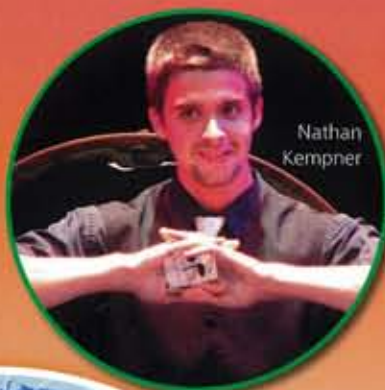
Michael Tallon

SAM CONVENTION PITTSBURGH U S

lost my concentration by then. However there were a few performers that I enjoyed, Jay and Jay Sterling in particular.

The close up show, as opposed to the comedy show, was performed by Paul Gertner and Ed Ellis. The three acts from the contest finals and gala show, were both excellent. Close and Shawn Farquhar you may already know. Alexander who, together with his wife Jenny, performed a very interesting act. For instance – we watched Scott swallow a string... And then they kissed but as the string was hanging between their mouths as they kissed. Several classics, with great twists, which really were quite good.

But the show that was important to YMC was the Stars of Tomorrow, which featured our own performer. Wow! His act was fantastic and deserved all the attention (I compered as we say here!) by Hayden Childs. He performed with great style. He was alarmingly relaxed, and a great support for the other performers.



Nathan Kempner



Hayden Childress



Vinny Grosso
Incoming President



Jay Sterling



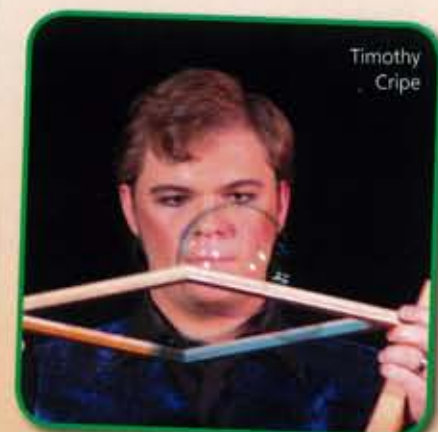
Joshua Jay



Fred Becker



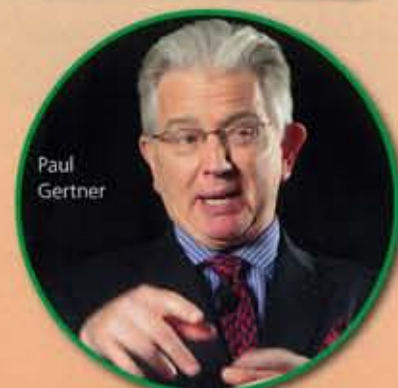
Marc Desouza



Timothy Cripe



Hiroshi Yamamoto



Paul Gertner

...ere were some gems from Marc Desouza, Joshua

...petition, showcased both Marc and Joshua as
...big shows in the main theatre, which included
...th compered by outstanding names – Michael
...have heard of and seen their work plus Scott
...produced some amazing twists on classic tricks.
...several sharp razor blades; his wife swallowed
...they parted the string with the razor blades on it
...moved away from each other! Scott performed
...ly made you rethink the old routines.

...was the Society of Young Magicians show, the
...own James Wilson as its closing act. He was a
...the praise it received. The show was MC'd (or
...dress who talked and bantered his way through
...and at home on stage, which set a great tone



Kim Hyunjoon



Reuban Moreland



Richard Forget



Scott Alexander and Jenny

Blake Nielsen opened the show and I was very taken with his Appearing Rose which he had originally drawn on a sketchpad like the rising card effect. By passing a silk over the drawing he turned the petals red and then he was able to pluck a real rose from the page.



Vanni Pule and MaryAnne



Shawn Farquar

Timothy Cripe was to be found for most of the convention helping Losander on his dealer stand. His act was very polished and I loved his blowing of a bubble which he then floated through a frame; and also a framed picture that he used in zombie style with a cloth.



Rhythm of Magic

Ma-Sa-Ya was very entertaining with his magic, a very elegant piece; while Vincent Villamonte did a very well rehearsed dove production act as well as one of my favourite effects in the show - a floating M & M! It's cute little face peeped out from the silk and really gave the routine an essence of fun.



Vincent Villamonte

There was one female junior magician - Isabelle Dodd who looked very sophisticated in a red Chinese jacket which reminded me of the one I wear for performance! She did some silk magic and a Linking Ring routine which were both very nicely accomplished.



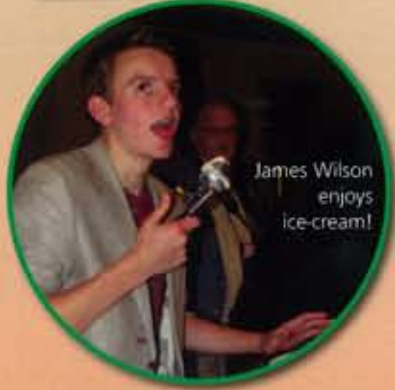
SYM Ice-Cream Social

This convention was as much about being with friends, old and new, as it was about the performances and lectures. The whole thing was definitely fun - and that included the SYM Ice Cream Social (thanks to Jann Goodsell and Marlene Clark for inviting me to that event)!



SYM Members

If you happen to be planning a holiday next year the SAM convention will be in Las Vegas - I will leave you with that thought!



James Wilson enjoys ice-cream!

MEMBER PROFILE

David Hardman



Age: 13.

Current Home? Tonbridge, Kent.

Joined The Young Magicians Club?
March 2008, on my 10th birthday.

Hobbies apart from Magic?
I juggle, contact ball, play the guitar and tennis.

Favourite magic book?
Magic and Showmanship by Henning Nelms (It's not the easiest of reads but really helped my performance).

Favourite magic DVD?
Fiber Optics Extended by Richard Sanders – there are some brilliant rope routines on there.

Favourite Non-Magic Book?
Slam by Nick Hornby.

Favourite Film?
I don't really have one – there are so many to choose from!

Favourite Magicians?

Tommy Wonder for his brilliant Cups and Balls routine, David Copperfield for his fantastic stage work and Derren Brown for his great TV shows and acts.

What Kind Of Magic Do You Enjoy The Most?

Definitely stage, because I feel that there's more scope for presentation, although I do also enjoy close up.

What do you like most about Secrets?

The reviews - I look at them as soon as it arrives.

Strongest non-magical performing influences?

Any comedians who have a lot of energy onstage.

Strongest magical influences?

Paul Daniels, for his comedy, and Derren Brown for his fabulous presentation skills.

What is your favourite magic on TV?

Fool Us: Penn and Teller.

Which magician would you most like to be and why?

Derren Brown for his amazing mind skills and presentation.

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

Derren Brown, Robert-Houdin and Reginald Scot (author of the Discovery of Witchcraft).

Top tip for getting into magic?

Do as much as you can until you find what suits you, then work on presentation rather than the newest tricks. Log into the YMC forum whenever you can

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

My friend's dad for first getting me into magic, and everyone who has put up with my persistent practice.

reviews

Chop by Craig Petty

Reviewed by Matthew Field

★★
Some practice



Craig Petty has released one of the real workers from his restaurant performing repertoire. It's a multi-phase Chop Cup type effect using an ungaffed take-away coffee cup (Starbucks, for example), a borrowed, signed banknote, and a Sharpie with a Banknote to Lemon finish.

Craig begins with a multiphase Flip Stick routine in which the pen vanishes repeatedly. He borrows a banknote which is signed and rolled into a ball, drops it into the paper cup, from which it vanishes and reappears. Finally a lemon

appears under the cup, the banknote is magically 'pushed' into the lemon, and the lemon is cut open to reveal the signed note inside. The method uses a gaffed Sharpie pen, and it looks absolutely great. It can be used for the spectator to sign the banknote and nothing will seem amiss.

Everything is broken down and explained in great detail on the DVD including preparing the lemon. The routine is effective and surprising, the gimmick is great, and the package is priced right for what you get. I think many magicians will be adding Chop to their repertoires.

Gaffed Sharpie plus additional gimmicks. 1 hr. 42 min.
DVD. £25 + p&p from
www.WorldMagicStore.com

Value for money?

8/10

9/10

Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice?

9/10

365 (Three Six Five) by Chris Congreave

Reviewed by Matthew Field

★★
Some practice

The effect is that you hand the spectator a prediction envelope and show a notebook-type diary which has a number, from 1 to 52, written against every date. The spectator looks up a personal, important date, notes the number, and you deal down to it in a deck which has shuffled. The cards are shown to be all different. The card at the number chosen matches the card in the envelope.

Gaffed deck, prediction card in black envelope and 20 min. DVD. £17.99 + p&p from www.alakazam.co.uk

Value for money? 8/10

8/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? 8/10

The method for this is a seldom-used gaffed deck, similar to a very common deck but, um, backwards. I know I'm being cute here, but this deck can be shown to have different cards in it yet you can deal down to a force card. Depending on the number chosen you might have to cut the deck.

This is a clean, clever, virtually self-working effect. You'll have to purchase a cheap diary and the trick can not be repeated for the same audience. The DVD shows Chris Congreave performing the effect for some spectators, then Peter Nardi teaches the method, all very well done. I think this is a very effective trick.



things that you might want to beg, borrow or steal (in a magical sense) - or put on your wish list!

Behaviour Patterns by Alan Chitty

★ ★
Some practice

16 page book, plus prediction card in small envelope and 15 min. DVD with Mark Mason. £20 + p&p from www.jbtv.co.uk

■ Reviewed by Matthew Field

Here is a very clever trick, a sort of prediction effect, sort of a book test, which combines some great principles in an effective way.

You take out a small manila envelope, which you state contains a prediction, and leave it on the table so no switch is possible. You then show a small book, printed on heavy card, containing pages with four designs in colour on each page and a number on the back, sort of like (you explain) a wallpaper sample book. You turn the pages, so the spectator can see they're all different, and one is chosen. You ask for the number to be noted and the prediction envelope is turned over to show a printed message, with a (simple) statement about the number, which is true. The associated pattern is noted and the prediction card in the envelope is removed to show the exact design, in colour - another perfect match. The other designs are shown and no match is seen.



Value for money? 8/10

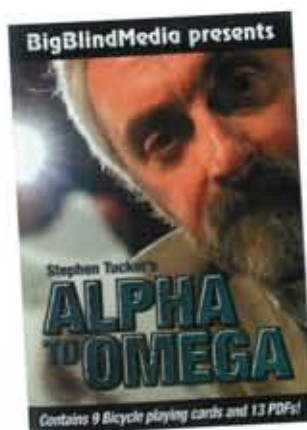
8/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? 8/10

You can see a performance on the jbtv.co.uk website. It's a 'prop' trick, yes, but a very clever one that is easy to do, requires no real memorisation or cue sheets, and looks just great. I like it.

Alpha to Omega by Stephen Tucker

★ ★
Some practice



■ Reviewed by Matthew Field

Stephen Tucker is a very clever magician. This DVD shows Stephen, assisted by Liam Montier, with some nice variants of tricks aimed at the intermediate-level card magician (although most are quite easy to do). 'Omega' is a B'Wave-type effect which can be performed with 'normal' cards (some blank-facers, obviously), which are included.

There's a trick in which coins printed on cards assemble and then turn into actual coins; a Cluedo effect with pdf materials included, plus some solid advice on palming cards and some additional tips that will stand you in good stead.

The DVD is nicely shot, as is usual from Owen Packard's Big Blind Media, and my only personal quibble is that some of the effects require the magician to place the cards behind his back - something I try very hard to avoid in performance.

It's a pleasure to watch Stephen Tucker and, with the pdfs and cards included, this is good value for money.

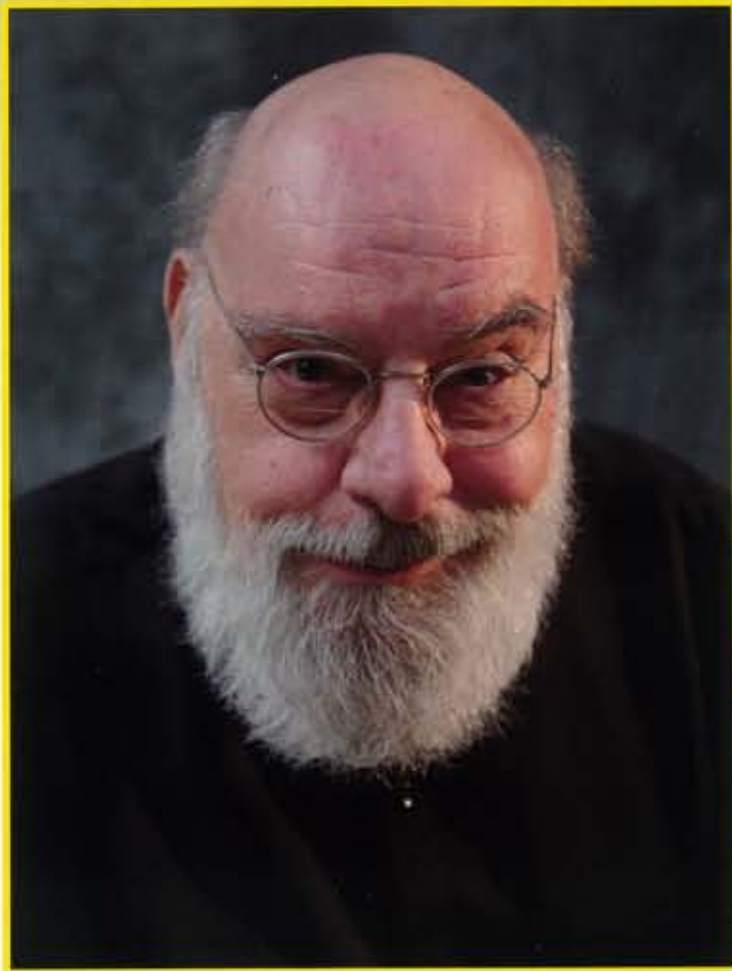
1 hr. 23 min. DVD, including 9 Bicycle-backed cards plus 12 pdfs totalling 23 pgs. £20 + p&p www.BigBlindMedia.com

Value for money? 8/10

8/10 Amaze your friends?

Worth the practice? 8/10

PERFORMING FOR FRIENDS



Recently, I received a letter asking how to find a proper presentation that will work when we perform our magic before friends and relatives. The writer explained that his friends and relatives were especially difficult audiences - and then went on to describe the behavior of a particularly boorish individual during a performance. You might find it interesting to know that this is not the first letter I have received with this same question. I have received many - and usually each includes a little horror story as well.

How shall we find magic presentations that will effectively work for our relatives and friends? Since these are the audiences that most often confront amateur magicians, this is an important question. As a professional, I enjoy the quite marvellous luxury of performing

for endless numbers of strangers. How much simpler that is!

First, putting together a magic presentation that will effectively work for any audience involves a great deal of forethought. I need to imagine my potential audiences as well as their possible responses to the various things I might do or say. If I know that many of them play cards, for example, I might imagine performing a gambling oriented card trick for them. If, on the other hand, I know that some of my religious relatives think all playing cards are works of the devil, I'll spare them my latest Ace Assembly.

An effective presentation for any audience is often built up slowly with a great deal of trial and error, semi-success or failure - then picking yourself up and asking yourself how you might make it better next time. The only realistic path is to examine critically every one of your performances afterward and ask yourself, seriously, how it might be improved. What did you do right? Where did it go wrong? I think this is one of the most important things any of us can do if we want to create more effective and powerful magical presentations.

Second, our friends and relatives are the most difficult audiences of all! These groups already have



AND RELATIVES

By **EUGENE BURGER**

images of who we are and these images may not include our being magicians!

Many of them don't want you to be in the spotlight with your magic because they want to be in the spotlight.

So, these audiences of our relatives and friends can easily be the most difficult audiences of all.

Audiences of total strangers are much easier - because they meet and see us without all the preconceptions that those closer to us have. I think it is absolutely important for you to realize this fact of life so that you don't get too discouraged if you're not getting the responses you would like to get from your friends. Frankly, I don't always get great responses from my non-magic friends either!

Third, one of the most effective strategies I have adopted, when performing for my relatives and friends, is this:

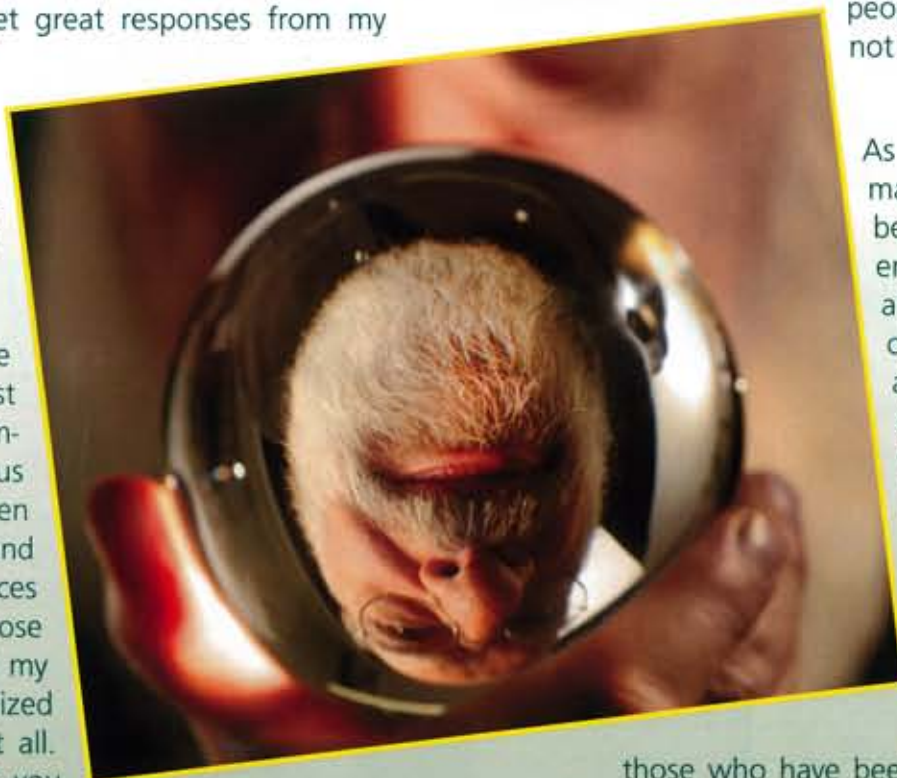
I learned to spend time mentally imagining past performances and remembering how the various people responded. I then divided these past (and potentially future) audiences into two broad groups: those that I know really enjoyed my magic and those that I realized didn't seem to enjoy it at all. When you do this yourself, you may find that there could



certainly be a (large) middle group about whom you're not completely sure, or who seemed to enjoy your magic sometimes and not other times.

My point is that when those in the second group are present, those who didn't seem to enjoy my magic at all, I simply no longer perform for them at all! In other words,

since I know that friends and families are probably the most difficult audiences on the planet, I personally steer clear of those individuals that have given me a difficult time in the past. I concentrate on the first group instead and, only occasionally, the third group made up of people about whom I'm not sure.



As a professional magician I perform before paying audiences and, when I arrive, regardless of how awful the audience might be, I must perform for them. I have no choice. With my friends and relatives I do have a choice and I personally choose not to perform for

those who have been difficult audience members in the past. As an amateur magician you have this choice as well.



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Dennis Patten's Puzzle Portion

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with the one below to find 8 differences



ONE WORD

Can you rearrange the letters to form
one word in the space provided?

REARRANGE THE TWO WORDS

NEW DOOR

TO MAKE ONE WORD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Dennis Patten's Puzzle Solution Secrets June 2011

If you were born in the last century

111 will be the answer, and if
in this century, it will be **11**

EIGHT CARDS

Can you make the two columns
of numbers add up to the same
total by swapping just two cards?



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This problem is more than 100 years old
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variations.

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4? You are allowed to use any of the
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grouping with parentheses), and you may
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number.



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TRICKS

TIME FLIES BY

BY Ian Adair

This effect is based on an old tried and tested principle called 'Out to Lunch', and is an ideal close-up mystery.

EFFECT:

The performer removes a number of printed cards from his pocket or bag. Secured together by an elastic band, each of these depicts the illustration of an alarm clock. The hands on the clock show 5pm.

A spectator is asked to initial the top area of the uppermost card which is then removed and placed face down onto the table.

"This is an experiment involving time" the performer says as he rubs the back of the card in a circular fashion. "I am sure you have heard of the saying 'Time flies', and have wondered what it is all about. I'll tell you." The performer points to a spectator, saying, "Please reverse the card and look at the clock."

Time certainly has flown - for the printed clock-face is now showing 8pm. The spectator's initials are there to prove it is the same card and the hands of the clock certainly don't move.

REQUIREMENTS:

Approx twenty printed cards showing the black outlined illustration of an alarm clock. The faces on the clocks show 8 o'clock. To make these, simply make up one clock card and visit a photo-copy shop such as 'Staples'. The firm is able to repeat the drawing as many times as possible on a single piece of thin card. Using scissors or, better still a craft knife or trimmer, cut each into the correct size.

You also require one 'half' card, as illustrated (Fig. 1). This shows the bottom half of the clock illustration, the small hand pointing to number 5.

A wide elastic band is also needed.

SET-UP:

Have the cards stacked together and place the half card on top, towards the bottom. Fasten the wide elastic band around the centre of the cards to hide the join.

WORKING AND PRESENTATION:

Display the set of cards and explain that there are such things as 'time lapses' and mention that the saying 'time flies' can mean different things.

Point out the time on the face of the top card. Ask a spectator to initial this on the uppermost section.

The performer now removes the top initialled card but, in doing so, grips it from the uppermost area and commences to withdraw it. The set of cards is slowly reversed at the same time so that no faces are shown at this stage.

The single card is placed face down onto the table surface and a rubbing motion is applied to its back.

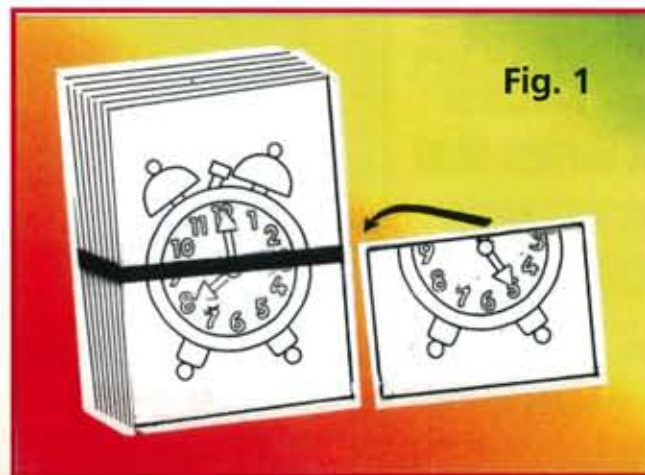
"Did you feel how time flies?" the performer asks.

When the spectator reverses the initialled card, the clock face is now showing 8 o'clock - three hours have mysteriously passed in a matter of minutes!

The spectator is handed the signed clock card as a magical souvenir.

NOTE:

If wished, the half-card could be peeled off into the palming position as the stack of cards are thrown onto the table for people to handle them later.



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