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## Secretary's Message

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. We will have a guest writer Ralph Huntzinger with abstracts from his blog. If you want more the link to his blog is at the end of the article. Again if you know of any magic events or performances or are performing yourself let me know and I will place it into the newsletter. If you want to see your name in print write up something with a magic theme, send it to me and I will place it in the newsletter.

#### President's Message

#### A message from your President Master Payne

All right, so I messed up again and broke a campaign promise. When I took office I promised to run the yearly elections in compliance with our clubs bylaws. This means last month I should have called a meeting of the Board so that they could nominate a docket of candidates for you to vote on in September. This hasn't happened. So it looks like once again we will run our elections the traditional way and just ask at the next meeting if there is anyone who wants to step forward to take the reigns of power. If not, you'll be stuck with me for another year and the club will probably spin into oblivion. Or worse. So, everyone prepare to bring a trick to share and a fellow to nominate for whatever offices we might have open in the future. It may appear that the club runs itself. But it doesn't. It is in need of dedicated. motivated and vibrant individuals to take the reigns of responsibility and leadership and steer the club ever fore ward into the dawn of the next decade. Or you can keep me in office and drift aimlessly about like a cork in a bathtub. The club is what you make of it and we elect the officers we deserve.

On a lighter note The Club Picnic is coming up on Labor Day. The Traditional Place and time, Bruce Meyers outstanding lakefront home. The time to be determined at the next meeting.

There will be shows, contests and a swap meet. As well as free food for all.

Next month also features a lecture from Tom Noddy. An event that shouldn't be missed.

Also next meeting I will reveal the identity of a special world class lecturer that will be making a onetime stop in our fair city early next year. Yet one more reason to come to the meeting. See you Thursday.

### July 2010 Meeting:

At the meeting we have performances, lectures or teach a trick by one or more of the members and on some nights something special. Come and see what you are missing.

Business: The club's picnic will be at Bruce Meyer's house on Labor Day September 6<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will include and Swap Meet and a show at 3pm. Be sure to sign up for the <u>Tri-City Weekend of Magic</u>. To be held in Vancouver, BC in Canada. The Tri-City format has been resurrected with Vancouver, BC. Victoria, BC and the Lynnwood, WA rings rotating the convention each year. Registration is only \$95 for members of the 3 clubs (so join if you are not!) and \$115 for non-members. There is a special rate for juniors and Spouses of course. The rates go up September 25<sup>th</sup> – so register NOW! More information can be found at <u>www.ibmring92.com</u>.

For those who want a chance to perform before a live audience (instead of a dead one) Magic Mondays at Third Place Books has restarted. Also look for Penn and Teller to be performing at the Paramount in November. More info to come. There was a broken wand ceremony performed by Brian Cook for member Jim Kemp who died in April. Payne showed a clip from the Turkish movie "Hokkabaz" which translate to "the magician".

Payne shared a trick that he is reviewing Joe Monte's "3 Card Joe". It came in a well-made container and the props were well made and would hold up to much use. It came with 2 DVDs one instruction and one performance. There were 2 sizes with the smaller ones having a slight problem with being translucent.

Performances: Mark Paulson performed a mentalism effect, had each member of the audience think silently of a number. He then ask who was thinking of the number 7. That person was to think of a card. Mark counted to three and the person said out loud the card. Mark then showed a prediction card with all 52 cards on it. He then had the spectator look at the queen of hearts and the thought of card was on it. He then performed prediction routine using Chinese restaurant menus. For his final he took out a book and riffled the pages and had the spectator say stop. He then had the spectator memorize the page he stopped on. He did this with 4 people and determine the correct page numbers for each, except for the last one, at which he open a prediction paper which read "I will be off by 3", which was correct. Hugh Castell aka Danny Dragon also performed a mentalism routine in which he transmitted thoughts, he ask for 3 volunteers (those of weak minds<sup>©</sup>). He used a deck of cards that were labeled 1-52 and had each think of a number then card and for each the cards though of had the correct number on the back.

John Cameron also performed a prediction effect using three spectators and three bottles of beer. The first person looked at a bottle and tried to see a color, the next looked for a number the third look for the suit. This matched the prediction card and he used Budweiser backed cards.

Payne demoed the Pandora System for us. It is a card trick where a card from a blue backed deck is chosen then put back into the deck. Shuffled and place back into the box. Another spectator is given a small knife and an unopened box of red back cards. The blue deck is looked through and the chosen card is missing. The red deck box cellophane is cut open and the deck is open and the missing card is in the proper spot for a new deck order. This is a version of card in sealed Deck. Also based on Shawn Farquhar's Card in a sealed deck. Unlike the listed methods this one requires a gimmick.

Remember come to the meetings and see and learn magic. Also enjoy great company and do a trick. The meetings are a great place to practice that new routine. Here you can goof and learn. The Club's unofficial motto is: "This may or may not work"

#### After

After the performances the meeting was adjourned and those that wanted to went to Maddox's for refreshments.

If anyone wants to add to the meeting notes send to me and I will add in the next newsletter. My email address is at the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

Thanks

Craig

# **Magic Reviews**

Payne has graciously donated some reviews of magic, he did for MUM Magazine. I will print one per newsletter issue.

## Method Impossible

#### By Jason Messina \$25.00 44 Pages 5.25" X 8.5" Saddle Stapled

To say Jason Messina thinks outside the box would be an understatement. His approach to problem solving is not just out of the box, it's down the block, around the corner and getting on the 29 bus to Brooklyn. Needless to say this makes his latest booklet of essays *Method Impossible* a unique reading experience.

Giving this book a proper review is as perplexing as the book itself. It forced to describe it, as indeed I am, I would have to say it is the magical equivalent of an episode of the old *Seinfeld* TV show. We meet some interesting characters and do some strange things but in the end we can't really explain what it was that we were going on about.

The author takes us on an improbable journey through a series of unlikely effects. Starting off with a variation of a standard coin vanish he then guides us through a trio of eclectic mental feats, past a variation of Paul Harris' Tunnel Vision and finally leaving us with an impromptu method to vanish an airplane in flight.

Not that any of these feats – apart from the coin vanish – are practical for your average performer. They read more like they've come out of the *MAD Book of Magic and Other Dirty Tricks* than they do your typical tome on conjuring. But they are doable if you know the right kind of people and are willing to put in the considerable time and effort required to pull any of these stunts off. A couple of which could become real reputation makers in the fullest sense of the word.

But then teaching tricks isn't the point of this book. It's a series of writings on the subjects of problem solving and creativity. Mr. Messina has provided us with a tiny glimpse into his outlandish way of thinking in an attempt to get more magicians to expand the way they think when it comes to creating new tricks and routines.

So is *Method Impossible* worth a read? At 44 pages there certainly isn't an investment in time to lose. At \$25.00 many will feel that their money could have been spent better somewhere else. But if you're the type of performer always looking to expand their knowledge base with esoteric and entertaining information then Jason Messina's *Method Impossible* might merit looking into.

### FROM THE RING OF SMOKE

Hey Magicians,

One of our own keeps bringing home the GOLD ! What a talent...

In Magic,

Bruce

Zach accepting his PCAM 2010 Gold Medal for Junior Close-up from Shawn Farquahar on the cruise ship Mariner of the Seas as we travelled from LA to Cabo, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta. It was a great cruise and PCAM convention. Judges for the competition were Eric Buss, Oscar Munoz and Steven Bargatze. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that Zach has competed in and won the gold medal for Junior Close-up at PCAM.Like all previous years he designed a card routine based off of some effects he learned and loved and then designed his own presentation and patter. This year his theme was based around Sherlock Holmes deductive abilities and finding and catching his arch nemesis Professor Moriarty



## Zinger's Thoughts – Ralph Huntzinger Blog

Each Month I will give a brief report of items of interest from Ralph Huntzinger blog. I will give a brief review of his musings and if you want to read the rest you can find it at <a href="http://magickhappens.com/wp/">http://magickhappens.com/wp/</a>

Again we depart from routines and cover his thoughts on a book. Once again with his kind permission I will put some of this in his own words.

### Gibson's 1947 preface to "Professional Magic for Amateurs"

"In his preface to "Professional Magic for Amateurs" (1947), Walter B. Gibson comments on three phases that he had seen magic undergo. Old School – "practice, more practice, and still more practice", New Era – "the best way to learn magic was to begin by doing it", and Today — "rehearsal ... emphasis upon the psychological factor". Here is the whole of his Preface only so there is some reference for "Thoughts on Gibson's thoughts". Dover has republished the 1947 work (ISBN: 0486230120) for under \$10; however, its approach is dated."

"During thirty-five years of varied experience in magic, the author has witnessed its transition through three distinct stages. In the first of these, the Old School notion still persisted. It furnished three rules on how to become a magician; those rules were: practice, more practice, and still more practice.

"Such theory produced many performers who were very skillful at everything except the art of fooling people. So much time was spent in learning intricate sleights and complex routines that a great many students of the art never got around to the fundamental business of doing magic, let alone presenting their wares in entertaining style......

"The reader may choose anything from the contents that intrigues him or roam through the book at random, finding workable magic wherever chance or wish may carry him. Each section however is also provide with introductory material covering the particular style of magic found therein, with notes on its general application. These will prove useful in conforming a performance to the circumstances under which it is presented."

To read the who article go to Ralph's weblog at . <a href="http://magickhappens.com/wp/">http://magickhappens.com/wp/</a>

## **Reports on the Members**

An email from Bruce Meyers

Dear Everyone,

I just revamped my website for the entertainment business. I would consider it a great favor if you were to take a look at it and give me your impressions, criticisms and corrections. Please click the link below.

Thank you so much! Bruce http://BruceMeyersMagic.com

If you are performing let me know and I will put into the newsletter.

#### DID YOU SAY YOU WERE MENTAL OR A MENTALIST? By Jeff Dial

"Mentalism is a performing art in which its practitioners, known as mentalists, appear to demonstrate highly developed mental or intuitive abilities. Performances may include <u>telepathy</u>, <u>clairvoyance</u>, <u>divination</u>, <u>precognition</u>, <u>psychokinesis</u>, <u>mediumship</u>, <u>mind control</u>, memory feats and rapid mathematics....Mentalists are sometimes referred to as <u>Psychic</u> entertainers." (<u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mentalism</u>)

Max Maven writing as Phil Goldstein in his 1976 booklet "The Blue Book of Mentalism" defined the four basic effects of mentalism as Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Precognition, and Psychokinesis. He goes on to state that the techniques to accomplish these effects are only three in number: Forcing, Stealing, and After-Facting. While there are many variations on both the effects and the techniques, Maven concludes, "...we are working in a field that is very limited."

Two sources more than any other keep cropping up as the best examples of how to learn the craft of a mentalist. They are <u>Practical Mental Magic</u> by Theodore Annemann and <u>13 Steps to Mentalism</u> by Corinda.

<u>Practical Mental Magic</u> was first published in 1944 and was a compilation of the best from Annemann's publication The Jinx that ran from 1934 until his death in 1942. The book groups effect types or presentations that aid in comparing methods and presentations. Some of the material and props are dated, but there is plenty of material to go around. (I was looking through the book I found a brilliant piece of apparatus that is incredibly adaptable today.) That said much material is time tested and is used professionally today. What you find in Annemann is example after example of how to construct and present metalism material to an audience. With almost 200 effects and a suggested cost of only \$12.95 you might want this in your library.

<u>13 Steps to Mentalism</u> was originally published as a series of 13 booklets by Corinda (a magic dealer in England) in the 1960's. The booklets were later bound into a single volume. Each section is an extensive treatment on the particular subject under discussion. The 13 steps are: The Swami Gimmick; Pencil, lip, sound, muscle reading; Mnemonics & Mental Systems; Predictions; Blindfolds & X-Rays; Billets; Book Tests & Supplement; Two Person Telepathy; Mediumistic Stunts; Card Tricks; Question & Answer Effects; Publicity Stunts; and Patter & Presentation. At 420 pages there is plenty to chew on.

Both of these books contain good effects, but their real value is to teach one the trade craft of a mentalist and how to break down the tools and mechanics of a mentalist. Bad mentalism is easy. Presentation and mystery are harder. If you are going to perform mentalism (even if it is one effect) take the time to learn from these masters how to make your effect a real mystery.

The pictures are the cover of 13 Steps to Mentalism with Cordinda's picture and Practical Mental Magic with Annemann's Picture

