



Words from the Secretary

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The newsletter needs you. I need articles and news events written by you. You do not have to be a member of the club to send articles to be publish. Send me emails(accolombel@zipcon.com) on what you would like to see in the newsletter and what you like or don't about the newsletter. Come to meetings and support your club.

No Meeting this month because of Covid-19, We will hold an online meeting using Zoom

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RING OF FIRE LIVE
April 8th, 2021 at 7pm

Once again, we will hold the Ring of Fire Meeting on Zoom on April 8th at 7pm. We had a great time last time
Info to sign in

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/736296076?pwd=Sm4ybzA4SENCZnNZMk9odVN0QnF5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 736 296 076

Passcode: ringoffire

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,736296076#,,,,,0#,,8042240358# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,736296076#,,,,,0#,,8042240358# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 736 296 076

Passcode: 8042240358

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdxekbqBLi>

Magic Review BY PAYNE

Performing Magic on the Western Stage – From the Eighteenth Century to the Present

Edited By Francesca Coppa, Lawrence Hass, and James Peck

Forward by Eugene Burger

\$84.95

Palgrave Macmillan

<http://us.macmillan.com/performingmagiconthewesternstage>

Hardbound 5 ½" X 8 ¼" 256 pages

ISBN: 978-0-230-60788-0

Reviewed by Payne

Performing Magic on the Western Stage – From the Eighteenth Century to the Present is not only an innovative interdisciplinary study of performance magic, but also an experiment in collaborative teaching and learning. The goal of the text is to:

Investigate the emergent field of performance studies from a cross-disciplinary perspective: to find ways to incorporate performance studies methodologies into our own research and teaching; to seek out and converse with other people at Muhlenberg interested in exploring performance studies ideas within the context of their field.

Or at least that's what it says in the introduction.

As you may have already surmised *Performing Magic on the Western Stage* is not a book devoted to teaching fellow magi new tricks and routines to add to their ever expanding arsenal of astonishment. Instead it is a decology of scholarly essays, written by academics for academics.

Of the ten contributors only two -- Lawrence Hass and Robert Neale -- are active practitioners of performance magic. The other eight are a diverse group of Anthropologists, Film and Theatre Historians, Dancers, Performance Artists and Teachers of Religious Studies. Needless to say this eclectic assembly of educators has a rather unique outlook on the art of magic and the role of the modern magician in our society.

We are seldom given the opportunity to view the world of magic through the eyes of others. So a book of essays written about magic and magicians by those outside our purported art is a unique opportunity for us to see ourselves as others do. It is definitely an interesting experience to see how practitioners of other theatrical and literary disciplines adeptly dissect our craft as they scrutinize it through the sagacious lenses of academia.

The essays, each around twenty pages in length, run the gamut from *The Family Romance of Modern magic: Contesting Robert-Houdin's Cultural Legacy in Contemporary France* – a paper examining the hagiolatrous attention given to Robert-Houdin and remonstrating his stature as the "Father of Modern Magic" -- to *Intersecting Illusions: Performing Magic, Disability and Gender* – a dissertation on how two magicians with physical limitations use deception to create events that alter commonly held perceptions of disability.

For many this book will be a challenging read as it is erudite in scope dry in tone and the conclusions drawn by many of the authors will raise a metaphoric eyebrow of those who have actually performed theatrical magic in front of a real world audience.

As easy as it would be to simply discount the content of this text, written as it is for the collegiate crowd, there is still much here that would appeal to the scholarly magician. For instance students of early film history and those concerned with the recent rise of the exposure of magic secrets in the popular media will find *Matthew Solomon's* essay "Magicians and the Magic of Hollywood Cinema during the 1920s" of great interest. After reading "The Body Immaterial" Magicians' Assistants and the Performance of Labor" you may very well question authors *Francesca Coppa's* conclusion that *Selbit's* sawing illusion "was an exemplar of tensions surrounding woman's postwar suffrage". However you'll find her insightful observations of the concepts and meanings behind Penn and Tellers' performances to be quite enlightening.

One is tempted to write a review of Swissian proportions about this book. Pages and pages could be (and I am sure will be) written about many of the observations and conclusions made in this slim little text. But for me to do so here would be, I fear, a waste of resources. At \$85.00 it is doubtful that more than a scant handful of you reading this review will actually purchase, let alone read this book as it has little value or insight to offer the average magician. So in conclusion I have shown that this book is a collection of eclectic essays about magic and magicians written in a rather pedantic style by and for those scholars who live in the publish or perish world of academia. Those of us who no longer reside in the Ivory Halls of Higher Education may find some of the writings of interest but will no doubt question many the conclusions made by the authors and feel that the most they had hoped to accomplish in their writing was for it to be cited as a footnote in a future paper on the hitherto unknown and esoteric meaning of the magicians craft.

April's Meeting Report

I, your secretary was not able to make April's meeting and the minutes were recorded by our president Payne. Thanks for doing this.

Once again, we had our meeting via Zoom, "Ring of Fire LIVE"

The meeting once again was lightly attended with only five members of the club on the ZOOM chat.

Robert and Cheryl Van Voorhees, Jim Lange, James D and Payne

James D was working on McDonalds aces and was looking for more resources to study. Card College was mentioned as well as The Conjuring Archive at <https://www.conjuringarchive.com>

He then shared with us the version that he was currently working on as well as some close-up tricks he had acquired from a magician's estate. Currently he is working on trying to do some online busking.

James Lange showed us a routine he had come up with David Regals Color Changing Knives and showed us an old Tannen's catalog from the mid Seventies.

Robert talked about a cone and ball routine he is working on

Payne showed off the new effect from Buma "The Monkey's Paw" as well as a 3D printed one he is going to use for a version of Eugene Burgers 10 card poker deal. He also unboxed the new John Carney Book that had only just arrived.

Everyone had a good time.

Hope to see you soon.

See you next Thursday April 8th at 7pm on Zoom See [page 2](#) for info

MANY THANKS TO SANTIAGO, FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE!!

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com> and visit the club's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire-429616737105973/posts/?ref=page_internal

Magic Shops in the Area

Below is a list of the Magic shops in the Area. None have paid for this listing and if anybody knows of others let me know and I will list them.

Seattle's Market Magic Shop

Pikes Place Market
1501 Pike Place #427
Seattle, WA 98101

www.marketmagicshop.com

(A store that many know about. In existence for 30 years)

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

Magical happenings

Because of the restrictions for Covid-19 the below are both closed temporarily

Magic Monday! Magic Monday is an hour of magic, conjuring, & prestidigitation which stars magicians from the Northwest region on the second Monday of each month. Location: Ravenna Third Place Books in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle. 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. Time: 7-8pm Magic Monday is not only a great place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a great place for YOU to perform. It happens the second Monday of each month. If you are a local magician in the Puget Sound area and would like to perform at the venue, please contact Jim Earnshaw at jim@earnshawmagic.com. You can reserve a spot to perform months in advance and he would be happy to hear from you.

"That's Impossible Presents" (Seattle's Best Magicians)

That's Impossible Presents a Night of Magic, Mystery, and Comedy, with your host: Tim Flynn Magic.

2nd Saturday of Every Month. Hosted at Delancey's on 3rd in Renton. Doors open at 7:45, Stage Show begins at 9pm. Food & Drinks are available. Table-side magic before the show from real magicians!