



Words from the Secretary

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We will be meeting again in person/live on November 10th at 7pm. We will be meeting at InSpark CoWorking Space in Lynnwood. [Click here for more information](#). We will still have Zoom for those who don't want to meet in person yet.

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In Person meeting November 10th, 2022

We are having our Live MAGIC CLUB Meeting of the NW Ring of Fire in Lynnwood on November 10th at 7pm.

**InSpark CoWorking Space
16824 44th Ave W Suite 130,
Lynnwood, WA 98037**

The Zoom meeting will also happen for the safety and convenience of members who do not want to meet live yet.

Google map link: <https://g.page/insparkcowork?share>

Zoom meeting info below

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)

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Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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+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>

Message from the President Ring 339 Ring of Fire

Message from the President: Monty K Reed www.MagicMontyReed.com 206 250 5639
MagicMontyReed@gmail.com

None this month

Spellbound, The Wonder Filled Life of Doug Henning

By John Harrison

\$45.00

BoxOffice Books

<http://www.doughenningbook.com/>

Hardbound 6 ¼" X 9 ¼" 424 pages

ISBN: 978-0982463901

Reviewed by Payne

John Harrison writes in his introduction to, *Spellbound, The Wonder Filled Life of Doug Henning* "This is the first book about illusionist Doug Henning, I say it's the first book because I have no doubt that, like Houdini, Doug Henning will be the subject of many books." Let us hope this sentiment comes to pass as Doug Henning deserves a far better tribute to his life than a single book can offer. Not that this is a bad book. It's quite readable and for those who know little about the man who, many believe, single handedly revived the popularity of magic in the last half of the twentieth century there is much information to be gleaned.

As magic biographies go it's not as adventure filled as David Bamberg's, *Illusion Show – A life in Magic*, as endearing as Arthur Brandon's *Milo and Roger*, nor as in depth as William Kalush's *The Secret Life of Harry Houdini*. But then perhaps this is because Mr. Harrison didn't have as much to work with. Compared to the magicians featured in the aforementioned biographies Mr. Henning's career in magic, while stellar in scope was quite brief in comparison.

Thrust, seemingly instantly, into the spotlight of public awareness in 1974 with his appearance in the hit Broadway Musical "The Magic Show" he would vanish just as suddenly from the world of magic a scant thirteen years later. It is because of this brief but brilliant career that twenty years after his disappearance from the magic scene few magicians under the age of thirty seem to know how instrumental Doug Henning was in helping to create the world of magic in which they now reside. It is sad to say that even though he left us with a legacy of eight groundbreaking network television specials, three successful runs on Broadway and the revival of the touring grand illusion show his status as the first superstar of magic since Houdini is fading all too quickly. Hopefully, this book will help to slow down the inevitable and final descent of that falling star. Even though Doug Henning's career was so brief a single book is insufficient to fully chronicle it. While Mr. Harrison gives us his best, providing us with an overview of Doug Henning's life and times. At the end of the book, we are left with the hope that there was more to the man than what was described to us in the text. At the conclusion of the book, we find ourselves looking at a two-dimension portrait, a picture of a man who seemed to only have two interests in life, magic, and transcendental meditation. One hopes that it is the author's inability to fully flesh out the complex individual that we hope Doug Henning was. But in the end we fear that perhaps Mr. Harrison has left us with an all too accurate portrayal. It appears that Henning's interests, according to the book, bordered on obsession. So, they would have left little room for any others. After all, spending several hours of each day focused exclusively on meditating would leave most of us with no time for other pastimes.

The book chronicles his life from his birth in 1947 to his untimely death from liver cancer in 2000. Though it focuses primarily on his interest and career in magic it does briefly touch on his unfortunate descent into the TM movement. His unsuccessful attempts to bring Vedaland, the ill-conceived TM theme park to fruition and his embarrassingly failed runs for political office in Canada and England.

The author was a professional illusionist in the early eighties and, after running an entertainment production company for fifteen years is now a senior attorney at large international law firm. This has influenced both his writing style and the way he looks at magicians and their presentations. His writing from time to time seems to be a little too, well, technical for lack of a better word. Some of the chapters, especially those pertaining to the television specials, read more like checklists of the various tricks and props used in the production than a

biographical sketch. However, this minor infraction is more than made up for by the chapter on the various problems and challenges that were faced in the production of the Broadway musical *Merlin*. Anyone seriously considering mounting a true theatrical production combining both stage illusions and traditional theater would do well to carefully read and study this portion of the book.

It's hard to look at the old videos of Doug Henning's performances and see what the big deal was.

Unfortunately, they have not aged well in the past two decades and it's hard to see him as the breath of fresh air magic needed so desperately thirty years ago. The infectious sense of wonderment and amazement he exuded that sucked us all into his world of delight and enchantment now seems corn ball and hackneyed. Kind of like looking at old High School Pictures of your parents and trying to imagine that they once were cool. This book helps to give one insight into the world that Doug Henning sprung and why his approach to magic propelled him so suddenly to such heights and guaranteed his eventual descent. He was a child of his time. A time that has come and gone.

In the end the book is a cautionary tale. A modern fable playing upon the theme of "be careful what you wish for." Doug set out to elevate magic. He sought for it to be recognized as a serious art form. To raise it from its perceived place as a simple diversion seen only at children's parties to an enticing entertainment that could be presented for adults in legitimate theatres. He successfully secured a coveted Art grant from the Canadian Government to help him pursue this dream. He knew what he wanted to accomplish but unfortunately not only didn't he know what to do once he got there he found he really didn't like doing what needed to be done in order to stay there. It is sadly ironic that someone who wanted (and in the end helped) magic to be seen as a valid theatrical art found themselves the star of a Broadway show yet unable to act, sing or dance. Broadway shows that the reviewers nearly unanimously agreed would be great for the kids.

October's Meeting Report of the Northwest Ring of Fire Magic Club #339

We had a special guest Andrew Olmsted participate via Zoom from the eastern part of the country. He performed for us the most dangerous trick. With two large safety pins, he performed linking and unlinking safety pins. From Dan Garret and Bob Sheets.

Brian Melicher showed the club a wooden panel that open up with miniature cards inside. When reopen the cards were replaced with a force card. Very nice

David Hirats had a deck shuffled and then explain the deck is like a calendar. The cards were then delt face down until told to stop. That card was removed from the deck. He pulled out a paper calendar with a card described on each day of the week. The volunteer was to find their birthday and tell what card was on their birthday. The card chosen was a matched for the card on the paper calendar. This was from Brad Henderson. There was a discussion of memorize decks. James Donahue had 4 goblets and bringing 3 people up had a pick the goblet game show. Three cups were chosen, and the magician indicated that 3 of the goblets held poison and one was safe. With James back turned the volunteers were allowed to switch goblets. The three cups held by the volunteers had slips of paper saying poison and James had the only cup with the slip saying safe.

James next had a deck divided in half and given to 2 volunteers. He had one look at a card from their half and returned to their half of the deck. Each half was shuffled, and the deck was reassembled with one person putting a card down then the other putting a card on top until the deck was reassembled. One person gives a number between 1-52 and the deck is delt down to that number and the card is the one chosen by the first volunteer.

James then showed us a purchase he made from Vanishing Inc. a Jumbo Coin Dropper.

Robert Van Vorhees brought for show and tell a book "Scripting Magic" by Pete McCabe.

Jeff Dial talked about plot and storytelling in magic. He took a card and tore it into 4 pieces. He then had 4 cards chosen and remembered and returned to the deck. He had the first person name their card and when the deck was spread that card was reversed in the deck. He did that with all the cards chosen. When they were removed from the deck each card had a corner missing. The four pieces of the torn card match the missing spaces of the chosen cards.

He then told a story about the roaring 20's and a house party. The hostess had a house party and notice that there was 13 people at the party, she then asked a person to leave. This was demonstrated with red cards. But when she recounted there was still 13. (One card is removed and when the remainder was counted 13 remained). This happened 3 times, the story after the 3rd time there was a report that 13 people were found dead at a party and all the cards had turn black. From Genii Magazine.

Rich Waters reported that he had performed in Ellensburg, WA at the "Buskers in the Burg." He also brought his Avengers deck. He will be performing at Officers Cookies Chess Park. This is a park dedicated to chess playing and Officer Cookie has been working with kids to help them learn and play chess.

Santiago talked about his upcoming show "Séance Fiction"

Respectfully Submitted,
Craig Colombel - Secretary NWRF

See you next Thursday November 10th at 7pm at the
InSpark CoWorking Space
16824 44th Ave W Suite 130,
Lynnwood, WA 98037

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

Magical happenings

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 wonderful place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a suitable 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.

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) I have just heard that the shop is for sale.

The owner Darryl and Sheila are thinking of selling the store and the potential buyer is looking for a manager of the Magic Store. If interested contact Sheila Lyon and Darryl Beckmann

206 713 8506

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM