The WIZARD'S SCROLL

DALLAS MAGIC CIRCLE
WILLARD the WIZARD RING

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Inside this Issue

1 Notes From Our Octoberber Meeting

5 Scribblings From The Scribe Of The Scroll

6 What's Happening Libby

8 TAOM News Dal Sanders

10 Make Believe Michael Smith

15 Jen Kramer Interview - Shawn Messonnier

18 Magic Reviews Stephen Wood

22 Announcements From The Scribe of the Scroll

32 How To Attend This Month's Meeting

Our October Meeting

October 17, 2023

"Connections"

Libby opened the meeting and then immediately handed it off to Geoff Grimes. His first connection was announcements. He invited us all to his November 4th shows. Dal then brought up something important but non magical to many DMC members - the ALCS. He let us know that Robby Bennet would be here November 1th, and MitLR on November 7th – ELECTION DAY!



Your Dean also announced Dr. Mike's 50 years in IBM – giving him the Excalibur award.

Other announcements included the Keith Leiff Lecture on Strolling magic on November 12th at 2PM at the Line in Richardson, a discussion about PAYING YOUR DUES, Dal performing at the Forth Worth Zoo on October 27th, 28th and 29th – and Joseph Rake reminding us about the Mid Cities Magic Club meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, and the theme this month of routines that work with adults and kids.

This part of the meeting reminded us of HOW we can connect throughout the month away from the DMC.

The Convention Report

Dal told the club about Magic Texas – the name of the Convention and the name of the website. What do Shawn Farquhar, Eric Chen, Artem Shchukin, Laurent Piron, Adrian Vega and Norbert Ferré all have in common? They are all well known FISM winning acts and they will all be in town for Magic Texas!



Two very important numbers were revealed to us: the number of registrants: 130. The number of registrants needed to break even: 600. And then the need for even more registrants so that we can continue to include more spectacular things in the convention. The convention will bring us more

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Last Month At The DMC

connections!



Stephen Wood came forward and shared a card trick as a introduction to DEX, and then shared an Oil and Water – all to be discussed and reviewed later in the newsletter.

The Discussion

Alan Paoletti came to the meeting to share with us his experience as a corporate entertainer. The intent was to help connect us to his work and give us some insight into working in the corporate realm. To help us connect to him, he first discussed himself – starting as a shipping manager in Allen, Texas – and then getting laid off. He had a love of magic, and realized it would be the only job he couldn't get laid off of. So, he started by finding a restaurant to do magic in. It took him nearly 200 restaurants, and a year, but he found that first restaurant to perform in, and eventually turned it into restaurant magic, 5 nights a week. He talked about being stubborn and not giving up – and that's one aspect of working in professional magic that connects all performers – sticking through the tough times to find the niche that you fit into.

Corporate magic, he revealed, is like that for him. It fits his personality, and he connects to the people in the corporate world. Some of the qualities that are needed in the corporate world are as stark as having liability insurance (all professionals should), to having communication skills that are frequent, clear and courteous, to having appropriate material that does not include any blue content, cursing, or sexist content. This allowed him to connect more clearly to his corporate clients.



Finding corporate work is about the same stubbornness that he had before – combined with knowing who to talk to- the person responsible for events in the business, understanding when events would happen, and making sure after your first event for a corporation, you ask for a referral to another possible client.

When asked about the kind of magic he did, it was one word: "Everything" – close up, parlor, stage, trade shows – and it takes time to develop all of these types. One of the keys to all of these in punctuality. He shows up to events two hours early, which allows him to take care of issues, and gives him the reputation of being a professional. Punctuality connect to professionalism.

Important considerations he has learned over his career: always look

your best, with a clean performance outfit. Always look your best, which means having a good idea of theater makeup. Have duplicate props set up and ready for when you have multiple shows in a night, recommending having three shows prepared to go for every gig.

Alan also discussed his performing philosophy, which is making sure you have your main shows down. As a professional magician, you are giving a product, and he recommended making sure your product is as polished as it can be. It does not mean that that show doesn't grow and change, but it does mean you have a solid show to start with so it can be matured with time. His influences includes people like Sylvester the jester, David Hyra, and Steeven Wright, and he discussed finding a part of yourself in your favorite performers, but bringing out that part on stage. He called it being the "best authentic version of you" when you perform.

Finally, he discussed some of his best and worst performing stories, Including being a magic babysitter, one of his favorite mentalism performances, and how to politely disengage with difficult audiences. Often times, people think that bad or rude magicians give them the right to treat magicians as second class. Overall, he guided us towards learning to connect with each other and our audiences.



Open mike was next, and it started with Cinde Sanders, performing a "do as I do" trick with a balloon with a spectator. They both inflated their balloons, and when the air was let out of the balloon, the balloon that went the highest wins! Cinde's balloon didn't even release any air, so her volunteer won, and received a balloon sculpture for a prize!

Shaun Messonnier then came forward and performed a mentalism effect. He tore up a piece of paper into nine smaller pieces, gave one to a volunteer, and the other 8 to other people seated. He had each person write the name of someone they knew who had passed away, and Shaun was able to read the mind of his volunteer, to know which name written down was the one they were thinking of.



He then revealed the secret; the paper was torn up into nine pieces – the one that he gives to the volunteer is the middle piece of paper – and the way he knows that is that it is the only piece of paper that has torn edges on all sides!

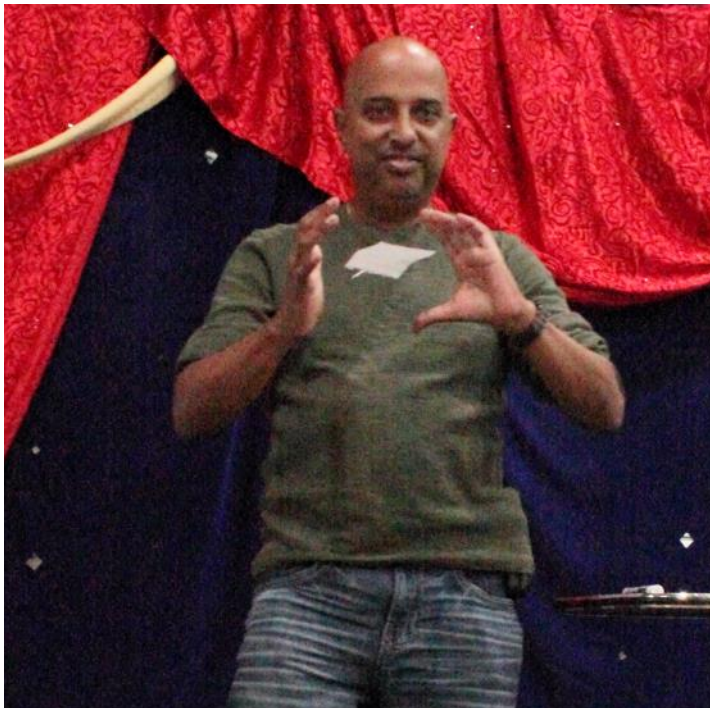


Joseph Rake presented an energetic card trick on the illusion of order and harmony. Cinde Sanders was his volunteer, and at the end, after Cinde had seemingly randomly mixed up cards, the ones she random chose had letters on the other side that spelled out S-A-N-D-E-R-S!



Dal Sanders returned to the stage to demonstrate one of the Halloween Themed magic tricks he performs throughout the season.

Sonu Varkey then took the stage with an incredible levitation. This is the kind of magic that looks impromptu when in actuality, it involves pre planning and set up PLUS hours of practice.



Finally, Ron Willson brough David and Kyle Knight forward, and showed how they could read each other's minds using playing cards! Connections of a married couple!



The meeting was closed, and every member learned a bit more about connections throughout the night! Let's use these lessons to connect as lovers of magic as we come close to 2024! We have to opportunity to make new and close connections through MAGIC TEXAS! Please remember to register at Magic Texas - Magic Texas 2024 (fism-nacm.com)!

—Stephen Wood

DMC Secretary



Scribbling From the Scribe of The Scroll



THIS MONTH AT THE DMC…

This month Libby has lined up another very special guest lecturer, Confetti Eddie, who will talk about how to establish your own magic showroom. Eddie won recognition and respect for his Magic Parlor which was located in Deep Ellum. Unfortunately, that location closed during the pandemic but he has often popped up in other locations since then. This Lecture will be open to all Dallas Magic Club members in good standing.

We also have an amazing presentation from Dr Mike Smith on the Magic in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol! You can get a preview of the talk on page 10 of this newsletter.

Once again, our meeting will be back at...

The Drawing Board

1900 Jay Ell Dr,

Richardson, TX 75081

An Interactive map to this location can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

We will also have a brief update about our 2024 TAOM-SAM Convention...and we have A LOT of news to share.

Of course, we will have our usual announcements and yes, there is another raffle with some new items. .

DUES ARE DUE…

We are in the final quarter of the year and it's time to start collecting dues again. As our club grows, there will be more and more lectures and events for members in good standing only so please make every effort to pay your dues.

MAGIC TEXAS CONVENTION...

Our next TAOM-SAM Convention Planning Committee Meeting will be Thursday, December 21st at 8:00 pm. This meeting will exclusively cover our upcoming convention and not any other DMC business. You will be able to meet more of our team members from across the state and around the country. We will discuss our name change, some of the acts that have committed to coming, sponsorship and some of the special events that we have planned. If you want to do something for this convention, be sure to speak up. This meeting will be on ZOOM. To participate, CLICK THIS LINK.

DMC HOLIDAY PARTY...

We will be enjoying our Annual Holiday Party complete with White Rabbit Gift Exchange.

Once again the party will be at Dal and Cinde Sanders house at 3316 Northaven Road in Dallas TX. The party will be on our regular club night, the third Tuesday , December 19th at 7:00 pm.



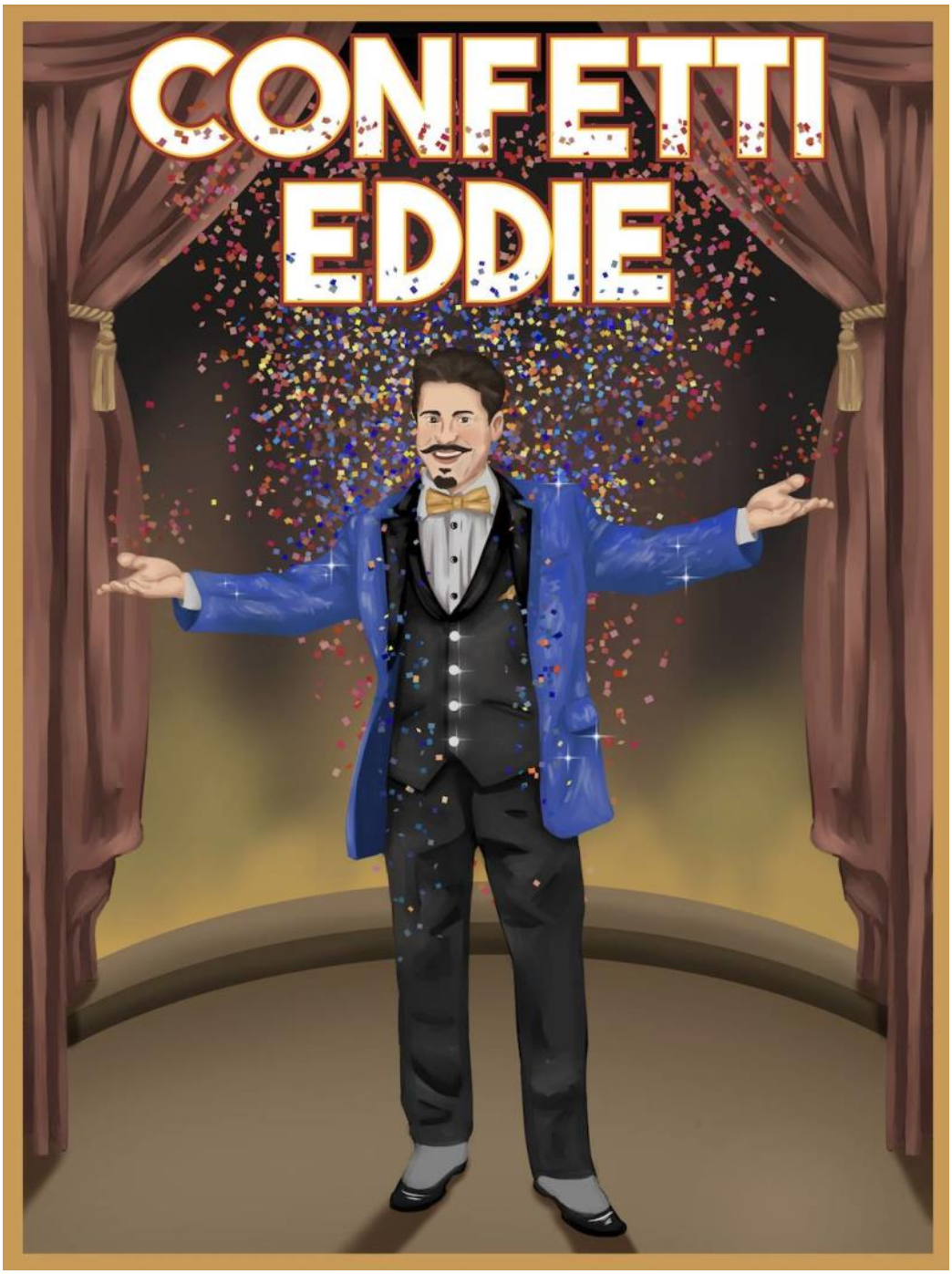
As always, the Dallas Magic Club will provide the main course and we ask you to bring the sides and deserts. Cinde will coordinate everything so contact her and let her know what you are bringing. Her number is 214-796-8122 or you can email her at cindesanders@gmail.com.

What's Happening At The Club in November

This month DMC club members will be treated to a special lecture from one of Dallas' successful magicians.

Confetti Eddie

Creating a Stage for Magic



The Dallas Magic Club November program is going to be a great one! For our main program we have none other than Dallas' Confetti Eddie coming to talk to us about his magic and creating fun spaces for performing magic.

We also have an amazing presentation from Dr Mike Smith on the Magic in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol!

And of course there will be the usual DMC fun as well as an open mic for anyone wanting to perform.

Be sure not to miss our exciting lineup for November! We will meet this Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00 pm. our meetings are held at The Drawing Board - 1900 Jay Ell Dr, - Richardson, Texas

Photos From The

Kieth Leff Lecture

By Daryl Howard









TAOM 2024 News

Greetings –



The TAOM-SAM Combined Convention, better known as Magic Texas, continues to build a lot of excitement. The word is out that this convention is going to be a once in a lifetime experience. We are taking the best ideas of two incredibly popular organizations (The Society of American Magicians and The Texas Association of Magicians) and are combining them with one of the premier magic competitions in the world, the FISM North American Championship of Magic. The only path for someone in North America to be able to compete at the World Championship of Magic in Italy in 2025, is to first compete in Texas in 2024. The fact that you will see the BEST of the BEST compete in Texas should make you VERY excited.

FISM Grand Prix Winners Perform at MAGIC Texas



We are scheduling some incredible talent including Laurent Piron who won the world champion of magic prize and Grand Prix FISM in Quebec in 2022 with his “Paper Ball” act. Since 2005, Laurent Piron from Belgium has been performing his various shows around the world. He has entertained audiences from street performances in Sydney to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh and even on America's Got Talent. Laurent's acts are original and very creative. Laurent never stops experimenting with illusions and researching new effects. I have seen Laurent perform the Paper Ball act three times now and have been amazed every time. He and his unseen stage partner, Hugo Van De Plas will also present their Build Your Own Magic lecture at Magic Texas.



Another FISM Grand Prix winner scheduled to perform at Magic Texas is Shawn Farquhar from British Columbia, Canada. Shawn is one of the most loved magicians in the world and we are thrilled that he will be joining us in Texas. Farquhar travels the world extensively performing and lecturing for magicians and consulting for TV shows and motion pictures. He has appeared on the cover of the largest magic publications in Asia, Europe, and North America. He has appeared on stages all over the world and has in addition to all the trophies and awards he has won, he has even fooled Penn and Teller, TWICE! Shawn is a Past President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Canadian Association of Magicians and Pacific Coast Association of Magicians. To see the incredible talent we are lining up, and to register for this incredible convention, please go to https://MagicTexas.com.

The Website Is Updated

I've given you a couple of links to the Magic Texas website in this column (so far). It would be wrong not to mention that since our last meeting, our site has had a tremendous overhaul thanks to our DMC webmaster Derrel Allen and visual artist (and DMC member) Aaron Stone.



Derrel is the webmaster and has built the engine that runs the site (especially the "backend" of the site that no one else see's. This is the part of the website that houses the registrations and other business functions. The part of the website that you see was created by Aaron Stone. Aaron has created an visually pleasing site that is also simple to navigate, When our S.A.M. Co-Producer Mark Weidhaas saw the new layout he said, "This looks FANTASTIC. It makes me want to go to this convention. As Derrel points out, The site is up but it's not finished so check in often for updates.



Ordinarily, all of this would be enough for most conventions, but our team wanted to make this convention an unforgettable experience so we decided that the convention hotel should also be incredible. We chose the BRAND-NEW Loews Arlington that is being built across the street from the new Rangers Ballpark and within walking distance of the Dallas Cowboys Stadium. This is an incredible facility that also houses the new Arlington Convention Center. The hotel won't open until February 13th so by the time we are there, all the kinks will be worked out and it will still have that "New Hotel Smell". The hotel hasn't opened yet but several of us took a "Hard Hat Tour" of the facility. This is going to be an incredible home for our convention. To get a preview of this incredible location, go to https://fism-nacm.com/hotel/

Our entire team is incredibly excited about this convention and you should be too. This convention is going to put our magic club is an incredible light. Please register today!

Del Sanders

TAOM President

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR MAGIC TEXAS



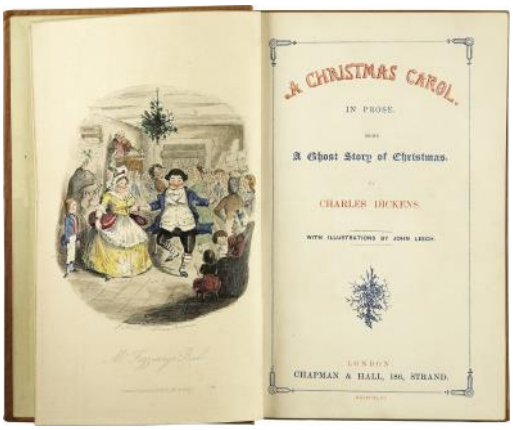
Make Believe:
Discovering and Creating Magical Experiences

by D. Michael Smith

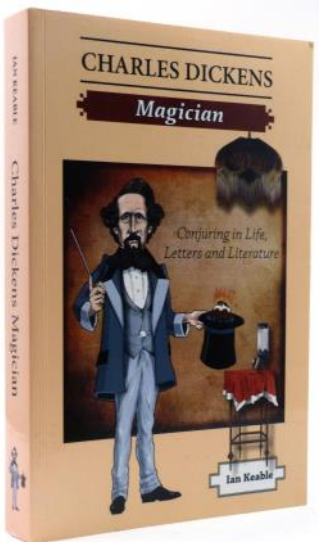
Part 81

The Magician Who Invented Christmas

"He left a trail like a meteor . . . the giver of parties, the magician, the traveler, the dancer, the actor, the ham, the irreplaceable and unrepeatable, the brilliance in the room."
Claire Tomlin, **Charles Dickens: A Life**



One hundred and eighty years ago, on December 17, 1843, Charles Dickens published A Christmas Carol. Writer Les Sandiford describes Dickens as "the man who invented Christmas," in that his book breathed a renewed holiday spirit into the very harsh and dreary age of the 19th century British Industrial culture. Pulitzer Prize finalist author, Frederick Buechner, says that it is Dickens's "undoubted masterpiece and in its own way an extra canonical Gospel." In her biography of Dickens Claire Tomalin says that A Christmas Carol, ". . . went straight to the heart of the public and has remained lodged there ever since, with its mixture of horror, despair, hope and warmth, its message- a Christian message- that even the worst of sinners may repent and become a good man; and its insistence that good cheer, food and drink shared, gifts and even dancing are not merely frivolous pleasures but basic expressions of love and mutual support among all human beings."



Ian Keable, a London magician and historian, published a book in 2014 entitled Charles Dickens Magician: Conjuring in Life, Letters and Literature. Keable highlights Dickens as a man, writer, magic performer, and showman. He records that Dickens, facing bankruptcy, wrote A Christmas Carol during a three-month period in 1843. This is during the time, 1842 to 1849, that we know that Dickens actively performed magic. One of the reasons that Keable wrote his book is because most Dickens scholars do not "appreciate how his quirky hobby has any bearing on his personality and novels."

Keable purports that there are significant connections between Dickens' interest in performance stage magic and A Christmas Carol. This belief is akin to Robert Neale's concept of Life Magic—the special use of the imagination with ordinary life issues such as relationships, time, money, charity, and transformation. Neale asserts that "the real work and basic benefits of primary life magic are faith, hope and/or love." These benefits are certainly present in A Christmas Carol.



Dickens, a frequent theater attender, saw many magicians perform. He was most inspired by the performance of Austrian magician, Ludwig Dobler in July 1842. From a retired magician Dickens purchased and performed many tricks including the production of a cake from a hat, the card-rise, and coin in nest of boxes. British actor Simon Callow, who has performed in productions of A Christmas Carol, notes that "Magic had become a full-scale obsession: he acquired ever more elaborate devices, studied the work of other magicians, and performed large-scale illusions, now as much for the adults . . . as for the children."

On December 26, 1843, Dickens hosted a party to celebrate the publication of A Christmas Carol and the birthday of Nina Macready, wife of the actor husband, William. One of his guests, Jane Carlyle wrote that Dickens' magic entertainment, "concluded with a plum pudding made out of raw flour, raw eggs – all the raw usual ingredients – boiled in a man's hat – and tumbled out reeking – all in one minute before the eyes of the astonished children, and astonished grown people!" She concluded by saying that Dickens was, "the best conjuror I ever saw- and I have paid money to see several."

A Christmas Carol is a very haunting book, especially in the form of the four ghosts: Scrooge's remorseful dead partner Jacob Marley; the Ghost of a Past Christmas painfully remembered; the Ghost of Christmas Present joyful and compassionate realities; and the Ghost of a Christmas Future dreadfully imagined. Dickens wrote over two dozen ghost stories in his career and after A Christmas Carol ghosts became a mainstream presence in Victorian fiction. Perhaps Dickens was inspired by the early 1800s' shows that created optical illusions with magic lanterns. In 1862, at the first public performance of "Pepper's Ghost," John Henry Pepper staged a Christmas Eve theatrical production of another Dickens Christmas novella, The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain. Later stage productions of A Christmas Carol also used "Pepper's Ghost" to create ghost illusions.



Another magic effect that inspired Dickens is the "Extinguisher Trick," a trick of unknown origin that was featured in Dobler's show. The effect is that objects, including persons, appear and disappear under a large cone. In A Christmas Carol, Scrooge tries to make the disturbing Ghost of Christmas Past disappear by pushing a large cone shaped device that looks like this illusion down on the ghost.

Every Christmas season many of our communities have Dickens fairs and festivals. These public events are Victorian Christmas celebrations, reflecting the influence of A Christmas Carol with costumed entertainers and guests, musical and theatrical acts, arts, crafts, food and drink. Magicians have presented library and theatrical shows and street acts depicting Dickens performing Victorian era magic. Magicians can also be consultants for the stage productions of A Christmas Carol. (For a list of Dickens fairs and festivals CLICK HERE.

Dickens's A Christmas Carol, like his magic, created a spirit of joy, wonder, and celebration in his audiences. May we find and share joy with our own magic this holiday season, and may our magic, in the words of Tiny Tim, "bless us everyone."

Until next time, remember to cut the cards.

Mike

FATE — OR — COINCIDENCE



Fate:

Predetermined events, with implications of some underlying plan.

Coincidence:

Multiple events lining up by meaningless chance.



Like many of you, I became interested in magic when I was a kid. I saw a magician performing a couple of illusions when I was around 12 years old, and I was hooked. Later, during the Christmas holiday, my parents gave me a magic set. But not just any old box of magic - it was ***Marshall Brodien's TV Magic Set***...I thought I was "uptown" with all this amazing magic! I studied and practiced every trick over and over again. When I was 15 years old, I performed my first show – a local talent contest – and won first place! That magic set helped to put me on a course that forever shaped my future.

For years, that box of magic sat in my room at home. As time went on, I bought or was given more and more magic illusions, books – especially The Tarbell Course in Magic books – and props, but my first magic set was still completely intact and was pulled out from time to time to review a trick or to work on some idea for a show.

By the time I was in college and performing shows to pay for my education, I was working with the local magic shop teaching some younger students. From time to time, I would pull from that old box of tricks and give away one of those cheaper plastic tricks, because I had moved on to bigger and better illusions! Before I realized what I had done I had given away almost all of my first magic set, I had even thrown away the box that I had so carefully kept all during my teenage years (I know it sounds nerdy – well it was).



But life moves on. I graduate from college, get a "real" job...later I become a politician...but magic is still a part of my life with the occasional show for the public library, a birthday party, or the Chamber of Commerce banquet.

One day I ran into an *old clown* (hint – you all know him) that I had known from my college/magic/clown days, and he encouraged me to visit the Dallas Magic Club. A few weeks later I visited the club and later became a member. At the DMC, I met a magician and magic collector named Mark Jensen. I found out he lives in a town near my home, and I discovered he has a big collection of old magic sets.

I describe to him what I can remember about my old magic set, but my memory is a little fuzzy, after all it had been nearly 40 years since that 12 year old boy had gotten that magic set for Christmas.

A few weeks later, I found myself searching the internet to see if I could find a picture of what that box looked like. I wanted to share it with Mark and see if he had any ideas. After a lot of Google searches, I finally found a picture and asked Mark to keep an eye out for this magic set. I wanted him to let me know, so that I could buy it.

Marshall Brodien's TV Magic Set meant a lot to me, it had turned out to be a very meaningful gift from my parents. They had both passed away a few years earlier and they were always my biggest supporters and promoters of magic and entertaining people. It was a strong connection I still have to them.

A few years would pass. Mark and I would talk from time to time about not having any luck finding the magic set, but he was still keeping his eye out for it. We also connected with other Marshall Brodien items that he had for sale in his collection – particularly anything having to do with Bodien's *Wizzo the Wizard* and Chicago's *Bozo the Clown* television show, *Bozo's Circus*.

My parents lived in Arkansas, and yes, that is my home state! Where we lived in central Arkansas, our electrical energy was provided by an electric cooperative. This is typically a private, not-for-profit company whose purpose is to deliver electricity to its members/owners (aka customers) at the most affordable price possible. As members, they also get a reimbursement check at the end of the year. Since it is non-profit, the organization reimburses members the funds they cannot use for equipment improvements or operating costs. Since both of my parents are gone, the annual check is now sent to me. It arrives during the month of December; and the amount varies but it is usually a couple hundred dollars.



On what would have been the 40th anniversary of when my parents first gave me that magic set; which would have also been 20 years after my dad passed away; and five years after my mother passed away, Mark Jensen called…he had found the **Marshall Brodien TV Magic Set**. When I asked him how much he wanted for it, the price was the same amount that was in the reimbursement check I had just received from the electric cooperative!

Today that most prized possession sits on a top shelf in my office. Every time I look at it, I am reminded of how my parents gave me that magic set, not once, but twice! You see, they are still my biggest fans!

Fate or Coincidence??

Magically yours,

Eric

Jen Kramer Interview

Shawn Messonnier



Jen Kramer will be performing in Arlington January 28. Currently she has been performing in her own show at the Westgate Resort in Las Vegas. She celebrated her 500th show last year shortly before her 30th birthday, and recently extended her show's run for the foreseeable future. These are significant accomplishments for a performer who first became interested at the age of ten. Jen was kind enough to take a few minutes out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions for me to share with our club members about her life, history, and approach to magic.



Thanks for agreeing for me to interview you. I know these are a lot of questions and I appreciate you answering as many as time allows.

Thank you, Shawn! Great to connect with you, and I really appreciate your reaching out.

How/why did you get started in magic?

My Uncle Steve gave me The Royal Road To Card Magic as a 10th birthday present, and from that point on, I became endlessly intrigued with magic. I remember spending hours sitting cross-legged on the green carpet of my childhood bedroom, holding this magical orange-bound book open with my knee as I held a deck of blue Bicycle playing cards in my hands, adjusting the positions of my fingers around the cards as I read the instructions. I loved the process of learning and practicing these card magic techniques and then sharing the magic I learned with family and friends.

My reasons for loving magic have evolved over time, but at the beginning, as a kid, there was something especially exciting about discovering these magic secrets and being able to wow even the seemingly all-knowing grown-ups. Over the years, I realized that the real secret of magic is in genuine human connection. Connecting with people and sharing the experience of wonder that magic evokes is what keeps me captivated by magic.

Any mentors who've inspired or taught you?

Absolutely! Growing up in magic, I'm really grateful to have had wonderful mentors who will always be so important to me. My first mentors in magic were my Uncle Steve, Albert Lasher, and Tom and Janet Verner.

My Uncle Steve has studied magic for many years, so we always have a blast with our "magic jam sessions" whenever we meet up, talking about magic techniques and showing each other what we've each been working on lately. He also gifted me my very first magic books, starting with The Royal Road, which first piqued my interest in magic and totally changed my life.

Albert Lasher, the leader of Assembly #69 of The Society of Young Magicians, was a wonderful mentor as well, always so kind and generous to me and to our entire group of young magicians. He

would teach us about magic and performance, encourage us, and find great opportunities for us to perform in the community. One of my favorite places where we'd perform was on KidZone TV, an interactive studio which would broadcast our shows to pediatric patients at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Albert arranged these performances, just one example of his ever-present kindness, dedication and generosity over the years.

When I was 12, I also met Tom and Janet Verner, who founded the organization Magicians Without Borders. From the moment we first met, I've been inspired by the work they do entertaining, educating and empowering people all around the world and spreading hope and happiness through magic. I first had the opportunity to work with them when I was in high school and later connected Magicians Without Borders and the Yale Magic Society. We ended up doing a joint trip to Mumbai and rural Gujarat, India to perform magic together, which was such a special experience.

Which is harder and why, stage magic, parlor magic, or closeup?

I think they're hard in different ways. Even within the categories of stage, parlor and close-up magic, each individual effect presents its own advantages and challenges. For example, there are effects that are especially demanding from a sleight-of-hand perspective, and others that are more mentally challenging (like memorized deck work), and then others that focus on audience participation and require more from an audience management perspective.

Any tips for choosing an audience member to assist?

Watch and listen to the audience and their responses as you're performing. By being present, listening and paying attention to how people are responding, you can choose audience members who look especially engaged, who are smiling, respectful and enthusiastic, and who look like they'd really enjoy participating. The rest of the audience will relate to the audience member assisting, so if that person is comfortable and having fun, everyone else will generally mirror those feelings. Also, do lots of shows – get that "flight time" as Lance Burton would say – because the more experience you have with live audiences in different environments, the more you'll learn about people and notice patterns, and the better your gut will be about choosing audience members to assist.

Now for a few personal questions about your magic-I saw you on Penn and Teller and loved your carefree and fun style. It's obvious you bring a brightness to your performances. How did you get on the show? Any tips for those of us who may aspire to be on the show? Can you describe the taping experience?



I really appreciate that – thank you! Penn & Teller and the entire Fool Us team are fantastic, and I can't say enough positive things about my experiences on the show. One of the show's producers originally contacted me, and I appeared on the show for the first time in 2015 performing card magic. Johnny Thompson, who was a wonderful person and an absolute legend in magic, was so kind and giving in helping me prepare for the show. I'm really grateful that I had the chance to work with him leading up to the taping.

I returned in 2017 to collaborate with Penn & Teller and Amber Lynn Walker on a new version of Penn & Teller's "Are We Live?" act. This was such a fun, special, collaborative experience and uniquely challenging too, as we were hanging upside-down with gravity boots throughout the act. Then in 2019, I appeared on the "April Fool Us Day" special where we pulled a magical prank on the actor Chris Hardwick. Each time, I have such awesome things to say about the experience of taping the show and working with Penn & Teller and the entire Fool Us team.

As for tips, I'd recommend reaching out to the Fool Us casting email and sending them a video of

yourself performing an effect that is entertaining and that represents you and what makes you unique. Fool Us is an amazing platform to showcase your magic, so share with them what sets you apart and focus most of all on the entertainment value (even more than the fooling part) because ultimately they're looking for great entertainment.

Can you describe a typical show day in Vegas?

Every day is different. Sometimes I'm promoting the show through interviews or special events, sometimes rehearsing new magic for the show, sometimes filming content for social media, or maintaining props, or working on marketing… I'm so fortunate to work with an incredible team who all do so much to prepare for the show (from props to lighting to sound, etc.) and keep everything running smoothly. I also have my personal pre-show checklist for the magic elements I like to personally check and reset before and after each show, so I arrive at the theater early to do that.

Then during the show itself, I love to focus on audience participation. That means that every show is different because every audience is different, and the audience really makes the show what it is. When the audience contributes to the show, it leads to moments that are really special, because people say and do unexpected things all the time, which makes the show experience extra engaging. I love being present and in the moment with people, and some of those improv-y moments can be the most memorable. Audiences are smart – they know when something really special and unusual is happening – and it's awesome when they can leave the show with a story like, "I happened to be there on the night when THIS happened!"

It's great to see more women in magic. Any thoughts on this or advice for younger ladies/ girls?

While magic has historically been a male-dominated industry, it's really exciting to see more and more girls and women becoming magicians today. I'm so supportive of fellow women in magic and love seeing the industry moving in this direction. To any aspiring magicians out there, I'd encourage you to do what you love, to work hard at it, and to be proactive – to go after opportunities rather than waiting for them to come to you.

There are so many wonderful resources out there to learn magic, from books to videos, brick-and-mortar shops to online shops, magicians' groups and more. These are also great ways to find community among fellow magicians.

I remember when I first started learning magic and was reading classic magic books, they'd say things like, "Reach into your trouser pocket or your inner jacket coat pocket," and as a 10-year-old girl, I usually didn't have these pockets – but I liked to think of this as an opportunity to get creative, to do things differently and develop a way to do the effect that worked for me. So I'd encourage other women and girls in magic - and magicians in general! – to find ways to creatively make the magic you do your own. If the magic you do reflects who you really are, this will help you genuinely connect with your audiences and create a more magical experience for them.

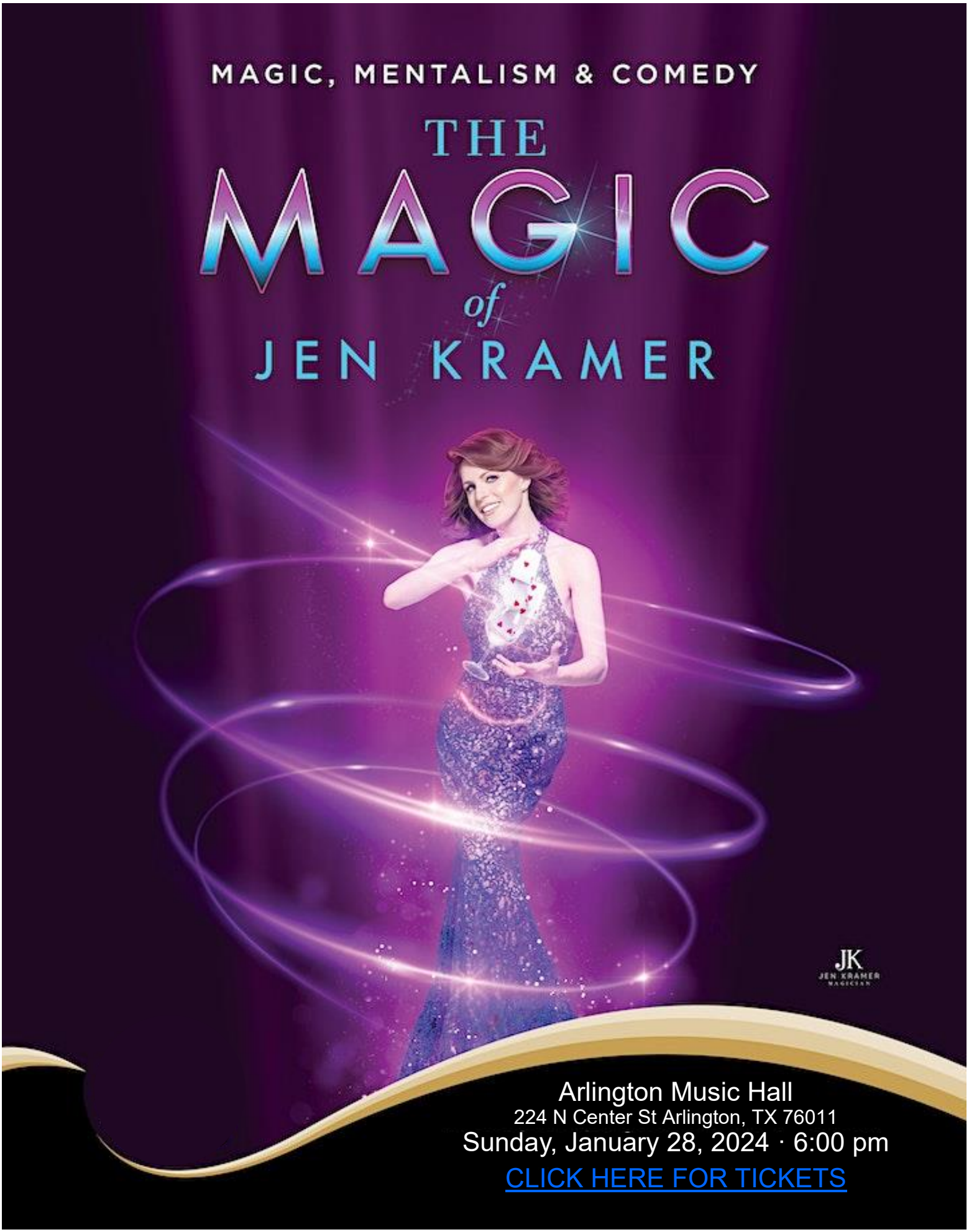
Meeting young girls and young magicians overall at our meet and greets after the show is so special and brings back memories from when I was first discovering magic as a kid. I love talking magic with them and telling them I'm rooting for them and their magic!

Jen, thanks again for your time. Hope to see you in Texas soon…and will you be at FISM in Aug-Sept here in Dallas??

Thank you again Shawn for reaching out and including me in the newsletter, and looking forward to seeing you in Texas! I wish I could make it to FISM as well – it sounds like it'll be amazing.

It's obvious that Jen learned a lot about writing and communication while attending Yale-I had almost no editing to do for this interview!

My wife and I are looking forward to seeing her show as a great way to start the new year, and I look forward to meeting Jen. Hopefully you'll get a chance to catch her show as well (hint-tickets would make great stocking stuffer gifts for Christmas!) Hopefully Jen can join us at FISM next year as well if her schedule allows!


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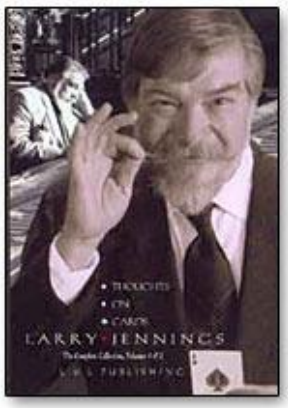
Prosper With The Magic Man

By Stephen Wood

Hello to all of the DMC members! It's time for another trick review column – and it's definitely something you can be thankful for! For a moment, I want to forgo the dad jokes, and the review, and remind every one of you reading this – we have so much to be thankful for! We have family, friends, a shared love of magic to be thankful for – but I want to remind you of other things – such as food on our tables, roofs over our head, a computer to read this newsletter on, clothes on our backs, air in our lungs, and continued opportunities to share with those around us our love magic and others. We are truly blessed, and as you gather with family on Thursday to celebrate Thanksgiving, remind yourselves of that so that you can remember that when hard times come. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to share this column with you, and thankful for each and every one of you! Now, on to the magic!

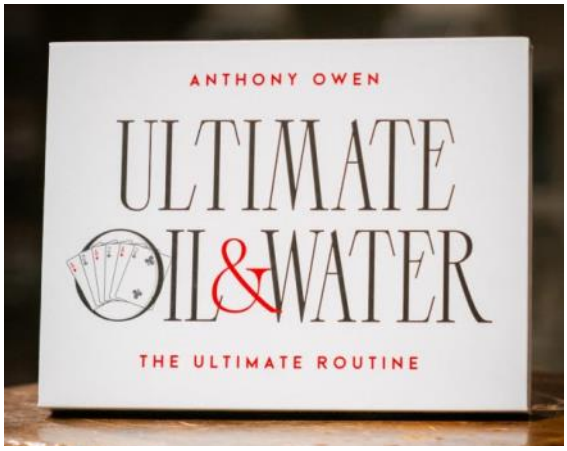
This month, there were three tricks that I wanted to share with you. However, I realized that there are different versions of these tricks out on the market, so I wanted to discuss the history of these tricks, and share with you my thoughts on the market as a whole.

Oil and Water is considered a classic in card magic. What does that mean? From a cynical perspective, it means that everyone has done a version of it over the years. From a less cynical perspective, it means that the plot and structure of this simple card trick is worthy of study and mastery and will help to advance the way you perform all your magic, and will advance the way your perform card magic. Which version of this should you espouse to? I'll leave it up to you.

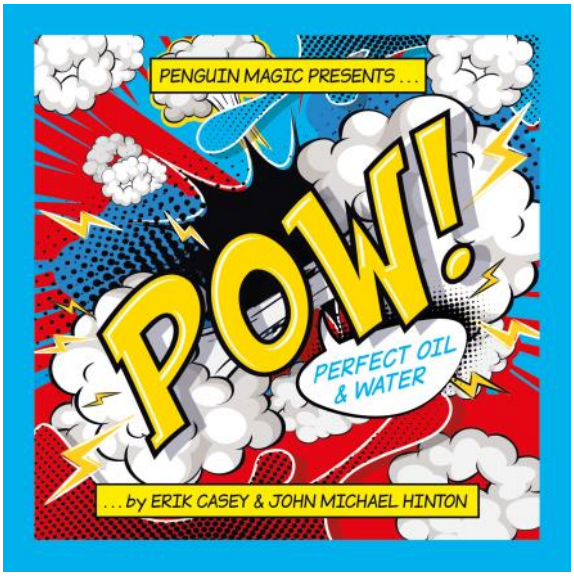


I remember my first exposure to this trick. I had bought Larry Jennings two video tape collection called "Thoughts on Cards" – now on one DVD for half as much as I paid for the two video tapes. Larry Jennings Thoughts on Cards, DVD (penguinmagic.com) Cost 34.95 Difficulty: Hard Practice: Yes Value: Very High.

I watched the whole two tapes, mesmerized by Larry and his clean card handling skills and the stories he put behind his magic. One of the tricks that I was captivated by was his oil and water. I re-wound that tape countless times, learning the effect, the sleights, the timing, the story…everything about this classic card trick. It drifted in and out of my repertoire, as much because I was simply copying Larry's performance, and I never really made it my own. However, my history with Oil and Water is extensive.



There have been many renditions of this trick over the last few years, and as I was looking at some of the newest ones to share with you, I saw the Ultimate Oil and Water by Anthony Owens. Ultimate Oil and Water - Anthony Owen - Vanishing Inc. Magic shop (vanishingincmagic.com) Cost; 29.95 Difficulty: Medium Practice: Yes Value: Depends.
I originally intended to demo and review this version, but a few weeks before the meeting I saw POW – and decided upon that.



POW (Perfect Oil & Water) by Erik Casey & John Michael Hinton (penguinmagic.com) Cost: 24.95, Difficulty: Varies, Practice: Yes, Value: Good

Now, there are reasons why I chose POW. First was one of the names behind it: John Michael Hinton. John lectured and performed for our club's installation evening two years ago. He was magical, funny, practical and treated our members with respect and treated us to his performance for that evening. He also lives in Texas – more succinctly – in Prosper, the same place I live! I've talked to him outside of the magic club setting, and I have a lot of respect for him. As well, I've also had the privilege of being a substitute teacher for his son – so I would love to see him continue to benefit from the hard work that went behind this trick. So, let's talk about the positives and negatives:

Positives:

- It's very simple
- It can be done pretty much right out of the package
- It can be done on the table
- It can be done standing
- It can be done for larger audiences
- The instructional video is 54 minutes and has a lot of ideas on it

Negatives:

- Because it can be done out of the package, the impression that you don't have to practice it could be had. If it's that simple, you can just turn it into a visual performance. Don't.
- The routines in the glass and some of the other routines are more difficult
- It uses a principle we all know about – which means you have to protect your cardshey don't give you a packet to put them in, outside of the ziplock bag it comes inhe price is a little more than I would expect it to be – I'd like it to be around $19.95.

All of that being said, I think this is a very viable option for Oil and Water. You won't get as much value out the trick in the terms of becoming familiar with handling cards. There is something to be said for the argument of starting with Larry Jenning's version, learning that, and then moving to POW. The lessons you learn from Larry Jennings justify the price of the DVD. However, if you want to perform this classic of magic, you want to be able to do it standing up, and you want your practice to be focused on performance and not on slight of hand, than POW should be a serious consideration for you. I would recommend it.



OZONE (hanson-chien.com) Cost:$19.95, Difficulty: Easy, Practice: Yes, Value: High

Looking to expand my repertoire and the repertoire I use for kids, I was looking at needle through balloon. That is a classic that I've never really gotten up to performance speed – and, as an aside, if you want to see a great version of it, take a look at Randi Rain's performance of needle through balloon – it's brilliant. So, as I was investigating balloon magic, I was pointed towards Hanson-Chien and Ozone. It's a fantastic trick and I added it to my repertoire. However, the trick reminded me more of Cinde Sanders - I've worked with her which she did Balloon Sculptures, and I knew she did magic with balloons, so I made sure she got a copy of it. She was gracious enough to perform it at the meeting, so I could review it. I also want to keep you guys on your toes! Who knows WHAT trick being done during open mike will be a trick that I'll review! So keep your eyes open! Let's talk about it!

Positives:

- It's different from coins and cards. It gives you another flavoring to your show
- It provides you with everything you need to do at least 16 performances.
- It's relatively simple
- The angles are fantastic
- The video for instructions teaches well
- Refills can be found at any Party City
- It's clever

Negatives:

- You buy it from across the pond, so there is the shipping cost for across the pond
- While the angles are fantastic, the balloons that come with the effect can be thin when blown up. So finding more opaque balloons would be good
- The Video teaches well, but there are captions, which could be annoying
- It continues the trend of non downloadable video instructions. This needs to stop in magic now. When you pay for the trick, you pay for all of it to be yours, accessible any time you want. If the internet is down for any reason, you cannot access your instructions.

This effect is based off of the Hydrostatic effect – where you can fill a glass up with water, turn it upside down, and the water will stay in the glass until you command it to come out. This is a very good piece of history to know about, and I would not have known about it, unless I had come across AreoStatic.



AeroStatic by Ritchy Flo presented by Dan Harlan Instant Download (penguinmagic.com) Cost: 9.95, Difficulty: harder than Ozone by a small bit Practice: Yes Value: High
I like this version as well – there are good parts to it – such as the materials used are usually very findable. However, with Ozone, two gimmicks are supplied to you – I simply like it better. If you'd like a fuller training for this king of effect, buy both of the tricks. I really like this idea, and I recommend this highly.

And – for a final effect, here comes Dex.

Now, my experience with whole deck indexes is not as extensive as some – but I have a good grasp on them.



My first exposure to a full deck index was Dean Dill's "The Revelation." Dean Dill The Revelation (youtube.com) Revelation by Dean Dill - Trick (youtube.com) I don't believe it is available any more, but I wanted to include it here. The Revelation is extremely deceptive, uses a few different concepts, very good misdirection, and if you can find it – I'd recommend purchasing it. Dean Fooled me badly with it when he showed it to me – and that's all he really needed to do to convince people to buy it from him.



My next experience with a full deck index was Daniel Madison's The Advocate.

Daniel Madison The Advocate (ellusionist.com) Cost 24.95 Difficulty: Medium Practice: Yes Value: High It is a very valid version of an index, and Daniel used it to fool the socks off of a lot of magicians at the EMC 2012– watch it here The Advocate by Daniel Madison - YouTube What I am going to do is give you a comparison this with Dex.



Dex by Lloyd Barnes & Javier Fuenmayor (penguinmagic.com) Cost: 74.95 Difficulty: Easier than The Advocate Practice: Yes Value: High

Before I compare the two, I want to talk about the conflict on youtube regarding Dex. First off, Lloyd Barnes had been previewing Dex for at least two years before he came out with this version of a full pocket index. Magicians the world over knew this was coming. When he finally released it, almost all of the reviews for it were very positive. There were a few that were a little luke warm to it. However, thie review that you see the link to below was unabashedly negative.

Requested Magic Review - Dex by Lloyd Barnes & Javier Fuenmayor (youtube.com)
So much so that Llyod Barnes responded to it: see his response below
[EXPOSED] 10 LIES Unbiased Magic Reviews told YOU! (youtube.com)

And there was another response and another response and another response. My reaction to this back and forth is simple. The magic community is made up of people who are passionate about their products and creations. As well, there are reviewers who are passionate about their reviews. That is to be expected, however, the public back and forth is damaging to magic. I know of some people who have laughed at this, but for me, it was embarrassing. It also emphasizes something else: Please make sure you get your reviews for magic from sources you trust – someone who you know is unbiased and has a good understanding of what they are reviewing.
Now let's compare the two:

Dex	The Advocate
Higher Cost	Lower Cost
Materials: Plastic	Materials: Paper
Sleights used are basically the same	
7 hours of teaching	One hour of teaching
6 performance examples	1 Performance example
Multiple tricks taught	One trick taught

Make no mistake, a card index allows you take card magic to the next level – and I can recommend either one of these advocates. I think the teaching for Dex is easier to follow – Daniel Madison can be an acquired taste. From my perspective, I can recommend either one of these indexes. It's a question of materials and teaching.

Thank you again for stopping by my corner of the newsletter! If you have any questions, please contact me.

Have a happy Thanksgiving, and I'll see you at the meeting!

MM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WILL BAFFLE IN COWTOWN…



"Are you ready for an unforgettable entertainment experience of magic and illusion? Look no further than the Show of Wonders starring Will Baffle, happening at the Downtown Cowtown at the Isis Theater in Historic Fort Worth, Texas!



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MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM…

The next Magic in the Living Room will be Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00pm. Magic In The Living Room is an amazing evening unlike any other. Enjoy a fresh nightclub/party experience featuring new faces in the world of magic and performance art.



This will be our HOLIDAY Special complete with magical surprises and seasonal fun. "The Unusual Suspects" will include Matt Howard, Libby, Aaron Stone, Kex Lang, Barry Healy and the MitLR debut of some NEW acts. Of course we will still have Close Up Magic by Daryl Howard and a couple of other surprises. This all happens at The Line Public House – 940 E. Beltline Rd., Richardson, TX. CLICK HERE for tickets.

THE IMPROV IN ADDISON...

DFW's longest running magic show returns to the Addison Improv every other Saturday at

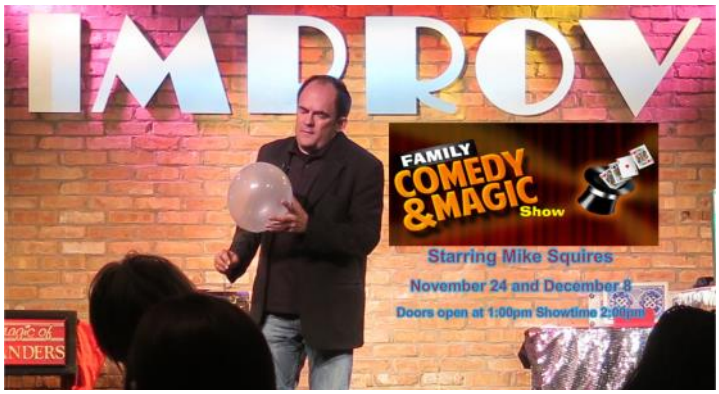


2pm. The Improv is following strict health regulations outlined on their website.

Go to www.improvaddison.com for ticket info.

THE IMPROV IN ARLINGTON…

Mike Squires headlines shows at The IMPROV in Arlington on alternate Saturdays. Mike will casually blow your mind. Doors open at 11:00am for lunch and the show starts at Noon.



Go to www.improvarlington.com for tickets.

MORE DFW MAGIC…

Fort Worth Magic Club – 1st Thursday of each month – 4055 International Plaza, Fort Worth, TX 76109 – www.fortworthmaticiansclub.org

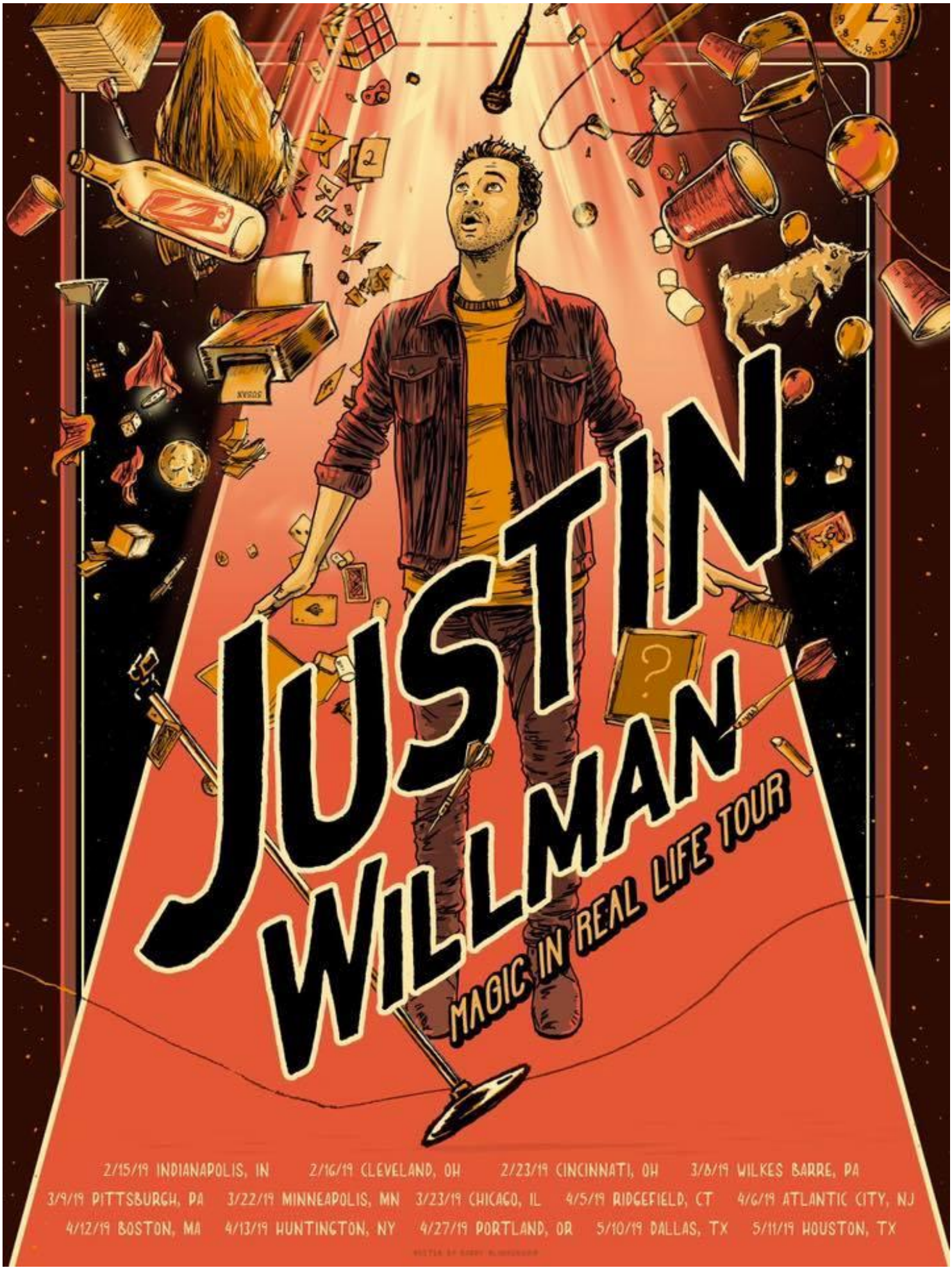
Fort Worth SAM 138 Alliance of Illusionists – meets on the Third Thursday of every month at 7:00pm - Illusion Warehouse - 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth. For more information go to www.sam138.com

Mid Cities Magic Circle – meets on the second Tuesday of every month online. This group is not really a magic club at all. It is more like a Special Interest Group that meets together every month to learn more about the Art of Magic. Contact: Geoff Grimes at 972-740-3125 or email him at ggrimes1@aol.com

Mark Wilson Magic Club - Meets at Dallas College-Mountain View Campus. Check out their new website at www.mvcmagicclub.com

Second Saturday Magic Sale – Magic, Etc., Fort Worth's premier magic shop hosts a Second Saturday Sale every month where magicians can score good savings on props and supplies. Magic, Etc. is located on Forest Park Boulevard at I-30 in Fort Worth.


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Please Join us TUESDAY NIGHT

November 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm for our Regular Monthly Meeting.