



MAGIC ROADSHOW #187

July/August 2017

Hello All

I am honestly excited to bring you a new issue of the Magic Roadshow. I've managed to put together a buffet of card sleights, advice, reviews, ebooks, and videos I think you'll enjoy. Of course, I've been wrong before.. ;-)

I hope this summer is treating you well. I have to admit that the weather in the south has not been typical. Instead of the 90+ degree days and 100% humidity.. we have experienced mainly mid to high 80s and only a couple of days in the high 90s. So much for global warming.. in the south at least.

One thing I try to avoid at all cost is politics in the Roadshow. Now that I've breached that pact with my global warming comment, I might as well go all in with this observation. I can't let this little ditty pass....

I understand the fascination with President Trump and Russia, and whether or not Russia tried to influence US elections with their attempted hacks. During the same time the DNC experienced hacking attacks.. the Magic Roadshow also experienced Russian-based attacks. It's nothing new. The Roadshow experiences hacking attacks from Russia EVERY SINGLE DAY. There isn't a day that passes that my security suite doesn't block Russian's, among others, from signing in to my Wordpress account and causing general havoc. I have the logs and data to verify the ip addresses and locations of these nefarious loggers, and I can fully understand how the Trump campaign, the Clinton campaign, the DNC and RNC, and the officials of those parties have become victims of these full-time hackers...

folks who sit in front of computers all day long and try to obtain information they can convert to dollars.. or rubles. I've heard about these infamous 'Russians' until I'm ready to call Chuck Schumer and tell him if they would like the ip addresses of these super spies I'll come to Washington DC and hand deliver him pages and pages detailing their locations. Did Putin order these attacks on the Magic Roadshow? What do you think.....

I apologize for making half you guys mad, with facts no less.. but I couldn't resist. The temptation was too great... and I was too weak.

The little wife and I bought a new home recently, I think I mentioned it last issue, and preparing to move has been unreal. That said, to make up for my political comments, I'm going to issue a public service message.....

-IF- you should buy a new home, and ...

-IF- it should have a koi type pond in the back yard...

Insists that sucker be drained before you sign a contract. I have to be careful what I say here, and I'm not pointing a finger at anyone, but in the process of draining the pond at our new residence to clean out the year or so of neglect, our pond guy first discovered a pouch.. filled with hypodermic needles, spoons, digital scales, and packages of 'something'.. After calling the police to come get it, we continued to discover glass crack pipes, over thirty in all, scattered throughout the pond. Because of the drugs, the excavation of the site took on a special significance and special methods were required to clean and dispose of all the contents. The current cost is WAY over the anticipated cost to get it up and running properly. There could have been a body in there.. and I would have never known it.. until after signing all the paperwork. -IF- I had insisted the pond be drained first, or at least duly noted in the contract, the company selling the home could have been held responsible for the cost under state law. As it is, I'm footing the bill... and you guys are wondering why I've got a bit of attitude this month.....

Comments and Questions? EMAIL ME (rick@magicroadshow.com)

(This issue is 31 pages and 9333 words)

MAGIC ROADSHOW

JOURNAL OF MAGIC

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"I started thinking about what makes people famous. And then it hit me, famous people are no different from me or you, they just have a 'thing', a gimmick, a trademark thing that sticks in our minds, and suddenly - they're famous. Elton John, crazy glasses - famous! Justin Bieber, crazy bangs - famous! Barack Obama, first black president - famous! i started thinking... What is my thing? What is going to make me famous?" Derek Hughes

"Performing magic once is a trick... twice is a lesson..." Anon

"Confidence isn't walking into a room thinking you're better than everyone, it's walking in not having to compare yourself to anyone.." Anon

"Don't chase people. Be you, do your own thing and work hard. The right people who belong in your life will come to you .." Anon

MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT: PART 3

by Paul A. Lelekis

PART 3: Timing and Leaving your Spectators Wanting More:

Magical entertainment is exciting and fun. This is how you want to portray your performances and how you want your spectators to feel.

Understand that there are as many different situations of performance as there are spectators. Everyone is different and each one of those spectators will act differently, day by day.

Performance is not an exact science...it is a very difficult form of entertainment that must be 'taken with a grain of salt'. In other words, you can't always fault yourself for a bad performance...it happens to the best. This situation will arise time and again if you perform high volume.

As performers, we have to develop a "thick skin" so to speak, and not let bad spectators (and bad performances!) get us depressed into thinking we are, perhaps, not good enough to be magicians - sometimes it is the spectators.

If it is YOU who is bad...get better. This could take many forms, but don't judge yourself by how your friends or family react...they are NOT the majority of people!

Performing for complete strangers is actually much easier...since they don't know you, this allows you to more easily take control as I mentioned in the first two Parts of this Magical Entertainment series.

First of all, try not to perform too much magic and cram it all in, in a short period of time! This is a frequent 'pitfall' of young or new performers. It's better to space your program out and use the strong points of your routines, to "soak" in for your spectators to admire.

Dai Vernon once said "Confusion is NOT magic". Confusion can manifest itself in many ways... trying to do TOO MUCH magic in a given time period is one of those forms of confusion. "Less is more" in this situation.

Another important "trick of the trade" is the timing of your routines! In other words - draw out the interesting parts and quickly "get through" the boring parts.

The above underscored phrase is VERY important to make your performances more professional. It is something that YOU as a performer must practice...in front of a real audience!

First you must practice at home...dissect your routines down and see WHAT the spectators will view as boring and what is interesting. Provide (in your head) a short cut through the boring parts!

The "boring parts" are the lull times in your performance that are necessary to get to the "magical parts" of interest. Do not give any reason for the spectators to become disinterested in your proceedings. (Those who do kiddie shows will know what I'm talking about, and how difficult it is to keep the attentions of children!)

Adults have a larger span of interest and are easier to control...but you don't want to "test those limits"!

Make sure you allow the revelations to be relished, and keep your patter flowing.

Another reason I like drawing out the interesting parts - particularly at the end of a trick, is that you will have some lull time to ditch a prop, get your next one out, or even set up your deck.

There will generally be a little bit of a “buzz” going on between the spectators that will allow you ample time to move into your next effect. Utilizing these “down times” will make your magic performances appear more seamless.

Also remember that no one can be a better “you” than you! Learn to relax and be yourself, directing patter and making small observations about your spectators. If you are using any memorized patter, make it look “off the cuff” or impromptu!

When you perform some of your effects over and over for different groups, you soon realize that you will receive many of the SAME comments from your spectators. Learn how to respond to these comments making them appear impromptu!

Let me provide you with one such incident that almost ALL performers will encounter. You sometimes will hear a man say, “Hey...can you make my wife disappear?” I usually respond by saying, “Sir, I’m not as good as you think I am!”

This makes everyone laugh and you’ve taken the “heat” off of that man’s wife!

Another common comment from spectators is, “Boy I’d hate to play cards with you!” I usually respond by saying, “Yea, I don’t get invited to too many Saturday night poker games anymore! So I just stay home on Saturday nights and play with myself. I can see that you know what I’m talking about sir!”

NOTE: Use your common sense here. This is intended only for adults...and in the right situation, the laughs are huge! If you’re young...or in front of children don’t use it. This type patter is considered to be “blue” comedy and will not fit everyone’s style. I have used the above line hundreds of times...and my tips are big.

I used to perform Card on the Ceiling on a daily basis. There almost always was someone who would ask, “How does the card stick up there?” I’d then put my finger in my nose, look up at the ceiling and say “I have no idea!” The laughs were so huge that everyone in the immediate area would belly

laugh and I made BIG tips! Some may find this distasteful...but it drew in the crowds!

The below situation REALLY did happen to me!

Just the other day, I was in line at a convenience store and this man (about 30 years old) said, "Aren't you the magician who was at Lime and the Coconut?"

I said "Yes!" He then said "I remember you used to put all those cards on the ceiling and I asked you how they stayed and you put your finger in your nose! That was funniest thing I've ever seen!" That particular restaurant closed down 12 years ago...and he still remembered...

In conclusion I want to emphasize to try and always leave your spectators "wanting more"! No matter how much they ask "...just one more...", instead - just smile, thank everyone, and leave. They'll love you for it...and they'll usually chase you down to give you a substantial tip!

Getting "out" is as important as "getting in".

You can find all of Paul's many ebooks here.. They are some of the best values in magic for the money..

<http://www.lybrary.com/paul-a-lelekis-m-163788.html>

It Is Painfully Obvious to Me...and Probably to You...#3 Marty Shapiro

Ok this one will really be obvious. What do you do when something goes ...wrong! Sigh!

Yeah like it never happens to you ...ever. It's almost Impossible to admit that because we all are learning something sometimes...even the easiest new trick can have an unforeseen conclusion the first time around.

You can't try anything you haven't done before and expect to outplay all the possible outcomes, at least I don't believe so. We are not all seasoned professionals doing the same 7 tricks for the past 20 years. Whether you adjust to a new venue or a new type of audience we are always on the lookout for what is best for this next virgin group.

For me it is a personal challenge and a delight to try new ideas as often as I can, but I'll admit I am certainly a glutton for punishment. My biggest mistake ever was NOT a prop problem, as you would expect... I had a living room family birthday party show, and approached grandma in a rather boisterous mood, pushing her hair a bit for some personal attention...when suddenly Grandma's greyish wig shifted mightily and unexpectedly... It seems Grandma had been sick a lot recently and the loss of hair was an unavoidable side effect.

Ok.. and then there was the time I was in a summer camp and I chose to swallow the long pencil balloon, ala the old Harry Anderson bit of wiping the balloon on the nearby table to generate some severe static electricity, and after touching my head with it.. the balloon was uncontrollably attracted to a nearby sculptured wall for the quick laugh. Did I say sculptured wall? That's where the stucco /drywall/whatever material had some un-exact topography - much of it pointed. Ok.. so I finished the show, forehead bleeding throughout. I kept it that way for the audience's sympathy to make sure I would get enough applause.

So here is the real secret - but don't tell anybody...I admit to you now that this happened to me ...sigh...twice! (And you thought I was going to lecture to you about how to learn from all of your mistakes!!!)

If you read my past columns you know I am no stranger to thumb tips. Like I have maybe 20 or 30 in use during any one of my parlor shows. Well.. it always happens that they will fly off my finger and fall to the floor, almost too many times. This is because I use a king size but try to get an 18 inch diamond or even 24 inch square silk in the thing and wedge it as best I can on the fly. Sometimes the wedge is 'maybe' just too little. To me the vanish of the big silk in an empty hand is worth the risk...Yeah, I jam that thing in there with some force and.. hey, maybe only the front row can see this weird plastic odd digit go floorward, if I'm lucky .

Mistakes happen ...how do you deal with them?

So You Might Not Know so Obviously...

If you've been around awhile you know one of the answers... When the problem happens you show no reaction whatsoever. And with that, you and I know you would normally be suffering a thousand horrible deaths inside, but you just can't show it outside. Whether you pick up where you left off, start over again, or go with the unexpected exposure to the finish line... you just get through it.

If you show the emotion you brave absolute and instant death from watchful eyes. Our trade here is to fool people, and when we don't ...they win and they know it and they will show it. If you can muster up the needed self-control at the instant you experience that dreadful event ...you can turn a dreadful event into something simply uneventful. Quite honestly, if you were there to entertain more than just fool them they will let you slip by the mishap.. as the show is perceived as non adversarial.

Another tool we use especially in card work is the change of the plot of the trick on the fly. This is easy, and almost automatic, if you've held a deck of cards for a while. No one will know the difference.. unless you get an insufferable wave of sudden guilt and tell them what you did or didn't do.

Ok, so maybe 20 or 30 years ago I had some of this arrogance the internet self taught teens have now.. you know, the ones who know ...everything! For years, I would do the same show, no matter what, to whoever was in front of me. But in my typical routine, even in the middle of the infamous 'performance trance', I would actually hope or expect something to go wrong.. so I can figure out, with some excitement, how to recover... and as I regularly discovered, something inevitably DID go wrong.

So with that in the background of my attitude regarding mistakes, I still don't dread them.. but expect them.

Maybe now in my advanced age and faux maturity I might not want too many of them anymore but I sure don't get self-destroyed over it. I know the whole picture ... the many effects, the special moments.. unique moments, the endearing interaction I strive for, be it from one person and maybe all ...flushes away the probable mistakes that are yet to come in

any one show. In the scheme of things I am comfortable enough to know that - whatever happens - we are both going to have a good time!

Well that's my thoughts... I sure wish I could hear your failure stories and maybe comments regarding what you do when something goes wrong. I remain available ...

Marty

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OPENERS AND CLOSERS 2 - A Review

Ebook authored by Paul A. Lelekis

Reviewed by Rick Carruth

Openers and Closers 2 is the perfect follow-up to volume 1. Paul understands the importance of grabbing an audiences attention at the beginning of a show and, like a pilot on American Airlines, both welcoming them aboard and putting their insecurities to rest... And... mesmerizing them with your best at the close of your show.

There is nothing 'iffy' here, and that's a very, very good thing when you want to remain true to your readers. I am a big fan of Martin Gardner and am glad to see Paul include one of Martin's classic effects.

Another favorite is a Brainwave based on the Nick Trost effect and featuring handling by Paul and a stout contribution by the late, but forever great, Daryl.

There are three great effects featuring a vanishing card box, ESP, and a special sleight of hand technique created by Paul. A special comedy routine and Paul's top-notch handling of a 'not so Invisible Deck' routine complete Openers and Closers 2.. and make this one of my very favorite of Paul's many ebooks. Highly recommended..

1) VANISHING CARD BOX OPENER - Paul can probably lay claim to being the first magician to perform a vanishing card box. Paul admits that

NOT publishing it commercially probably cost him a pretty penny. He considers this effect an opener.. but I would also consider using it as the opening act for your closer. Either way.. this effect is worth the price of the PDF... (Multiple pics)

2) DO YOU HAVE ESP? - This is more than an effect. This is, almost word for word, a mini routine that will make your audience laugh, make you the star, and get your act off to a roaring start. Multi-phased and easy to do, you'll also learn the Riffle Peak Force, a technique that's very usable in other effects.

3) ELIMINATION - Ever heard of the Lelekis Incomplete Faro Transfer? You'll know all about it after mastering Elimination. Actually, considering it was published in the Linking Ring, you may already be familiar with it. Elimination is a sort of Magician's Choice on steroids.. beginning with a selection by the spectator from half a deck of cards... and a impromptu transposition of the selection into a second half in a very fair way. (More multiple pics)

4) Martin Gardner's 4 ACE TRICK - Virtually self working and mystifying. I was already familiar with this effect.. but probably because I'm a big fan of Martin Gardner. We lived about 30 minutes apart for many years and I was enamored to his brilliant mind. Now, Paul has both re-introduced a Gardner classic and presents a new way of getting in to the effect not included in Martin's work.

5) NO! NOT THAT CARD! - Although not one of Paul's original effect, this one has his fingerprints all over it. Once you read it, you'll understand why I call it a "Tour de Force".. This is both a play on words and an observation. If you enjoy making your audience laugh, here's you opportunity.

6) 8-CARD BRAINWAVE - One of my two favorites. Paul provides a video carefully explaining everything for the reader. This is Paul's in that he combines the work of two other great performers, Nick Trost and Daryl Easton, to culminate, propagate, spread, disseminate, communicate, make known, promulgate, circulate, broadcast, publicize, proclaim, preach, promote and otherwise teach this classic of magic..

7) THE NOT SO INVISIBLE DECK ROUTINE - To quote Openers and Closers 2.. " The Invisible Deck, created by Joe Berg is often mistakenly

accredited to Don Alan or Eddie Fields. The standard routine most used today (the one found in the instructions) was created by J.B. Bobo. The Invisible Deck is one of those few tricks that you can actually use the written instructions, for a nice routine...but being the blasphemous that I am - I am presenting one of my very own routines that I created about 20 years ago...it has a special advantage over the standard routine. The reason that I changed things around in this routine is because of certain problems that kept arising..."

Paul solves the problem.. and bring this volume to a very satisfying conclusion. You'll like his thinking and, in all probability, add this one to your repertoire...

This 1st edition is 34 pages, and sold exclusively by Lybrary.com for \$10.00 ..

<http://www.lybrary.com/openers-and-closers-2-p-921927.html?osCsid=5dd2427fe40361bdb5cb4199f839c32a>

OPENERS AND CLOSERS 3 - A Review

Ebook authored by Paul A. Lelekis

Review by Rick Carruth

Triumphs, invisible thread, invisible decks, change bags, nail writers, and almost impromptu mental magic... it's all in Paul's OPENERS AND CLOSERS 3. This book has a very decidedly mentalism / mental magic flavor.. which was fine with me, as I love to mess with people's minds. Paul has also included videos and an abundance of photos in this edition, which is also fine with me, as I am a very visual guy.

I suppose what I'm trying to say is... I thoroughly enjoyed volume 3 of the Openers and Closers series. Paul's writing ranks up there with the best of them, and his explanations ARE the best.

The 21 Card ESP Trick alone is worth the price. I am very partial to effects that look like big dollar effects and perform almost automatic. I literally went to bed last night playing this effect over and over in my mind and imagining how my fellow magicians will react when I perform it.

Writing about card tricks and magic in general is not extremely difficult. There's a proverbial ton of material out there to offer fodder for the cause.. But writing about magic in a way that's inspiring and insightful is very difficult.. and that's why I respect Paul's third contribution to the OPENERS & CLOSERS series.

(The parentheses are my thoughts on Paul's descriptions..).

INTRODUCTION - An opener does NOT have to be a trick!

(Paul offers some seriously funny advice on winning your audience over at the start of your performance. Getting their support and earning their confidence is SO important, and cannot be underestimated.. You'll learn a little biker humor along the way too..)

The 21 Card ESP Trick - Show your version of the 21 Card Trick...but you seem to have goofed up! Then you not only deal out one card only, face down, but you also know the name of selection!

(This reminds me so much of an effect you would expect to find in Giobbi's 'Card College' or Scarne's 'Scarne on Card Tricks' - Very efficient, very rewarding and very much a mystery to your audience. There is NO sleight of hand, but you will fool the socks off your spectators..)

Above & Beyond - Three classics of magic combined into one fantastic card trick!

(Based on a Stewart James classic.. modified by three fellow magicians, and combined into a wonderful, sleight less effect by Paul. Above & Beyond does need a false shuffle or two, but I'm sure you guys can pull that off! Another effect you can add to your repertoire right away..)

Voodoo Reversal of Fortune - Here's an EXCELLENT trick with the Invisible Deck!

(If you can manipulate an Invisible Deck.. you can perform Paul's original effect with ease. Not only will you learn a convincer and a simple psychological factoid, you will also learn a cool move Paul teaches with an included video..)

Reading a Thought - Here's is the REAL method for using a Nail-Writer and two different ways to reveal the thought-of selection!

(Not much I can add to this description.. Paul discloses HOW he uses a nail writer to fool his spectator. If you've ever used this extremely powerful weapon then you already understand the power. All the psychological aspects are discussed and explained..)

Invisible Thread Ideas - A 5-page treatise on the use and handling of Invisible Thread!

(This is a highly informative tutorial on the intricacies of invisible thread. If you're afraid of invisible thread, welcome to the majority. It's my personal experience the only guys swearing by IT are the guys who use it regularly... and they are probably NOT anxious for you to read Paul's thoughts. He talks about floating bills, napkins, playing cards, and other inanimate objects like glasses and silverware. Paul also includes his thoughts on sellers of IT and the best thread to use. Good, solid thoughts..)

See-Through Change Bag - Construct you own change bag for pennies and make it in 5 minutes.

(Not trying to direct you too far away from card magic, this is an ideal compliment to your routine, that will allow you to add a bit of mental magic to your already-stellar act. You can create this, as Paul aptly notes, in minutes. The KISS principle personified...)

A Quickie Triumph - Explain to the audience how difficult it is to practice when you drop the cards all the time. Make the cards “right themselves” in a flash...except the selection!

(You'll need a couple of not-too-difficult sleights to complete this effect. Paul includes a video of Steve Draun's Midnight Shift to make the process very do-able for even beginners. I am a big fan of Triumph, and this version has the impact... without the mess..)

This is the final version of Paul's three part Openers & Closers. I think this one might be my favorite. I'm partial to mental magic and this ebook includes several very nice effects that are ideal for any skill level. The most productive \$10.00 investment you'll make in your magic this summer. Openers & Closers 3 will be available for sale at Lybrary.com on 7/24/17..

<http://www.lybrary.com/paul-a-lelekis-m-163788.html>

Stewart James -- The Magic Of Stewart James by David O'Connor

Although the name Stewart James was vaguely familiar to me, it was only after learning a terrific card trick called "Further than that" created by the man that I began a search for information about this extraordinary magician. The creator of over 400 magic tricks and magical plots and the author of a number of excellent manuscripts, Stewart James is one of the most prolific inventors of the 20th century and perhaps in the history of magic. His ideas and concepts have been adopted by countless magicians worldwide. As proof of his genius, he has been described as a real life magical mastermind. He developed an uncanny ability to create outside the box. Strange that such creative thinking came from a man who had the minimum of education finishing school when he turned 15.



The Early Years Of Stewart James:

John Stewart James was born in Cortright Ontario on May 4th 1908 where he spent most of his life. Although a skilled magician, he became a postman that he dutifully fulfilled for 21 years. He performed for the allied forces during the Second World War during his tour of duty. His childhood was not easy with strict parents who restricted his upbringing without playmates or friends or any of the usual freedoms of youth. He was often confined to the verandah of his home. His loneliness led him to focus on "Imaginary friends" and he discovered his first magic trick at age 7 that he found in the "Boys World Magazine" called The Knot of Enchantment. He gave his first show aged 9 in a local small hall. Despite his parents discouraging his interest in magic, he secretly pursued his interest with his imaginary friends working on new ideas and methodologies. His focus was very much on ropes and playing cards and with his 'friends' he was able to

escape into his virtual reality world to discover, create and invent. He published his first trick in 1926.

One of his more memorable effects occurred at a meeting of the Piff Paff Poof Society of Magicians on September 1938 where he wrote the prediction, "World War threatened – Germany attacks Poland" on a piece of paper that was locked inside a wooden box that was in turn soldered shut inside a metal box. Exactly a year later the box was unlocked by Fort Eyrie's chief of police when the local newspaper headlines read, "World War Threat – Nazis attack Poland".

Throughout his life his ideas and writing continued and he began to submit articles to the IBM Linking Ring Journal and the Jinx Magic Magazine. For many years his Linking Ring articles were only available to members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Most of his famous magic tricks have stood the test of time and still performed today. Notably they included: A Match for Gravity – Spell Mystery – Miraskil- Audio -Hypnosis – Face up Prediction –Further than that –Headline prediction – Robot deck – Go Bak Card Mystery – Vaculate – and 51 Faces North, and dozens of others. If the reader were to Google Stewart James Magician, a full description of the above magic tricks will be found that will give a far greater insight into the brilliant, magical mind of Stewart James.

The Literature:

Later in his career James began to give us self-working magic tricks (the antithesis of what are known as heavy-sleight magic). This attitude was a direct contradiction towards a strong traditional bias held by many mainstream professional magicians. A few disagreed with James and consider self- working magic to be less impressive than advanced magic that requires dexterity, The James File - Stewart Jamesmanipulation and sleight of hand. It is my personal view that if the same effect can be achieved by sleight of hand and self-working methods, then I would probably opt for the self- working method and put the effort into presentation. The audience should never be aware of the modus operandi anyway where the outcome is the same. In 1990 well known magician/author Alan Slaight wrote Essential Stewart James – The first 50 Years with hundreds of original inventions in a huge 1025 page volume of Stewart James work.

Further Than That... Video

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/lm10AyytkXU>

A second volume titled "The James File" published in 2000 features even more material, and then in 2007 we saw "The Essential Stewart James" published. Within these 3 large volumes there are 2,700 pages of real magic wisdom. I am merely the proud owner of a rather more modest book titled "The Encyclopaedia of Rope Tricks" compiled by Stewart James through Abbott Magic that in itself is a wealth of wonderful rope magic. Canada now hosts an online museum dedicated to Stewart James that takes one through the various facets of Stewart James life and achievements and traces this humble yet dedicated magician's legacy to the world of magic. Google search for Stewart James Magicana or Moore House, it is a fascinating journey you will enjoy and a fitting tribute to his memory.

The lesson to be learnt here is that although his material and concepts were sometimes stolen, we should always respect and credit the origin of his and other creator's material and magic tricks we use.

Death And Legacy:

Despite his limited education, Stewart seems to have had very much a mathematical thinking mind, as shown by his understanding of mathematical principals and self-working methods that he ably adapted to card magic routines. This is seen in his comprehension of the many numerous ways of stacking a deck of Stewart James Standing With a Skullcards. His use of mnemonic systems and the simpler C-H-A-S-E-D principal become very evident in his work. I would think that for the serious minded magician, reading Stewart James would be essential. Stewart James passed away aged 88 on November 5th 1998. This quiet natured gentleman of magic has left us a legacy that will be graciously remembered. Few magicians before have ever left us such practical and worthwhile material.

In conclusion, I would like to describe the very trick that influenced me to learn about Stewart James with the hope that it stimulates you to search and find out how to perform it. Your search could be rewarded, as the dealers might say, "Easy to perform, No sleight of Hand and practically Self- Working". It's called "Further than that".

A deck of cards is shuffled a number of times and a spectator is invited to cut the deck and then select a random number between 10 and 20. The digits are added together to arrive at a third number and a random card. Memorising this card, the deck is reassembled and the performer then divines the freely chosen card. Cutting the deck, he now attempts to find the selected card by spelling the words Ace / Spades one card for each letter and ends up locating the Ace of Spades. The cards that spelt Ace are turned over to show they are the other 3 Aces, while the Spades spelt cards are turned over to show them all Spade cards. The magician then deals down the next 4 cards on top of the Ace of Spades that become a Royal Flush and nothing beats a royal flush in spades. You will love this trick just as I do and it's not hard to find. In fact, it's not much "further than that".

David J O'Connor is a semi retired professional mentalist and children's entertainer. He has performed throughout South Africa, New Zealand and aboard cruise liners. David is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and loves mentoring young people in magic.

(Originally published in.. <http://magictricksforkids.org/>)

EUGENE BURGER -
June 1, 1939-August 8, 2017
(From Mr Burger's website..)

It is with heavy hearts that we, friends of Eugene Burger, inform you that Eugene has passed away in Chicago at the age of 78.

Eugene enjoyed a long, healthy life, but was very recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. Even so, his death today came more quickly than expected, and we are deeply shocked and saddened by his loss.

We know that in the days, weeks, and months ahead, countless things will be written and said about Eugene, and we will share more information, too. But for now, we want to tell you that Eugene embraced his situation with

great clarity, humor, and peace of mind. As he said one day, "Now I am on the way to the ultimate capital M Mystery of life."

Please join us in remembering and celebrating Eugene, a rare and wonderful person who has meant so much to us and to magicians all over the world.

ONLY SLIGHTLY SLEIGHTLY – DVD - Review

\$26.95

Murphy's Magic

Ryan Schultz is a creator of card tricks. Not just card tricks.. but tricks that require a minimum of sleights. This is much easier said than done. Unfortunately, many simple card tricks are obviously simple card tricks, and fail to fool even the uninformed spectator who has never seen a Youtube video.. The standard for 'self working' card tricks has changed, and Ryan is one of the performers at the very forefront. Today, there is a huge market for sleight-free card magic, or something very close to it, and Ryan has published two prior DVD's paving the way for his latest. 'Miracles Without Moves' and 'Effortless Effects', his earlier DVD's were both best sellers.

So much has to happen to make a simple trick appear complex. Patter isn't enough, and math won't carry you over the threshold. It takes a combination of complexity and psychology, particularly handling by the spectator to alleviate the possibility of sleight of hand. Ryan covers all the basis. Everything on Only Slightly Sleightly is designed to happen, to an extent, in the spectators hand or as a result of a decision by the spectator. All the psychological moves are there too, to convince the spectator(s) all is fair.

I feel if you are a fan of simpler magic, and if you want several effects that simultaneously tic every box and entertain your audience... 'Only Slightly Sleightly' will do just that. In all fairness, these are NOT instant effects. You WILL have to put forth a little time and effort to learn the handling of all the effects. Thankfully, the 'handling' doesn't involve busted knuckles and endless hours of practice.

To quote Murphy's Magic:

"The focus of the tricks on Only Slightly Sleighty is giving your audience the feeling that THEY have control of everything. Ryan has honed and refined these routines with the implicit target of making the audience feel like they have made every decision. Because if THEY made decisions, then the tricks truly ARE magic! It's a masterclass in audience control and relaxed misdirection. You'll have a lot of fun performing these routines, and you WILL fool people!"

Features:

Future Card - A card is fairly selected and placed in the case.. a business card and 2 selections reveal the identity of this card.. Everything seems very fair and perplexing.

Shuffles Therapy - Ryan provides two versions of this effect, a gaffed card version and a borrowed deck version.. A spectators card is found in a random way

Long Way Out - Ryan teaches a Derrick Dingle move that makes the magic possible .. I really like this move, and intend to spend ample time learning and perfecting.

Any Card To Any Sum - All the cards in one pile total the sum of cards in another pile.. plus a revelation. There are no moves to achieve the magic. Maybe my favorite effect on the DVD..

Magic Camp - Three spectators each find a preselected card after a complex series of deals and shuffles. A very good display of discovery..

We Do As We Do - This is a 'do as I do' effect where each participant finds the other's card.

Plus, a very useful bonus section on how to use Pencil Dots and Edge Marking to expand your skillset and add a very special tool to your magical armory...

I recommend 'Only Slightly Sleightly' if you tend to favor self working magic. This DVD is available through dealers who carry the Murphy's Magic line of magic DVD's and effects...

<http://www.murphysmagic.com/product.aspx?id=59203>

Reviewed by Rick Carruth

ECLECTICA - John Carey

Murphy's Magic

ECLECTICA is just that... a thorough mix of many different effects with cards... mostly. John Carey likes to take a simple premise and turn it into a clever effect with sleights most beginners find very learnable. Yes, there are a few flustration counts and color changes.. but nothing beyond the neophyte.

Personally, I grew up on this type magic. My first 'real' magic book was Scarne On Card Tricks, and Scarne went to great lengths to make the effect simple while maintaining a certain integrity. Mr Carey does the same, buy isn't afraid to make you work a little if the end result is worth it.

I appreciate that he keeps everything relatively simple. Card magic shouldn't be difficult -if- there's a way to perform the sleight without breaking your wrist. John manages to include 15 effects in the space normally required for 7 or 8 numbing effects. I don't have a problem with this, as I don't need someone to explain in detail all the subtle and psychological moves of every aspect of a trick. Just show me how you do it and let me find my way.

If I have anything on the negative side to say about John Carey.. its that he's too nice. Watching Eclectica is like watching that wonderful painter, Bob Ross. No, his paintings don't hang in the Louvre, and snoddy painters make fun of his simplicity.. But Bob Ross is a genius at entertaining his audience. My problem with watching Bob is his style and manner is expressive and genuine, but his soft voice will lull you into a blissful state if you aren't careful. Ditto for John...

The DVD runs 1 hour and 48 minutes, which is ample time for everything. I hope I haven't given the impression John rushes through the effects, sacrificing quantity over quality. That's not the case. Most of the effects run about three minutes and the explanations about 5 minutes. Here's a little summary of the contents...

Backs to the Wall - Based on a Dai Vernon effect.. A deck with all backs turns into a regular deck...

Ensemble - A spectator makes a number of fair choices amid much shuffling, and yet somehow manages to pick the four Aces. John demonstrates a painless method of culling the Aces.

Three Phase Dailey - Another one based on a Dai Vernon effect. Sort of a cross between Vernon, Larry Jennings, and David Blaine. If you can perform a double lift, a frustration count, and a double turnover.. you're good to go.

Mental Sandwich - A card mentally selected by a spectator ends up sandwiched between two jokers in the middle of the deck. Nice JK Hartman sleight makes the magic possible.

Sent and Received - Based on Vernon's Emotional Reaction. Super simple bit of mental magic that can be mastered in minutes.

Top, Middle and Bottom - This is the rare effect that uses a duplicate card to read the spectator's mind. Then, a surprising revelation completes the effect.

Slow Motion Triumph - For the packet trick fans amongst you. A little fancy dealing produces a very convincing triumph.

Telekinetic - A nice production of a selected card upside down in the deck. There is more to it than a simple reveal, and makes you quite the mystery man. One of the more difficult effects.. but well worth the effort.

Splitsville - An opener that resembles a series of mis-adventures by the performer suddenly turns into a four Ace production. Not difficult, but does require a simple setup.

Homage To Bannon - Bannon performed a little ditty called Fat City. This is John's version. It's quick and easy and includes a nice paint brush move to bring two Jokers into play.

Whispers - Several basic moves make the magic possible. John teaches a couple of very efficient multiple card forces, including one from Bannon that looks really good.

Assisted Ambitions - Sort of an Ambition effect meets a four Aces production. A few double turnovers certainly go a long ways.

Invisible Interlude - Very simple moves, a couple of large coins, and a deck of cards are all that's needed to make you look like 'Bobo meets Bannon'...

Two's Company And..? Sponge Balls anyone? John teaches a very intriguing sponge ball routine featuring moves by some heavyweights of magic, including a beautiful move by Martin Gardner.

One Card And One Thought - Two spectators complete the magic in this effect inspired by Al Leech. Not difficult to perform and perfect for couples or best friends...

I would recommend ECLECTICA to anyone wanting to add a few effects to their walk-around or table hopping routine. There's something here for everyone...

\$30.00 from dealers carrying the Murphy's Magic line of products...

<https://www.murphysmagic.com/product.aspx?id=57191>

Reviewed by Rick Carruth..

The Doug Henning Project - Resource

Neil McNally has created quite a site for anyone interested in the magic and history of Doug Henning. We all, who are old enough, remember not only the Broadway shows, but the specials that aired on NBC in the 70's and 80's and introduced the world to a type of magic a step beyond most magicians of that era. He paved the way for David Copperfield and the wave of Las Vegas style performers who rode his popularity to their success .

Doug's first magic special for NBC, where he replicated Houdini's Water-Torture Escape, drew an unreal 50+ million viewers. That's Super Bowl numbers... He painfully and meticulously produced six more specials over the following six years.. and was nominated for seven Emmy Awards along the way.

Neil McNally has created the DOUG HENNING PROJECT, which is devoted to keeping his magic and memory alive. You'll find a number of never-before-seen photos, Interviews, videos, movie props and stories.. all centered around Doug and his wife, Debbie. You can even catch a four minute clip of Doug featured on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"... quite the find.

Check out the Doug Henning Project at:

<https://doughenningproject.com/>

Clip Steal Color Change | Card Trick Tutorial

52Kards

I have a deep fondness for color changes. Done right, they are the pinnacle of close up magic.... Quick, baffling, and very visual.

"An awesome color change that was originally published in the 1920's, but seems to have been largely forgotten since...

Our instructor Vinh Giang also covers a variation of this change that allows you to wrap your fingers completely around the deck and still make the card change, which it makes it look all the more impossible!"

<https://youtu.be/x7y6VEKzHmk>

Making A Two Man Mind Reading Act Affordable - According to Jack

The advancements in electronics and miniature circuitry have revolutionized the art of mentalism and mental magic. There are devices available today that make the impossible.. possible. Unfortunately, many of these products are thousands of dollars and are available only to the high dollar earners among us.

My friend, Jack Markley, recently wrote me with a bit of 'advice' that will certainly come in handy if you have, or would like to have, a two man mind reading act. If you don't think this type act is revelant, go back and watch last years America's Got Talent.

The electronics are super cheap, and work like a high dollar item. Here's Jack's suggestion.....

"Rick, at 86, I may be doing my last lecture/workshop for the FCM International conf. in Indy this coming June. I am calling my workshop "One for the road"..

" I will reveal to the workshop my 'electronic mentalism' trick for the first time. Go on line and search 'Dog training collar'.. about \$28.00 shipped from Walmart. Use the vibration mode to signal to the mind reader what he/she needs to know. Sorry, but this is a two person routine. I think you will see it when you see what the Dog training collar is all about. CAUTION !!! Put tape over the 'shock mode' in case of a oops !!!"

Jack Markley

Magic Is An 'Exact' Science - According to Bill

About the same time Jack wrote me, I received this little ditty from another friend in North Carolina.. Bill Ragsdale...

"In 2005 I visit The Magic Circle in London on Dec. 19th. While there I visited their library and noticed a table of "books for sale." I picked up about 7 books that interested me. Among one was a book by J.G.Cannell titled "The Hundred Best Tricks" published before 1940, no other date. As so much magic from the early days was written and with little or no illustrations, I soon learned to read and concentrate what I was reading."

"Among the entries was this mind reading stunt: Ask someone to leave the room and write on an index card, which you give him along with a pencil or pen, four different words. Tell him you will write exactly the same thing on your index card and show him when he returns. While he is gone you write "exactly the same thing" on your card and show it to him when he returns."

William (Bill) R. Ragsdale

<http://www.magician.org/member/billragsdale>

Mentalism - According to Harlan

"It should be noted that there is a psychological difference in the appeal, in the manner of presentation, between what we call two branches of the mystic art – 'magicians' and 'mentalists'. While both accomplish their effects by trickery, the mentalist rarely admits it. There is an important reason for this attitude of the mentalist. His mysteries of the mind are impressive only when cloaked in an atmosphere of genuine phenomena. Long experience has taught the wisdom of this serious and earnest presentation. Ample proof of these statements will be found by observance of the leading professional artists – those occupying the topmost rung being accepted as genuine by a great majority."

"Performers of mental and psychic mysteries usually preface their demonstrations with a statement to the effect that they make no claims to possession of supernatural powers, and that the presentation is solely for the entertainment and amusement those present, who may draw their own conclusions as to the means or methods by which it is accomplished."

However, the performer proceeds to do his act as though it were a genuine example of unusual powers: - which, in fact, it is! If presented as mere tricks, the act would not command anywhere near the same interest and spellbound attention – if indeed, it didn't fall flat. [emphasis added]"

- Harlan Tarbell, The Tarbell Course in Magic, Volume IV.

Mentalism That Fools Every Time - Video Tutorial White Arts Magic..

This is definitely one of the better mental magic effects on Youtube. The presentation and explanation are both very good and I'm recommending it for the second time.. as I published it originally 2 or 3 years ago. Try this and let me know what you think...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqBREkzi9ok>

Find Out What's Inside My 'Magic Show' Bag - Jay Sankey

Watch Jay empty his bag for the camera. Nice concept video of a professional magician and the big and little treats in his touring bag. Jay's original tricks have been performed by many of the world's most famous magicians including David Copperfield, Criss Angel, David Blaine, Dynamo and Keith Barry. Jay also fooled Penn and Teller on the tv show 'FOOL US' and made Toronto's CN Tower vanish!

<https://youtu.be/oDzUzBVBGVw>

3 Free Magic eBook from Jay...

Although I've published these links before.. I think it's well worth your time to download, if you haven't already... The first ebook contains 256 pages of advice from one of the most appreciated performers in all magic. Articles include detailed thoughts on...

- Engaging people on an emotional level
- Developing your confidence
- Refining your presentations
- Dealing with hecklers
- Circuit practicing
- Inspiring people to trust you
- Expressing yourself through magic ... etc.

The second ebook features 10 of Jay's favorite card tricks.. including;
HOUSE BOUND:

The selected card is found duct taped to the card case.

GUARANTEED:

An impromptu 'I.O.U.' transforms into the selected card.

ALONG FOR THE RIDE:

Three random cards change into the 4 Aces.

AMATEUR VS. PROFESSIONAL:

A lethal combination of magic and mind-reading.

BAND-AID:

One of the most visual torn and restored card tricks ever.

And the third shares 10 of Jay's favorite mental magic effects... including;
MENTAL BREAKDOWN:

Amazing mind-reading demonstration with just 5 cards.

NUMERO:

Impromptu prediction with a BORROWED business card.

OF A CLOTH:

Extremely visual effect with a paper napkin.

DIGITS:

Powerful mentalism effect using just a few borrowed dollar bills.

CROSS OUT:

You'll love the reverse psychology of this fooler.

NO ONE works harder or brings more to the table than Jay Sankey...
To have all 3 best-selling PDFs automatically appear in your inbox, enter your email in the box at:

<http://www.insidedeception.com/3-free-magic-pdfs/>

5 Expert Card Magic Trick 'Control's' Revealed!

Jay reveals five very useful controls to get a card to the top or bottom. These are well worth your time and are controls you will use..

<https://youtu.be/tz3fqIPWzgQ>

Shade - The Lost Tape

Underground footage that was never meant to be released. If this doesn't inspire you, check your pulse. This is about as slick as it gets...

<https://youtu.be/r0-Sp86w6dl>

Harry Maurer presents... OVER 100 CARD TRICKS - Free PDF

"The card tricks contained in this book are "easy to learn" tricks that, if presented properly, will fool your family and friends. You will find that they will amaze older children as well as adults. But just because they are simple tricks does not mean that you can simply read through the instructions once and perform them! You will have to practice each trick over and over again until you can present it without thinking about what you have to do next and so that you know exactly what you are going to say at each stage of the trick.."

http://www.oncuepro.com/Magic_Bonuses/100_Card_Tricks.pdf

VANISH MAGIC MAGAZINE #36

Carisa Hendrix - Canadian performer Carisa Hendrix has spent the past 15 years developing a unique and totally original style of performing. Find out more about this incredible artist.

Over 140 pages of magic, tricks, reviews and articles. Also in this issue:

ROMANY - Romany shares her story about spending time with producer Bob Fitch.

JAY ALEXANDER - Nick Lewin interviews Jay about his corporate magic and his new theatre show.

DOUG HENNING - A look at one of the greatest magicians who helped change magic.

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Magic Trick Reviews... Free to Everyone Facebook Group

Please consider joining us at 'Magic Trick Reviews' on Facebook. You'll find a very nice selection of reviews, particularly by our friend, Jim Canaday, who is now reviewing for Big Blind Media as well as Murphy's Magic. Check it out...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755782251317278>

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<http://magicians.website>

That does it for this issue. I hope you found something to help your magic along. Remember, if you have something you would like to share with the magic community, send it to: Rick@MagicRoadshow.com

For Freedom...

Rick Carruth / Editor

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science."

Albert Einstein

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