



MagicBunny.co.uk Online Discussion Forum

TOP HAT

Magic E-zine

July 2002

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the July edition of MagicBunny.co.uk's e-zine.

In this issue, you'll find the latest effects and articles posted at MagicBunny.co.uk.

The section for news articles is your chance to tell the magical world about whatever you want. Send all submissions to TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk and it'll be sure to feature in next month's edition.

All the best,

~Jon Snoops~

Editor of MagicBunny.co.uk's TOP HAT Monthly e-zine

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This Edition's Contents

Every issue of the TOP HAT will contain original effects and articles written by readers and members of MagicBunny.co.uk. If you have a submission, please email TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk

This edition's highlights:

MAGIC ARTICLE: *"So, You want to be a Star, do you? Part 3"* by Nigel Shelton (UK)

MAGIC ARTICLE: *"Music"* by Tom, Dream Concepts (UK)

MAGIC REVIEW: *"Complete Introduction to Coin Magic"* by Kevin Wratten (UK)

MagicBunny.co.uk Online Discussion Forum

July has seen quite a flurry on the Magic Bunny boards. Our members have passed the ten thousand posts stage and activity is still buzzing, a new temporary forum has opened and the range at the Magic Bunny Store has doubled.

Thanks to Drew for devising a Challenge Up-Link Project forum. Here members may attempt to baffle one another with the opportunity of posting difficult methods that require imaginative magical solutions. Activity has only just begun and it is hoped that this may lead to the publication of a book of ideas.

The array at the Magic Bunny shop has increased substantially, there is now a range of Eddie Gibson gimmicked coins and a growing sponge magic section. As funds accumulate, these ranges shall be extended to provide a more thorough range of items for members to browse through. Already, profits from this venture have been ploughed back into the Magic Bunny site and the Loans Library is growing as a result.

The input for the Krazy Kube competition has been encouraging and it is hoped to build a small booklet of routines over the summer months, at the end of the project. This will be added to the stock at the shop and profits will be returned to the site.

I'd like to thank all members and moderators for their support. Without all of your input, this activity would be non-existent. Here's a warm wish for a restful summer vacation, if you have a holiday planned, and I shall look forward to your continued support on the boards over the forthcoming month.

Very best wishes,

Admin.

NEWS BULLETINS

Each month, readers can send in news bulletins for users to be notified of. We offer this service free of charge, and this e-zine currently goes out to over 200 magicians around the globe. These submissions can include details of a tour, lectures, advertisements and any other information. Please send in all submissions to

TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk

Remember, anything you want to say/advertise can be placed in this section.

The Magician's Living Room

Fancy becoming a top card handler?

Would you like to meet new magicians?

Well, come along to The Magicians Living Room at <http://www.themagicianslivingroom.co.uk>.

Pass a simple test and you will gain access to the advanced section where you can learn many different techniques for some of the most commonly used sleights.

The forums are fast becoming popular, too.

So, remember, The Magicians Living Room - The Place Where The Best Magicians Congregate - <http://www.themagicianslivingroom.co.uk> .

MagicGeorge.co.uk

This is the starting point for viewing the work of or hiring the talents of Magic George AKA Michael Quinn.

This site is actually, quite magically, five sites in one.

Each site opens in a separate window, is self-contained, has its own unique colour and is themed on a different African animal.

Visit <http://www.magicgeorge.co.uk/> to find out more

HIGHLIGHTS

So, You want to be a Star, do you?

By Nigel Shelton

This is a multiple-part essay that I wrote about becoming professional in the magic business. This is the third part and it's all about building a portfolio to display what you are capable of.

If you want to speak with a newspaper reporter or an employer a personal portfolio is a useful asset to have at your disposal.

Basically, all this is, is a book of evidence of all the things that you have achieved. Many of you at school (or recently out of school) will be aware of "Records of Achievement." Think of the portfolio as your "Record of Magical Achievement." Buy a scrapbook or a document holder from a local stationery store and start to collect newspaper clippings and other evidence of the things that you have done. Reserve each page for a different theme and collate your evidence carefully

For example, if you have performed magical shows for local residential homes, reserve one page for this. Prepare an A4 page on MS Publisher or MS Word outlining what you have done, where it was done, who witnessed the performances, whether it was voluntary or not.... and so on. Add to this a collection of photos so that the page looks professional and pleasing to the eye. By the end of a year you should have amassed a small collection of pages that will form a compact book. Keep adding to this as appropriate to build up a comprehensive picture of the sort of person that you are

Now, whenever you visit a new venue or a prospective employer, take your portfolio too. It will provide an ideal opportunity for the other person to gauge how keen you are and also provide an excellent opportunity for them to ask you questions about your background. If needed, you could also refer to an appropriate page in answer to a question to provide solid evidence of a skill you have or a claim that you wish to make.

Next month, find top advice on getting a manager to help you in your magic career.

Music

By Tom, Dream Concepts

It never ceases to amaze me that a magician will happily spend many months (or even years) perfecting a single flourish or move, spend vast amounts of money on the latest props and a small fortune on glittery plastic & sequins yet happily walk on stage and prance around to music that often bares no relationship to their act? A good performer picks a genre and sticks with it for that effect - I've lost track of the number of times I've seen an act who ignore their music for 90% of a performance then suddenly "strike a pose" as their favourite few bars play - only to return to chaos once it has passed. A good performer should spend as much time selecting and editing their music as they do the rest of their act - not simply throw on something they happened to like; or worse, something they heard another magician using and liked!

Music for **any** type of performance falls into one of two categories - Incidental & Consequential, something that magicians seem to often forget.

Incidental music is just that; music that is incidental to the performance and is simply there to "fill in the background" or add an emotional depth to the performance. The performer makes no reference to the music, nor the music to the performer - there's no fanfares or poses to strike & no beats to follow; in essence it's musical wallpaper. Pay close attention to a TV drama and you'll see that incidental music is prevalent throughout, yet remains un-noticed (on a conscious level at least) because it is simply there to fill in the gaps in the acting.

Choosing good incidental music is the hard part - the performer has to find a track that contains the emotions & feelings he wants to convey but which doesn't have any distractions to pull the audience's focus away. The Romantic films can often be a good source of music for these situations but for a more contemporary feel it's worth checking out the "epic" music stars of the late 80's & early 90's. Pink Floyd, Peter Gabriel / Genesis & Jean Michelle Jarre have each produced a wealth of "wallpaper" music that is more likely to suit a theatrical performance whilst still remaining subtle and in the background.

It should be remembered that the performer who uses incidental music needs to be one heck of a performer. Whilst music can help carry the emotion or feeling an audience still needs to be visually stimulated (by a stunning performance) in order to remain interested in the performance as a whole. Whilst the magician might get a kick out of standing on stage fawning over his new \$1m prop an audience (who are left un-challenged both visually & audibly) will quickly tire of the performance and lose interest therefore much thought should be put into developing a stage presence & style that will engage the audience throughout.

Consequential Music is by far the best solution for a working magician and is something many strive for but which few achieve. Consequential music should appear (to the audience) to be as equally important as the clothes on the magicians back and the props he uses, neither overpowering the act and distracting from it nor hiding away in the background and playing no part.

A good piece of consequential music should seem like it was written specifically for that performance, it should follow the flow and progression of the act so that whenever the music peeks or fanfares there's a corresponding fanfare in performance (a flourish or sudden occurrence), whilst "setting up" the premise for an effect (for example tearing up a newspaper ready to restore it) the music should be subdued but building in anticipation of the result - the music and performance should be intertwined and seem almost dependant. In essence the magician should seem to be "creating" the music as part of his magic.

It is rare to find a single piece of "consequential" music that will suit an act, so inevitably it means having to edit together a number of different tracks to create the desired score. This can be a time consuming and awkward process and because of this many avoid music that will easily "date" an act, again film scores and in particular action films can be a great source of good consequential music - it was what they were written for after all!

Once the decision has been made to use consequential music it is important to stick with the principle throughout the complete routine- **every** effect and flourish must have a corresponding musical peek or else the act can look disjointed and seem hurried. The use of consequential music does help to reduce the onus on the performer to manipulate the audiences attention at every step of the routine however the burden now shifts to timing and choreography - his every move must be identical and fit the music perfectly.

Getting the right music and the music right can turn *an act* into a performance!

Tom, Dream Concepts
www.DCeFx.com

(Next time - Choosing the Technology)
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Complete Introduction to Coin Magic

By Kevin Wratten

Name: Complete Introduction to Coin Magic.

Price: Can vary from £20- £27. Roughly £24

Difficulty: 2 out of 5.

Description: Magic with coins is a very diverse and fun genre of magic. Imagine astonishing people with the change in your pocket! If you've wanted to get into Coin Magic, but the other videos are too advanced, this tape is for you!

Starting from the beginning, Michael leads you through a complete introduction to coins. In easy and understandable language, you will learn all the fundamentals of coin magic.

Also covered here is history, theory and close-up images - taking advantage of the best perspective for teaching.

Have fun exploring the world of Coin Magic!

Contents:

Fingerpalm
Classic Palm
Thumbpalm
Getting into Thumbpalm
Back Thumbpalm
Downs Palm
The Back Clip
Finger Clip
Deep Back Clip
A Sure Bet
The Phone Home Pen
Double Your Money
Completely Gone!
What's That in Your Ear!
Coin from Tie
Tricky Trousers
The Natural Lay of the Hand
Simple Take
Simple Put
Schneider Vanish
Le Tourniquet
Reverse French Drop
Classic Fake Transfer
The Slide Vanish
Friction Palm
Spider Vanish
Silver Dollar to 4 Quarters
Half Dollar to 5 Dimes
Coin Thru Table
Simple Coins Across
Misdirection
The Magic Wand
Revolve Load
Thumbpalm Load

Sonic Squeeze
Copper/Silver Transposition
Produce and Complete Vanish
Timing
Coin To Key
Gone!
1 Minute Coin Vanish
The Thieves, Sheep & the Barn

..... *PLUS MANY MORE.*

Comments

A very good way to learn the sleights taught on this DVD. Ammar is a very experienced magician, and I would recommend the DVD even if it is just to hear Michael Ammar's thoughts on coins. He does explain some very nice coin routines, sleights, false transfers and an automatic coin trick about sheep, robbers and barns.

I hope you like it as much as I do!

Issue 5 of MagicBunny.co.uk's TOPHAT will be sent out mid-August.

Send submissions, effects, articles, reviews and news to TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk

Best Wishes,

Jon Snoops

Editor of MagicBunny.co.uk Online Discussion Forum's E-zine—TOP HAT

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