



The Flash Paper

June 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Prez Sez



I won't be able to attend our June meeting in person, but I do plan to dial in on Zoom to catch our featured performer, **Ryan Chandler**. His unique and easy-going style is fun to watch and always entertaining. Granted, I may be watching as I sit lakeside in Minnesota enjoying a beautiful sunset off the dock with a beverage in one hand and a fishing pole in the other, but I'll be there.

The rest of the week when the sun goes down and the mosquitoes descend like a hoard of vampire bats, I plan to hunker down in our cabin and after the grandkids are in bed it will be time to catch up on magic reading and try to learn a new routine or two. For the trip this year I chose *Not Walking Knot* by Michael J. Fitch and *Freakout* from Rick Lax and Justin Flom since some rope and a deck of cards packs nice and flat.

So, mark your calendars and plan to attend that evening and remember, if you can't make it in person, we will be simulcasting on Zoom. - **Steve Nesor**

Ryan has shown me the cups and balls routine he plans to teach in the DIY section of his time with us at our June Monday Night Magic.

I had never seen it before and can unequivocally state it is the most impactful routine (among the easiest routines) I've ever seen ... with a surprising final load requiring no palming! I plan to use it.

Coming in person? We'll have enough paper cups and tin foil balls for everyone to follow along with Ryan. Joining via Zoom? Be sure and have your own three paper cups and four tin foil balls with you to learn what I consider to be a "keeper."



I believe you'll thank Ryan for sharing this when he's done. I know I did. - **Dave Arch**



Monday Night

Magic

SPONSORED BY
THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

RYAN CHANDLER

Both an underground magician and music artist RYAN CHANDLER appears occasionally in Omaha's Old Market. He is also the latest magician to receive the David P. Abbott Award from The Omaha Magical Society.

Ryan's TV appearances include The CW Network's, "Penn & Teller: Fool Us" as well as their magic special "Penn & Teller: Try This At Home."

During his performance, Ryan will share material that has served him well over the years and routines that can be adapted to anyone's personal style.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

No charge for attending this event.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022 | FROM 7-8 PM (CDT)

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska



What Makes Magic Work for an Audience?

Meeting Magic Event on May 16, 2002



Two themes were the subjects for our May meeting. First it was **Bring A Trick** to show and teach. We were fortunate that eight of our members came prepared to perform table magic for our club members. They moved from one table to the next, delighting the attendees with a variety of close-up illusions.



Next, long-time contributor and member Larry Brodahl moderated a panel of four to discuss an article written by **Joshua Jay**, entitled *What do Audiences Really Think?*

The article outlines a new research study of "Magic by the Numbers" that focuses on what people really want from a magic effect. The study specifically examined magic with the intention of learning how better to deceive and, thus, better entertain an audience. In short, it was conducted to learn more about the spectator in order to teach the magician. One section summarizes research data of particular interest to mentalism and close-up performers. This article can be found at <https://bit.ly/3y11Rat>



Our evening's discussion group was comprised of a diverse panel representing both senior members and new members. **Jered Schaugaard** and **David Fox** were joined by two young magicians new to our club, **Adam Schact** and **Aleister Knight**. This group shared their impressions of the article and discussed the research data and various results, as well as highlights they felt were most interesting. Thank you, Larry, and for the prep that you and your panel put into the discussion!

It was a different twist to our monthly magic event, which was again interesting and worthwhile, made successful by the energy and preparation of the strong team that represents our Omaha Magicial society!

Patrice Fisher



Walter Graham Vintage Video Clip



The late **Walter Graham** was a major force for decades in the Omaha Magicial Society. You might know his name from the book about **David P. Abbott** on which he collaborated with **Teller**. What you might not know is that we have in our online library a vintage clip of Walter performing his routine with a little silver pitcher and his signature toasts. In this clip he performs opposite OMS member **George Huffaker**. Worth a look to go back in time.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Larry's Logic

Venues

Sadly, we have to come to a split in what we talk about. Because all magic is NOT the same.

Close up in any form – cards, coins, mentalism, etc. is quite a bit different than parlor. Which is somewhat different from Banquet. Which is somewhat different from Stage. And these differences, if not identified, can cause a magician to make mistakes.

In close up – whether impromptu or formal close up – the audience sees your hands much more than in parlor, which means the audience can burn your hands at all times. Which in turn means you have to take measures to prevent that from being a problem.

Banquet magic (my specialty) means they can't burn your hands as closely, but they can keep a more peripheral watch on them than close up. So, this means banquet magic has some slightly different problems.

So a close up artist can misdirect the audience by merely having them move their attention by a foot. Banquet, the attention needs to jump about 4 or 5 feet. Huge difference!

In my lecture a while back, I talked about ZONES, which are an imaginary construct I use to keep my tricks visible. For banquet performing, Zone 1 is from my mid-chest to ceiling. This is where you perform the tricks for maximum visibility. Zone 2 is mid-chest down to my belt. This area most of the audience can see, but not necessarily well the lower you go. This is where you want to do sneaky stuff if possible. Zone 3 is belt down to floor. For 90% of the audience, this area is invisible. For strolling closeup, there really isn't a Zone 3. And Zone 1 is from your pants pockets to the ceiling. Everything else is Zone 2.

Stage performers really don't have anything but Zone 1.

And it doesn't stop there. Check out your side angles. Strolling magicians can have people looking over their shoulder. Banquet performers can have people sitting LOWER than your hands (School Assembly programs) and sitting wide to either side. Stage performers have people sitting lower, higher, and sometimes quite wide to the sides.

But an absolutely perfect example of the difference the venue causes can be found by comparing the misdirection used by **Tommy Wonder's MAGIC RANCH** vs **Harry Blackstone's Dancing Bear**. In Mr. Wonder's trick, he's going to make an egg appear on the middle of the table during the course of a card trick. No cover, no gadget. In Mr. Blackstone's trick, he's going to magically change places with a bear. (If I remember right.) Mr. Wonder used the simple misdirection of leaning on the table, and having someone glimpse a card. This allowed him to pretty much openly place an egg on the table.



Mr. Blackstone had to have an elaborate dancing/fight sequence complete with a menacing bear. All of this conspired to keep the audience from noticing that Mr. Blackstone stepped off stage, allowing a duplicate to take his place. Similar misdirection was applied to allow Blackstone, disguised as the bear, to step onto stage. Think about this. Tommy Wonder had to lean on the table. Mr. Blackstone had to have 10 assistants, a bear suit, an executioner suit, etc. And we've just discussed misdirection. There are tons of other differences. Things like:

- The size of your props and what your audience can see
- The ease of getting a volunteer
- Additional equipment. **i.e.:** sound, backdrops, lighting

All of these things – and more – can and will bite you if you don't pay attention to your upcoming venue.

THE BOW -Projecting An Attitude-



The next time you see an entertainer “take a bow” try and determine what the performer is saying through the assuming of such a posture.

- “I know I’m good! I’m glad you finally figured it out?”
- “Thank you for paying me lots of money. Now get out of here so I can go home?”
- “You’re welcome?”

As a possible clue, consider another situation in which people bow.

As a gesture of honor and humility, kings and queens receive bows all the time. It originally was an attempt of the subject to keep their head lower than the head of the monarch.

So when performers bow before their audiences (in other than a perfunctory manner) they are saying:

“I know that I am no better than you. Therefore, I am honored that you would take time from your life to watch what I do and listen to what I have to say.”

In this author's opinion any other attitude hurts the relationship between the performer and his audience.

Only with “the attitude of the bow” does the performance get placed in its proper perspective - honoring the audience.

From the book *Showmanship For Presenters*. Used with permission.

Outdoor Magic

With summer upon us, here are three tricks for performing outdoors.

Illusions In The Round by **Don Arthur** contains the bare bones of an idea for filling a stadium with magic the next time you’re asked to perform at the Super Bowl halftime show (or any outdoor venue).



Purchase wide gift-wrapping ribbon and two helium filled balloons. Attach the string of one balloon to each end of the ribbon with one person holding each balloon. Secretly beforehand coat a six-inch strip on both sides of the ribbon at the center with rubber cement – letting it dry.

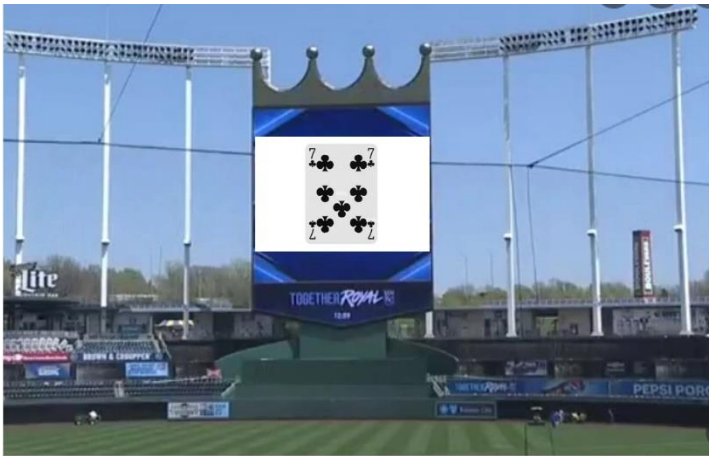
When ready to perform, bring an assistant from the crowd with you to the center of the field and ask them to cut the ribbon as you hold the ribbon. Hold the ends clearly separate and then bring them together with an overlap of three inches or so – pressing the ends together – allowing the assistant to wave the wand.

Have the two assistants release their balloons as you release the center watching the restored ribbon soar high



in the air over the crowd and away from the stadium as the crowd stands to their feet giving you no doubt a standing ovation. Thank you **Don Arthur**.

While we're on the subject of magic for large venues, the trick where the audience reads a dignitary's mind is also a great one as you invite the dignitary to center field and have him or her select a playing card and concentrate. On the count of three the audience calls out whether they believe the dignitary is thinking of a red or black card, then whether it's a diamond or heart if red or club or spade if black, and finally whether it's an ace, two, three, etc.



The audience in unison guesses correctly each time to the utter amazement of the dignitary thanks to a card force and a projection of the card onto the large stadium Trinitron screen (to which of course the dignitary has been positioned with his/her back to the screen).

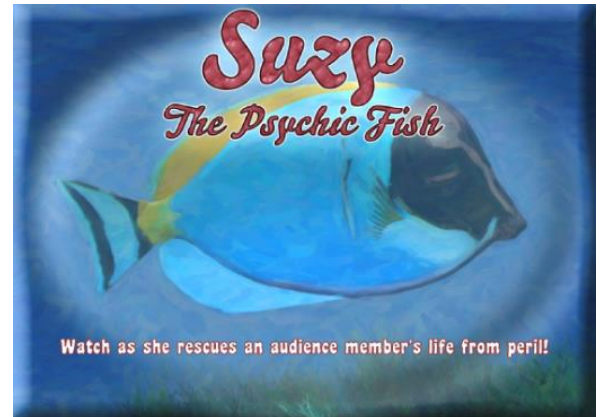
One more with a mind reading fish. I last used this trick on a party held aboard a pontoon boat on a lake in Minnesota.

You'll need the magic trick known as Key-R-Rect, a long ominous looking chain with large links, a folding chair or chaise lounge, and a fair-sized goldfish.

First make sure that you have yourself made an extra set of keys for Key-R-Rect trick as you'll be destroying all but one during this routine.

When ready to perform, have someone try all but the master key in the lock to prove that none of those keys open the lock. While that is happening, someone is holding the fish (usually in a little plastic bag) and

someone else is busy chaining the audience volunteer to a lawn chair. Show the actual key that opens the lock and have someone open the lock and then use the lock to secure the chain around the person in the lawn chair.



Explain that you've trained the fish to know which key opens the lock. You will let the fish go and Suzy will swim part way out from shore. The audience will select one key at a time. You toss the selected key to Suzy. If it is the selected key, she will swim back to shore – holding the key between her little fish lips. If it is not the key, she will let it sink to the bottom.

After putting the fish in the water, you do exactly as you say - throwing one key after another waiting after the throwing of each key to see if she is going to return the key to the shore. You wait expectantly at first gradually becoming more and more doubtful with each throw and each failed appearance of Suzy carrying the key in her lips.

Finally, you are down to only one key left. You look out at the water. You look at the key. You look at the chained volunteer. You obviously are wondering whether Suzy is going to pull through or not. You get ready to throw the key, and then you stop.

You can't stand it. You take the key have someone try it in the lock. The lock opens as you shout to Suzy the fish, "Sorry to have doubted you." Fini

Excerpted from the yet unpublished book entitled *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.





Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7 Facebook Features Some snippets for those who don't visit Facebook



As part of this month's Monday Night Magic on (Monday night, June 20th) two randomly selected contestants will go head-to-head in a gameshow of deception entitled "Is There A Prize In My Box?" I've been asked about the prizes for next Monday Night's gameshow competition IS THERE A PRIZE IN MY BOX? Here they are.

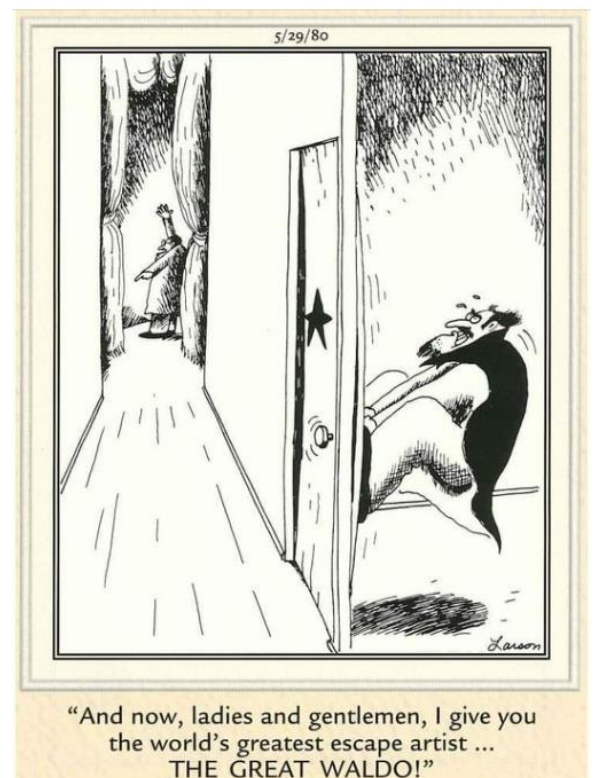


A DVD about moves for the cups and balls or a collection of card tricks that can be performed over the phone.



OMS Member [Steve Lindeman](#) and his grandsons (The Amazing Little Lindys) dazzled folks with their magic at The Taste Of Omaha last week. Congratulations!

And here is a Gary Larson comic.



"And now, ladies and gentlemen, I give you the world's greatest escape artist ... THE GREAT WALDO!"



Monday Night Magic

Monday, June 20th - 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cross Training Center

5030 N. 72nd Street

Omaha, NE

Or just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
(which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

2022 OMS Officers

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