



The Flash Paper

May, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

I have found "What's your magic story?" to be an excellent launching pad for a conversation with another magic enthusiast whether s/he be a member of the club or a first-time visitor to a monthly meeting or lecture. As they relate their story, you'll no doubt learn about their beginnings and their passions within the art whether that be performing, collecting, watching, creating or reading. You'll learn about the genre of magic they enjoy the most (i.e. coins, cards, close-up, platform, stage, children, adults, mentalism, escapes). If I then frequently use the words "Tell me more" throughout their narrative, the conversation will continue in an interesting direction as you learn about the trajectory of this person's development in magic.

If I know someone else in the club who shares common interests, I might even go over and introduce them with a brief explanation about why I think they'd enjoy visiting.

However, it's fair to say this approach does require a fair amount of skill in being a good listener. Since I spend around 95% of my time each day thinking primarily about me, listening can be a challenge. Since many get into magic with a "watch me" mentality, this whole

listening thing is not always easily developed within our demographic.

If we were giving out Best Listener awards, who from your life would you nominate? Why? How many great listeners have you known? Most people I ask can't name more than three from their whole life! Many times, that's fewer than one per decade of the time they've been alive!

Of course, that means if you give someone the best listening to they've ever had, you'll join a very short list of good listeners they've ever encountered with the added benefit of being ironically known as a great conversationalist. You might even put this to the test at our May club meeting. I'm going to.



Dave presenting his Children's Magic lecture with some help from Penelope and Michaela.



Last month's meeting was themed "Children's Magic" where our President, **Dave Arch**, performed a full-length magic show geared towards kids. He performed several routines that were easy to do and a lot of fun.

Dave took a Di Box and instead of the usual sucker ending, he turned it into a magical surprise that left everyone with a fun story. With a twist on a classic packet trick, the audience tried to follow a bird as it disappeared amongst a gang of hungry cats, only to find out that he magically flew to safety when no one was looking. Dave also shared his version of the linking rings where two kids get to join him on stage to make the magic happen. There were several more routines that Dave walked us all through, but the point of the lecture was not about the routines. Although if you missed the meeting, Dave has uploaded an explanation of all the magic routines on the OMS video library. Dave then broke us up into small groups where we discussed problems and solutions to those problems. We presented questions and ideas as a group and learned a lot by doing so. The open discussion was a big hit as everyone got to put in their two cents and we got to learn from one another. Overall a fantastic meeting!



Dave awards George a balloon surprise.



Scott Alexander



Scott amazes Joyce and Lilly

We were fortunate enough to host another great lecturer last month. **Scott Alexander** was a terrific addition to our 2019 lecture series as he taught a handful of amazing tricks. Scott is a master of taking classic effects and turning them on their heads. All of his routines were very well thought out and you could tell that they had been audience tested many times over. In his lecture there was something for everyone. Scott showed his handling of the bill to lemon which was like nothing that I had ever seen before, he had a practical and safe way for doing a needle swallow and smash and stab that still left the audience on the edge of their seats, and even presented a few mentalism pieces that took us all for surprise. He was a wealth of knowledge with dozens of effects that he shared on top of the ones I have already mentioned. Scott finished out his lecture with a Q and A where he shared his approach to inventing magic and his creative process.

If you missed Scott's lecture, make sure you make it to our next lecture on July 1st as we host **Dameon (Hal Meyers)**. For more information on his work, check out the link we have on the website calendar, or keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page as we get closer to the lecture.



THE DREAM DRAWER WORKSHOP

“But the trick sounded so good.”

MAY 20th 7:00 – 8:30 PM



Our next meeting’s theme is “**Dream Drawer**”, where you can bring a trick that you bought years ago and has ended up in a drawer. This is going to be more of a workshop where you can get up and present an idea and get feedback (if you want it), take that prop for a well-deserved test

drive and see where you end up, or show us what it is and we can brainstorm a routine with you so you leave with a brand new original idea. Please email me at hotsy@windstream.net if you would like to have time to present a trick/idea at the next meeting. The meeting will take place right after **AbraCORNdabra**, so I am sure there will be plenty of people ready to perform after attending the Midwest’s Premier Magic Convention! If I don’t see you at **AbraCORNdabra**, I will see you at the meeting that Monday!


David Michael Fox - Vice President

Weekly OMS Friday Lunches



We’ve had a most enjoyable year with our weekly OMS lunches on Fridays from noon to 1 at the HyVee (132nd and Dodge).

As summer is fast approaching, we’ll be suspending the weekly Friday lunches with plans to reconvene in the Fall. As always, you’re encouraged to continue meeting with other members as you wish. Check out the club pictorial directory (<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org/Directory>) for ideas of who you might enjoy getting to know better. Happy Summer! Dave



American Red Cross

Omaha Magical Society,

The **Red Cross** is very grateful for your generous gift of \$203.00 to Midwest Tornadoes & Floods. On behalf of those we serve, thank you.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

2019	OMS	Officers
President	– Dave Arch(dave@sandlers.com)
Vice President	– David Fox...	(hotsy@windstream.net)
Treasurer	– Bob Gehringer.....	(gehringerr@cox.net)
Secretary	– Jeff Sikora.....	(jqmagic@cox.net)
Sgt.-at-Arms	– Neil Bable.....	(rutiger@hotmail.com)
Flash Paper photographer – Neil Bable		



What's Your Magic Story?

by Steve Nespor

This month, I got to sit down with **Theron Christensen**, who's Magic Story started when he was 11 years old and experienced his first magic show. During the performance he was asked to come up and help with a trick and he was hooked from that moment on. That sense of amazement stuck with him and when he later saw another magician in Middle School who performed Gene Anderson's Torn and Restored Newspaper, Theron's amazement changed to intense curiosity. He went from that sense of wonder watching magic, to wanting to learn how these seemingly impossible feats could be accomplished.

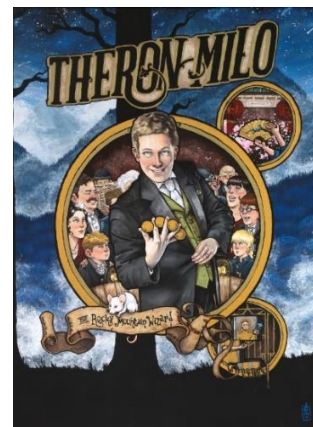


He began performing in High School as his skill and interest grew and by the time he was in undergraduate school at Brigham Young University, he was well on his way to becoming a full-time professional magician. While at Brigham Young he met and married Kate who supported and assisted him as he developed his act. After nearly two years of performing professionally full-time, he and his wife made the decision to move to Lincoln while he attended Law School. During that time, he continued to perform, invent original effects, and spend hours poring over books on magic theory.



During our conversation, I especially enjoyed listening to Theron talk about the book he has been writing. His time spent studying creative minds like Tommy Wonder and Paul Daniel's as well as Omaha's David Abbott were just some of the influences that lead him to create "Plotting Astonishment" which he points to as his attempt to answer one of the most unanswerable questions in the Art of Magic: how do you come up with an original magical effect?

For those of us who wonder what it means for magic to be "original," or what the difference is between "originality" and "novelty," or how to stimulate inspiration for original magic on a regular basis, this will be a book well worth reading.



Sadly, for us, Theron will be leaving the area in August to take a position with a law firm in Iowa. But until that happens, I encourage you to take a moment the next time you see him at a Club meeting to see what else he is working on, and where he is heading next.



What are you doing next Saturday night?

If you're not attending the magic convention in Des Moines this coming weekend, you can still catch the show next Saturday night at 7:00 PM.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and purchase tickets too.

Keep reading to learn about the talent that will be on the show. If you enjoy magic, I don't believe you'll be disappointed. It might be worth the trip.

Just click on their name to read more about them.

Dave Arch

- [Mario The Maker Magician](#) from New York City.
- [Lucy Darling](#) from The Magic Castle in California.
- [Jay Jay](#) - Australian's Funniest Pick Pocket
- [Oscar Munoz](#) - Gold Cups Award Winner
- [Ben Ulin](#) - Iowa's Favorite
- [Rocco](#) - Two Time FISM Winner

And A Couple Other Surprise Performers Yet To Be Announced



Private Magic Lessons



Have you ever considered taking a private magic lesson or two? When you consider the fact that a lesson might be as singularly focused as working on your double lift, a private lesson is arguably among the most efficient ways to learn the art of magic. With FaceTime and Skype so popular, it might also be conducted online. In spite of the fact that a lot of help occurs informally between members, there might be a moment when a more formal arrangement would be appropriate. If you have an area of interest, but don't know who in the club might be well-informed in that area, you can put in a request through our website's homepage. We'll help make connections, and the two parties can work out the details.

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144



MAY 20 • 7-8:30 PM

“But the trick sounded so good!”



Anyone who's been interested in performing magic for longer than a year has at least one *Dream Drawer*. Within that drawer lies the remnants of many broken dreams and hopes. As promising as the trick sounded in the ad or looked on the video, it just never lived up to its hype. In May, six people will bring a trick from their own Dream Drawer(s) to show the group - getting input from over 500+ years of members' magic knowledge and experience. If you have a trick you'd like help on bringing to life, please let our Vice-President David Fox know by emailing him at hotsy@windstream.net.

In addition, we'll be hearing some reports from those who attended the recent AbraCORNdabra convention in Des Moines the previous weekend - hearing their stories and seeing their purchases.

The process just might be as entertaining as the result.