



# The Flash Paper

May, 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



## Presidential Ponderings

Believing that we could all use some good news . . . I have some good news for you. The OMS Board has decided that when we eventually get back together physically in our club meetings back at the church, we will be broadcasting the meetings live over Zoom for those OMS members who are unable to physically attend! To me that's a very exciting development - enabling even those not living in the Omaha area to attend and participate in our meetings. This addition comes as a direct result of COVID and our collective enjoyment of the online meetings during this time. I'm amazed how good things consistently come out of bad things. I believe this is one.

On another note, below is an optical illusion I remember being introduced to as a child.



Hold the page out in front of you about ten inches from your eyes - closing your left eye and staring at the circle with your right eye. As you bring the page slowly closer to your eyes, keep your focus on the circle - moving the page from side to side slowly until you find the spot where you can't see the plus sign anymore, and it disappears. Congratulations! You've located your blind spot.

Scientists tell us that it works because each of us do have an actual "blind spot" where the optic nerve joins the retina. At that point there are no "rods" or "cones,"

and consequently there's an inability to see light rays. As we know, metaphorically the term "blind spot" has come to reference someone's inability to see themselves or any given situation with clarity/objectivity, and of course we all have these too.

Consequently, one of the greatest gifts we can give each other as club members is the ability to see our performances more clearly (as others see it).

That having been said . . . the giving and receiving of feedback is no simple task. Experience shows us that most people giving feedback come off either too soft (where we aren't sure what they're saying) or too hard (we feel bruised by what they're saying). At the same time, we are all tempted to become defensive in the receiving of feedback - wrongly perceiving that the person giving the feedback is attacking our worthiness of being loved as a fellow human being rather than merely sharing with us how we inadvertently flashed the palmed coin in performing one of our tricks.

May's monthly meeting will give us a chance to practice the giving and receiving of this most helpful gift of feedback. It does take practice. Several members have asked for feedback on a trick or routine on which they're working. Since we'll again be meeting online, we have prepared suggested feedback guidelines as a tab on our club's website (<https://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>) as well as an online feedback form as a starting point which you can access here (<http://davearch.com/feedback>). I do hope your schedule will allow you to join us online Monday evening, May 18th from 7-8:30 PM. Just click on this link or type/paste it into your browser to join us for this time together: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>. Hoping to see you then. **Dave**



## Assembly 7 in Omaha, Nebraska Explored Magic for an Online World

The Omaha Magical Society April meeting focused on tricks for online shows. We were asked to imagine we had been hired to

perform an online show for a birthday child's seventh birthday party that included seven of their friends all of whom would be joining the virtual party via electronic devices in their own homes. Each of us was invited to think of, and bring along, a trick from our repertoire that we would consider including in such a show.

We began by splitting off into Zoom Breakout Rooms to discuss things like what the maximum length should be for a show of this type, should one sit or stand during the performance, would we provide the audience members anything ahead of time, and how to open and close such a show. Groups then regathered all together to share what they had talked about so we could collect the wisdom of the group.

Then, during the individual sharing, **Neil Bable** started us off with a Silver Sceptre style routine. The large multi-colored silk he used added a splash of color to the screen as the wand rose repeatedly in a routine that younger audiences love to watch as the magician repeatedly loses control over the prop that has a mind of its own. Next up, **Austin Rhodes** suggested card work and showed a Snap Change for a trick that could be used close up on a computer screen.

**Dave Madsen** joined our Omaha group from Sioux City, Iowa and shared a pretty effect with a large red and yellow striped streamer that, once waved, transformed into two separate red and yellow solid colored streamers. The effect played very well over a computer monitor. He also showed a short Pom Pom Pole routine and took suggestions on ways to improve the handling in light of the confines of the venue. **Dave's guests, Easton and his mother Beth**, joined from Sioux City as well. **Easton** shared his Stiff Rope routine that translated very well to the confines of a Zoom screen using a hypnosis theme.

**Steve Nespor** finished the evening with an original effect he has used with friends whose children have had birthdays in the age of shelter-at-home. A dollar bill disappears from the magician's hand, transports through the ether, and appears in the hands of the birthday child's parent. The bill's serial number is checked and matches the serial number announced at the beginning of the trick. The birthday child gets to keep the bill as a souvenir.



We all came away with a number of ideas on how to put together such a show, including a number of tips from those who use Zoom both personally and professionally regarding some of the ins and outs of the program. Stay Safe. - **Steve Nespor**



Would you consider being a guest presenter for an OMS Junior Magicians Virtual Meeting? If you would like to join us some Monday evening to present a favorite routine - contact Steve at [omahamagician@cox.net](mailto:omahamagician@cox.net) to discuss the details. These need to be tricks that presents well in Zoom, are not too lengthy or involved and it would be a bonus if you could explain part or all of how the effect works, though that isn't necessary.



## What's Your Magic?

by

**Patrice Fisher**

## Joe Cole

During our Covid-19 pandemic isolation, my lifeline connecting me with the world of magic has been Joe Cole's magic lessons on YouTube. His [Magic101JoeCole/YouTube](#) videos provide me, and I am sure others, with hours of fun and distraction. In fact, his videos make this lengthy quarantine really enjoyable and I may just never leave my home again!

I recently had the opportunity to meet Joe via Zoom at our weekly OMS Junior Magicians training when he made a cameo appearance to share a card trick. He was so entertaining, and the kids just loved it! I knew I wanted to learn more about his magic story.

Joe Cole, like many magicians, practiced his art part-time while also pursuing a career working with computers in various capacities. But, twenty years ago, the new millennium inspired him and acted as the catalyst Joe needed to develop his magic skills into a serious full-time career.

It all began with the theft of his older brother's magic set. Well, actually Joe received a train set for Christmas and his brother liked that present better than the magic kit he had received. They made the switch, and ten year old Joe delighted in learning and sharing his tricks with friends and family.

Of course, there were several other supporters along his way. As a college student in a small seminary school outside of St. Louis, Missouri, Joe met a fellow student, Jim Harvey, who broke the ice to friendship with a few magic tricks. Soon, the two of them were sharing the

only two magic books in the library when not in class. Joe and Jim spent their sophomore summer here in Omaha supervising troubled kids at Boy's Town. Magic came in handy as a positive reinforcement tool as a reward for good behavior. Joe was given his own reward by meeting his future wife, **Denise**, during that summer as well.

Upon returning to school, Joe decided to transfer to UNO to study psychology while pursuing a relationship with Denise. Also, during that time, Joe met **Mike Strange**. Mike, as some of you may remember, ran the **Magic and Mirth** store at Crossroads Mall. Joe found time to work there in exchange for free magic lessons from Mike, who became a mentor and good friend.



Joe joined the Omaha Magical Society in the mid-nineties, and members **Jeff Quinn** and **Jim Stockton** helped to introduce him to performing restaurant table-side magic. That circuit became the platform for his many close-up tricks. Speaking of platforms, while working at Kobe's Steakhouse, Joe was asked to be one of the table-side magicians. Because the Hibachi grills were not usual tabletops, Joe devised his own tabletop type board from plywood, which he carefully decorated



and finished with a rubber mat surface. Well, heat and rubber don't mix in that magic motif, and soon the acrid smell and smoke of melting rubber filled the restaurant. His psychology degree really paid off because amazingly, Joe was not fired.

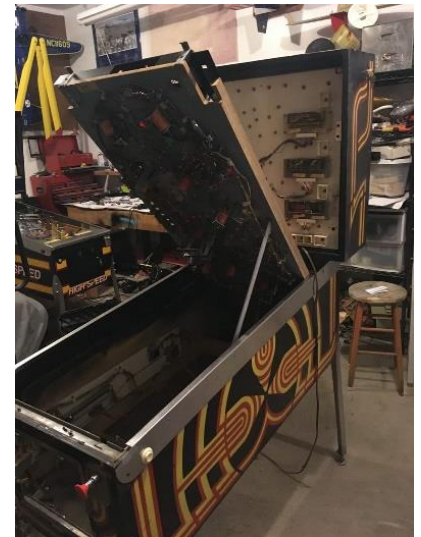
Chalk that event up to one of character building as Joe later went on to win the Society of American Magicians 2002 Competition in New Orleans. He attributes entering that contest to his mentor, **Ted Barlock**. Ted was instrumental in helping him create the stage performance for that competition. In his act he played the role of a waiter at a TGI Fridays restaurant. The finale was revealing the dinner order previously submitted by an audience volunteer. Yes, instead of a rabbit, a steak and potato dinner was in his hat when he removed it to take a bow! **Joe Cole** loves close-up magic most. He proved his skills in that arena when, the following year, he won first place with his close-up comedic magic act. Today, Joe regularly appears at corporate and kids' parties and various other venues.

When restaurants once again open their doors for seating, you can see Joe's magic, including his signature trick Card on Ceiling, at the downtown **Upstream**. He also can be seen at Fernando's restaurant locations here in Omaha. In the meantime, while we isolate in our homes, you can entertain the family or just get your own tricks fix by watching his many different magic lessons on [Magic101JoeCole/YouTube](#).

a variety of pinball machines that he has restored. His guest, **David Sandy, President of the Kansas City Magic Club** also showed us his latest magic-themed pinball machines from his home in Kansas City.

Besides a live tour of his collection, Joe shared a little history of Pachinko and Pinball and their links to the gambling industry.

Joe then took us inside the process of restoring a machine back to its original glory and some of the things required to get them back up and running including some of the ways he creatively resources and cannibalizes parts to make that happen.



One of our largest online gatherings to date, it was an hour well spent.



Joe Cole put together a fun and informative evening for one of our "Meet the Members" live broadcasts featuring





It's been awhile since we've had one of our OMS Hardcore Sessions. However, **Nate Staniforth's** recent teaching series entitled *Making Tricks Into Magic* provides us with what I believe to be a most excellent reason to meet.

In that course he presents a model that forms the basis for both designing and performing tricks that help transform them

beyond a reaction of surprise into that elusive goal of giving them a magical experience. He titled his model what even by his own admission is a tad lame - *Nate Staniforth's Cone Of Attention*.



Although you can hear him present a teaser for his course by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/2xUvxi0>, you do not need to take his course to participate in the conversation on **Tuesday evening, May 26th** online from 7-8 PM. That evening I'll screen share a visual of his model that I had made by a graphic designer, and we can take multiple examples of tricks we all know through the model - discussing how to strengthen the structure and sometimes the method of each trick to create a stronger magic experience in the mind of the audience.

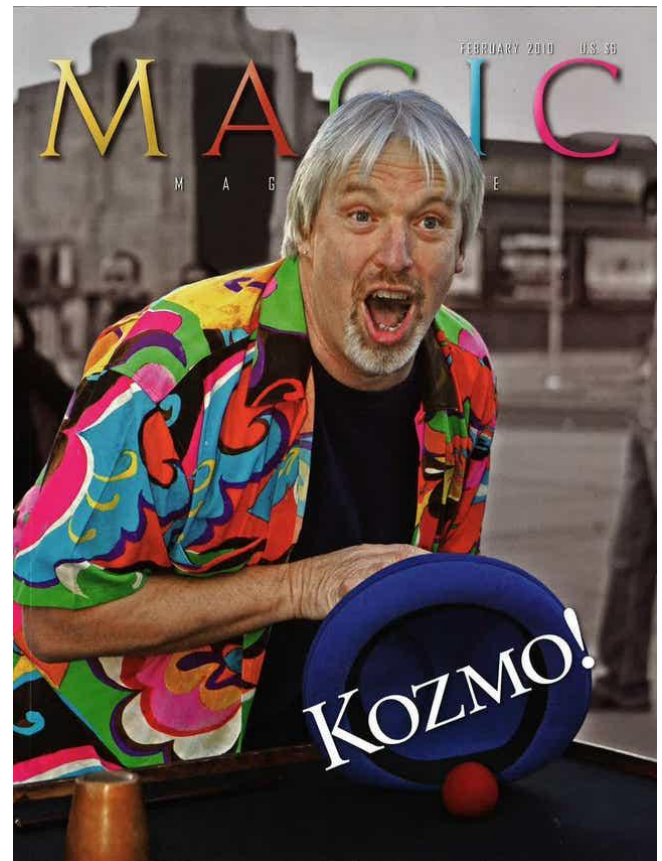
If you're interested in discussing such things, please click on this link a little before 7 PM:

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>. - **Dave Arch**

**Check out our website:**

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

On May 5th, **Kozmo** gave us a private lecture via Zoom. Kozmo is a street performing magician with over 30,000 shows under his belt. He has made living traveling the world and doing magic. He shared with us how he turned a childhood passion for magic into a professional career. He also taught a selection of effects that he performs from his busking show, and included a discussion of how he builds crowds to make money performing. From his simple and engaging Coin Matrix that lead to a Two Card Transposition using a sealed jar that moved into a visual penetration of a coin through the lid of that jar, the presentation was mesmerizing.



While known primarily as a consummate street performer who mentored with Cellini (another recognized leader in the field), he went on to become a producer of high-quality magic teaching videos. Since 2007 he has produced the Reel Magic Video Magazine (<https://reelmagicmagazine.com/>). All of this wrapped up in a wonderful combination of wit, charm, and amazement. – **Steve Nespor**



## David Fox

On Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> I gave a virtual lecture through Zoom on 3D printing. My emphasis was on 3D printings use in magic. I was able to show off several of my magical inventions and prints during this meeting.

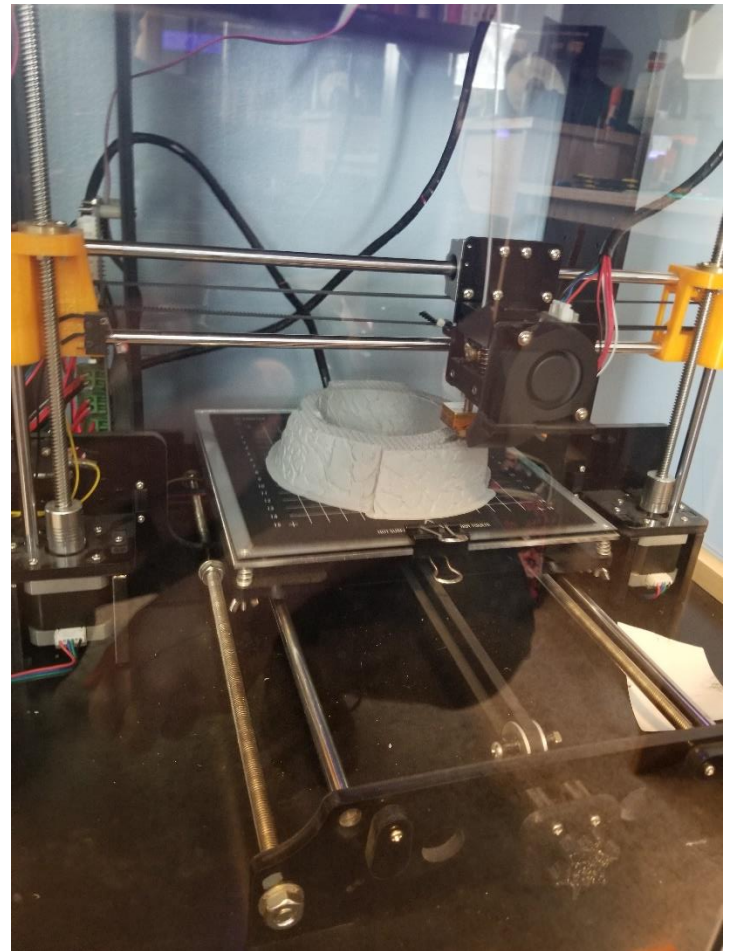


David Zooming his presentation.

Although I was unable to hear any of the responses live through the computer because everyone was muted, I feel the response was well received. I have received several questions via email and private messages that I thought I would address all together here.

My journey with 3D printing started around 4 to 5 years ago. I have always had an interest in inventing and fabricating my ideas and 3D printing (on top of small-scale electronics and wood working) fit right in. Wrap that with the interest in magic and you have a trifecta of

hobbies. There are a handful (or a boat load) of magic gimmicks out there that we all know about that we would love to play with but don't want to spend the money to just have it sit on our shelf at home. Things like a Boston Box, Gozinta Boxes, Gambler Card Punches, etc... are all items I didn't want to spend the big bucks on (or at least until I had played with the prop). Enter 3D printing. I was able to design these objects, and many others, and print them out to use before buying the real deal.



Printer in Action.

The current printer that I own is called an Anet A8 and is an entry level printer. The design is based off of a Prusa style printer. Prusa is a pioneer in the 3D printing industry and I would highly recommend their printers, if you can afford one. Prusa's entry level desktop 3D printer is around \$700 as a build it yourself kit, or \$900 if you want it put together for you. This is a bit high for an entry level printer, in my opinion, so if I were to recommend a printer to a beginner in the hobby it would be the Creality Ender 3. This is the most widely recommended printer for beginners and has a ton of

online support. The print quality is phenomenal, and total cost is about \$200. That paired with a roll of filament (around \$20-\$25) you could be up and printing within a week for around \$225. Of course you will need software to start designing your 3D models, however, the programs I am about to tell you about are completely free!

For 3D modeling there is a program called TinkerCAD. You can download this to your computer or just work online in the program. Schools all over the United States that are teaching the STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are using this software to teach kids how to model in 3D. There are a plethora of tutorials on YouTube, and within a 6 hour time span of binge watching TinkerCAD videos you will be pretty proficient at designing anything you want! After you develop a 3D model, you will need something called a slicer program. The slicer program converts your 3D design into a language that your printer can understand. Within your slicer program you can make adjustments like infill density, layer supports, printing speed...etc. Most settings won't change from print to print, but as you get more experienced in the hobby there are some neat things you can do in this phase. The most widely used slicer (again, completely free) is called Cura. An honorable mention for another widely used slicer is a program cleverly called Slic3r. Slic3r is for those that have a bit more engineering mindset, but with that being said, there are many more capabilities in this software.

I am currently looking at my next printer, the big brother to the Ender 3, the CR-10 V2 also through Creality. This printer is an intermediate printer with a large print bed and some extra features built in that the entry level printers don't have. You could start with this printer, but there will be a bit more of a learning curve getting started and the price point is a bit higher at around \$500.

If anyone is seriously considering buying a 3D printer, feel free to reach out to me and we can talk about it in depth. If you have questions regarding the software mentioned earlier, also feel free to get in contact with me and ask questions!



A tool holder David made for printing needs.



Some of the magic items David has created.





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