

# Ring Report Ring #170 - SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION #1

March 28, 2020 | Archived Famulus

March 2020

This is a sad report. Our Ring suspended all meetings at the advice and directions of the Florida State Governor and local officials. The restaurant where we meet has been temporarily closed. Our lives are on hold as we shelter in place for the duration of the Covid 19 Virus pandemic.

We do not have any definite projections on when daily activities will return to normal. Using mathematical projection for the exponential rise and fall of cases in what is known as a Logistic Function [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logistic\\_function](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logistic_function), medical modelers are saying around 12 weeks from today.

The latest numbers from the Imperial Medical College of London shows that without any self-quarantines, the peak in the USA would be at June 20th. This is a long and grim read but will give you the latest in modeling <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/sph/ide/gida-fellowships/Imperial-College-COVID19-NPI-modelling-16-03-2020.pdf>

There are factors such as Florida's warm climate may be slightly in our favor.

Scientists say the virus favors 42 F as an optimum breeding temperature. The other issues include the fact that there seems to be two major subtypes, the "S" and the "L" and the each have different effects. There is still much that is unknown about the full nature of this pathogen. Follow all the guidelines of hygiene, hand washing and sanitation and know when to call for help, if you have breathing difficulty. This is a respiratory virus and it attacks the lungs. Understand your risk. Age is a risk if you are over 65 and also if you have underlying health conditions. We are all in this pandemic together and we will help each other get through this challenging and unprecedented time.

It is important to keep this pandemic in a correct view. The virus is dangerous but this is not the end of the human race! [https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-virologist-urges-world-leaders-to-calm-public-slams-unnecessary-panic/?fbclid=IwAR1rYbdaABVZI2hdEw0\\_HrbRcj--ipobPcR3J0riMeftryOBafOfMOYflw](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-virologist-urges-world-leaders-to-calm-public-slams-unnecessary-panic/?fbclid=IwAR1rYbdaABVZI2hdEw0_HrbRcj--ipobPcR3J0riMeftryOBafOfMOYflw)

Aside from the medical situation , the economic impact for most of us ,who are gig workers, is devastating. Our income is gone. Because our business requires a crowd or being close up to people, there is no work in our field. President Trump's economic team has been suggesting that almost all Americans will be given a payment of \$1,000 and I suspect probably more will come. Some concerns such as Federal Tax payments are being delayed. Most utilities are keeping water and lights on for those who can not pay. You will probably hear of more government action, as some projections say that unemployment will rise to over 20% for a while.

Now might be the time to repair props or make some new gimmicks. You could watch those magic videos that you have not seen for years. I know that I have a lot of work waiting by just cataloging many of mine. I have a wall full of magic books and lecture notes that I have not looked at in a while. I have more writing to do. I am 71 and right in the bullseye of the target for this bug, but I have no underlying health conditions. I believe my odds of surviving are good, so these next few weeks are a great time to figure out what direction I want to take with my magic for the rest of my productive years.

I can tell you that historically after great plagues, such as The Black Death in the mid-1300s, the survivors were in an extreme party mood. That could be very good for a rebound in our business. The exuberance also led to a historical period we call The Renaissance (rebirth) and the effect was profound on all parts of culture. [https://dailyhistory.org/How\\_did\\_the\\_Bubonic\\_Plague\\_make\\_the\\_Italian\\_Renaissance\\_possible%3F](https://dailyhistory.org/How_did_the_Bubonic_Plague_make_the_Italian_Renaissance_possible%3F) There will be paradigm shifts, realignments and a different world.

So let's be optimistic! I will be in touch. Thank you for reading, thinking and being my magic friend!

Dennis Phillips

Orlando, Florida



Dennis Phillips

**Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170**

## **“The Bev Bergeron Ring”**

**April 2020**

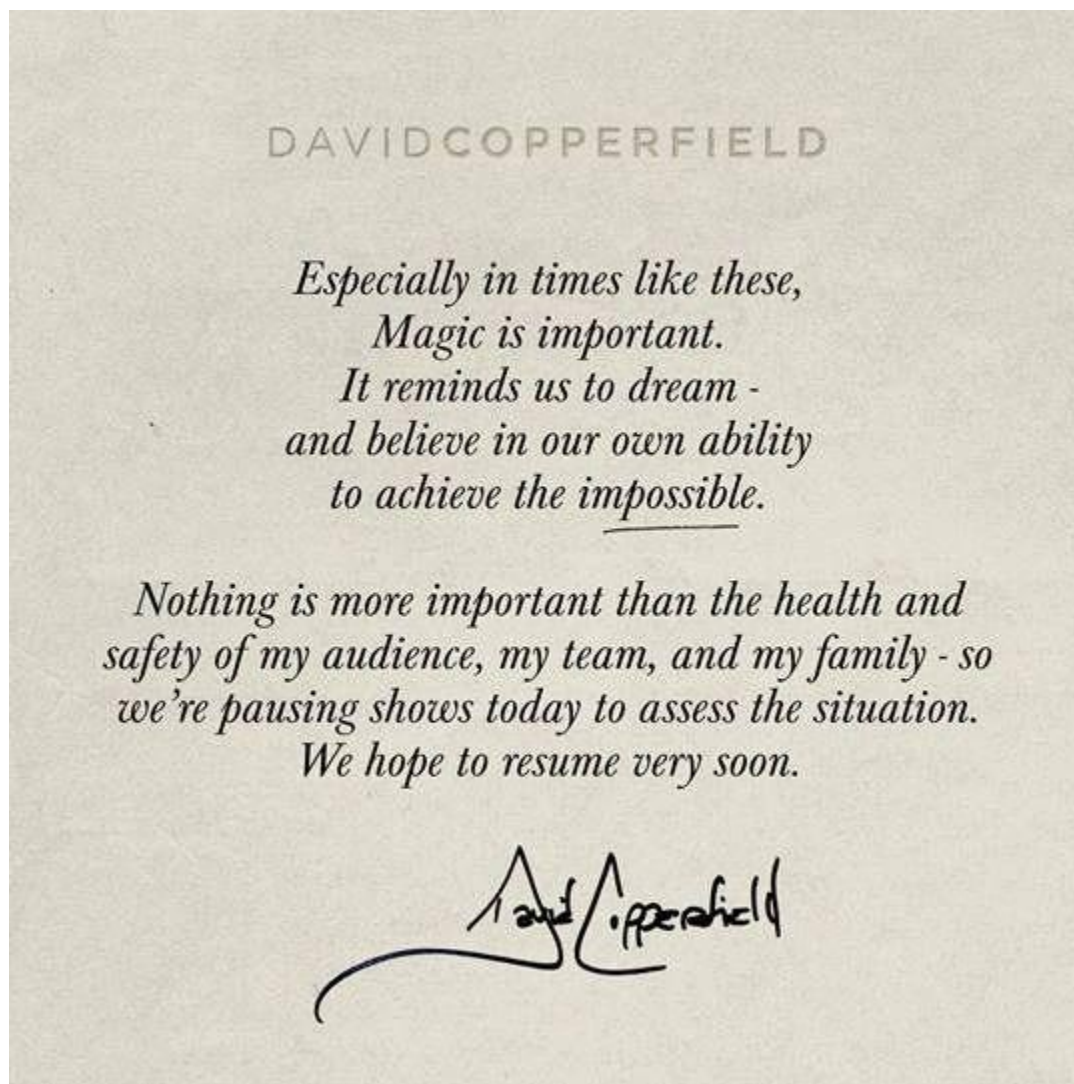
“Confusion is not magic, but obfuscation is a necessary part of magic”

Oxford dictionary says, "The act of obscuring something to make it more difficult to understand is called obfuscation."

Avoiding confusion and hiding our obfuscation allow the effect to seem magical.

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### **SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION**



If you are an entertainment gig worker , contract variety arts worker and want to speak out for help through a labor organization:



## Tell Congress to include displaced entertainment workers in relief package

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***\* Please note that personal info is used to match your letter to the proper congress representatives. \****

As social distancing measures are enacted and productions are cancelled across all sectors of the entertainment industry, the COVID-19 situation has become so dire for entertainment workers that it requires decisive action from the federal government. Entertainment gig workers who expected to work for a day, week, month, or season on a production are finding themselves without planned wages and benefits.

The bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) is a good start to providing relief to workers, however, the provisions on the table for emergency paid leave benefits won't apply to displaced entertainment workers because of the requirements for days worked on a job to qualify.

The unique nature of the entertainment industry means that many of the creative professionals may not work every day, or even every month. Existing paid leave programs are by and large not applicable to this workforce. Entertainment workers depend on the income from *each* project they book to ensure they can support themselves and can qualify to participate in our collectively bargained health plans. Rules designed specifically for the traditional single employer relationship, or even for multi-employer work in the construction industry are likely to exclude our members, and entertainment freelancers in general.

Entertainment workers shouldn't be collateral damage in the fight against COVID-19. We need a special Emergency Coronavirus Economic Support Benefit geared to include workers who have a bona fide, good faith offer to work that gets canceled due to the coronavirus.

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Enjoy the full 1977 Special. *Doug Henning's World of Magic*. The show is magnificent entertainment . It does show the downside of a live TV show.

This show had some great stuff including the “Walking Through the Brick Wall”

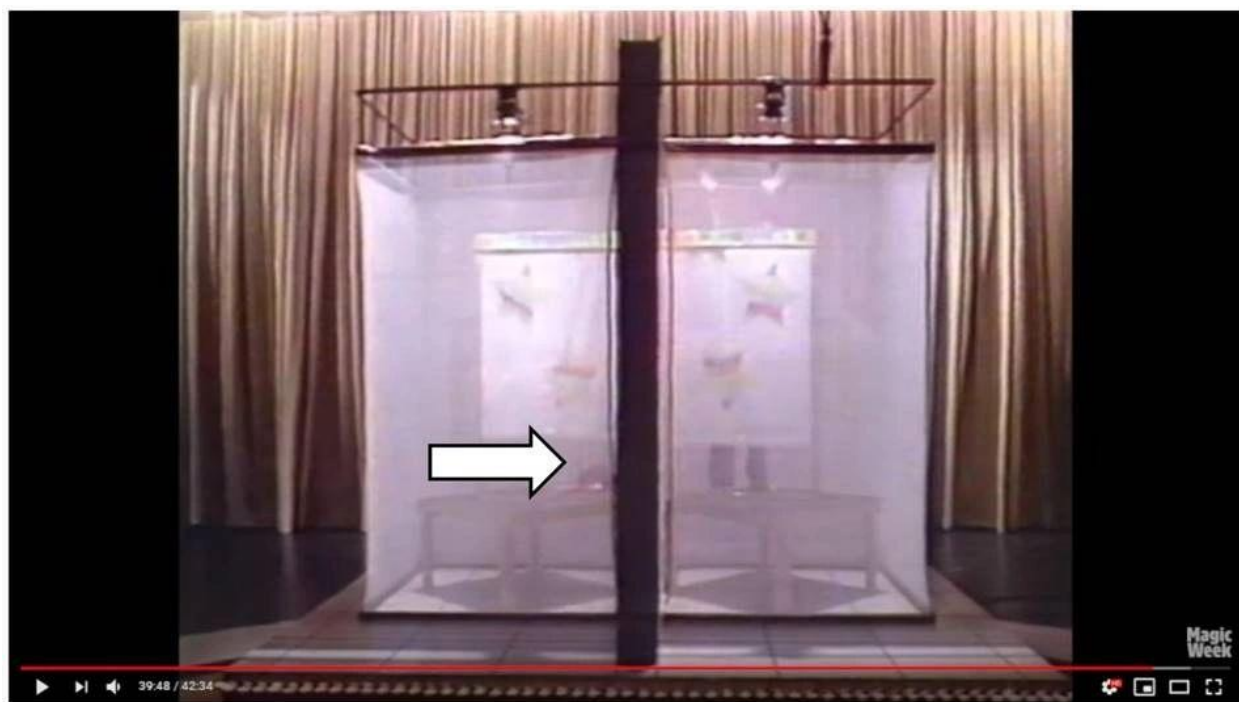
Here is the infamous “reveal” ( that only magicians with a VCR caught!) that shows Henning’s Double just after the moment of transformation.

It is obvious they used mirror tables on both sides and Henning just scooted out and around the back of the wall

and the hands, on that side were the double’s. The curtain rose just a fraction of a second too soon, before he was

fully below the table.

It is at 42:34.



Doug Henning's World of Magic - 1977 - MagicWeek.co.uk

3,240 views • Nov 16, 2018

1 Like 26 Comments 1 Share 1 Save ...

With any magic special, the magician (and his technical crew, preferably also magicians) should be able to sit in the editing room and study every effect, looking for errors. As well, the camera operators should be made to understand the nature of magic. Many of the errors, as well as, the subtleties of illusions, close-up and so on, that enhance the



spontaneity of a live performance, could be totally eliminated through camera cuts and other forms of technological trickery. But then — what would be the POINT of sending magic into millions of homes through the medium of television, if it is just pre-packed like special effects in a movie?

The problem of televised magic was apparent almost from the time of the first television sets. Take, for example, one of the major pioneers of televised magic, Mark Wilson. Even after “training” the camera operators and the technical wonks on how best to capture the magic, Mark Wilson then had a second problem to deal with: educating the home viewer by more-or-less “begging” them to believe (and strictly on faith!) that “no camera trickery of any kind is used. What the audience sees in the studio is exactly what you’ll see at home!”

With Copperfield, Blaine and all who followed, it no longer matters. We all now know that everything is a trick. You can do anything on a screen.

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If you are fan of storytelling patter, then you are aware of Master Payne.

Here is a captivating card reveal with a story that draws you into its premise.

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Salvano had a masterful act. All the moves and methods of dove work but with cocktail glasses!

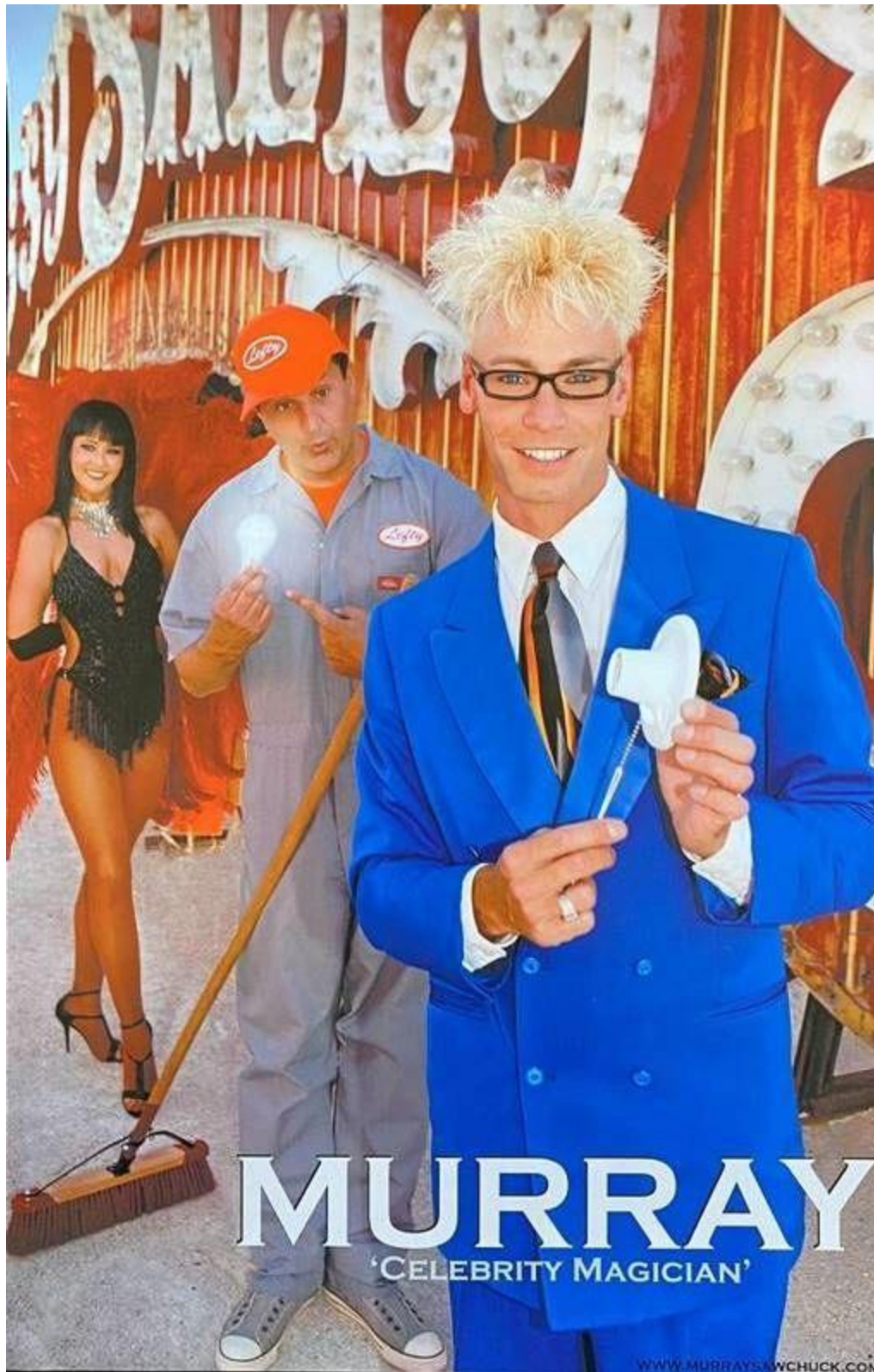
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I can recall when Murray lived in Orlando and was our 2000 Convention. He was a warm and funny performer and a big hit.

Moving to Las Vegas changed his style and approach. In many ways I liked the younger Murray’s work a whole lot better than the current Murray

He is a little sassier, more flip and a bit arrogant for comfort.

Maybe he had to change to adapt to the Las Vegas style and expectations. I don’t know.



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# MURRAY

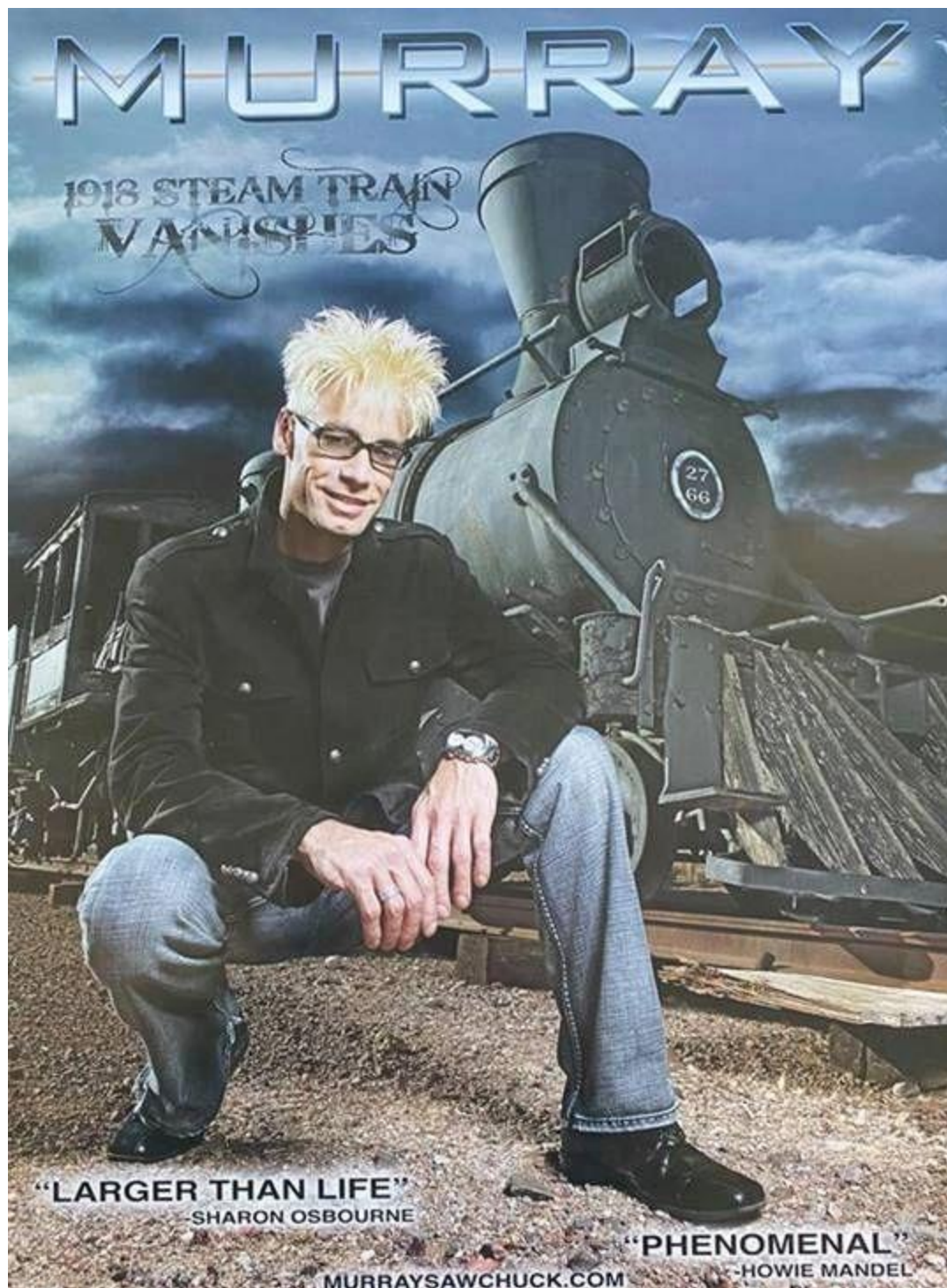
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At the last Ring Meeting and I did “The Drink in the Shoe” and showed how to easily make the gimmicked plastic glass ( works like Liquid Appear) .I used a sound track , that I produced for the “Drink in the Shoe” .



Originally I did the track for Wes Iseli, full time Virginia Magician because he did not want to do the well-worn Banana Bandana Trick.

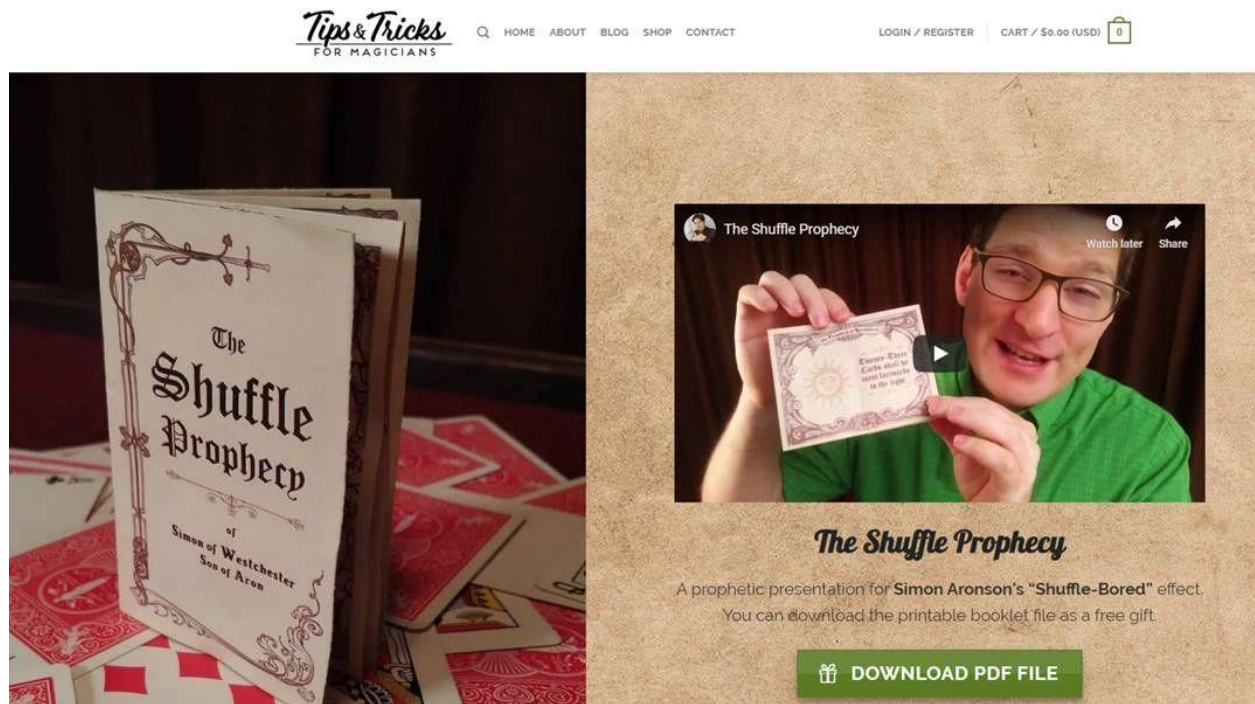
Plus he wanted to continue to use Natalie as the his side kick. He worked out a role for her similar to the old “Sonny and Cher” approach.

As you may recall, Cher was always topping Sonny in the jokes and gags. Here, Natalie magically saves what looks like it went wrong.

You will hear my voice on Natalie’s Sound Track. You can see her presentation. Wes wanted the Looney Tunes Theme on his track.

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Card workers: Click for a free trick and artwork.



The screenshot shows the website 'Tips & Tricks FOR MAGICIANS'. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT, BLOG, SHOP, and CONTACT, along with LOGIN / REGISTER and a shopping cart icon showing 0 items. The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left is a photograph of a booklet titled 'The Shuffle Prophecy' by Simon of Westchester, Son of Aron, resting on a red and white checkered surface with playing cards. On the right is a video player for 'The Shuffle Prophecy' featuring a man in a green shirt holding a card. Below the video player, the title 'The Shuffle Prophecy' is displayed in a stylized font, followed by the text: 'A prophetic presentation for Simon Aronson's "Shuffle-Bored" effect. You can download the printable booklet file as a free gift.' At the bottom of this section is a green button with a gift icon and the text 'DOWNLOAD PDF FILE'.

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Here is an impromptu mentalism effect that is effective, simple and all you need is a borrowed piece of paper and pen.

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An interesting study seems to confirm gender bias in the magical arts. We need to work to end this.

We have had some great female magicians who are solo workers and especially with illusionists, there is always a great woman making him a success

## Women seen as worse magicians despite identical skills

Bodies, Minds, Society, Psychology

Written by  
Sarah Cox

Published on  
18 Nov 2019

**Male magicians are judged to be more impressive than female magicians, even when the tricks being performed are identical, new research into gender bias suggests.**



Yet this bias disappears once an audience is asked to think more critically about the tricks themselves by trying to figure out their own solutions. Psychologists conclude that it is more difficult to evaluate a trick negatively, whoever it is performed by, if you struggle to explain it yourself.

The study was led by Pascal Gygax from the University of Fribourg, with co-authors including Dr Gustav Kuhn at Goldsmiths, University of London. A report of the research has been published in the open access journal *Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Study participants were shown close-up videos of 14 magic tricks. Only the hands and arms of the magician presenting the tricks were visible. The figure wore white gloves and long sleeves which

prevented participants identifying cues about whether they were male or female.

Dennis