

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99

May 4, 2019 | Archived Famulus

April 2019 Meeting

President Mike Matson called the meeting to order. With announcements of local magic events, performances and upcoming conventions.

The entire Ring Meeting with [Mago Paulino de Guadalajara](#) , the lecturer from Mexico. His lecture was arranged by Ring member, Revelli, a local professional magical and musical entertainer and painter.

Paulino’s name in translation is “Magician Paul from Guadalajara”. His lecture featured very clever rope tricks using magnets in the ropes. Ravelli translated his lecture from Spanish into English and showed showed a video on the

details on how he constructed his rope effects. On the video Paulino went through the process step-by-step and showed how to insert the .04 by .02 nested Neodymium magnets into the rope using tape ,Tyvek wrap and clear glue .

The products he presented included a straight rope turning into individual rings of rope, The Classic Linking Ropes, an enhanced Professor’s Nightmare , Pavel’s Walking Knot and a great Rainbow Ropes, Lasso card and others. He also has some handcrafted jumbo card effects. In one a card is selected and apparently the magician had the wrong prediction in a large envelope. But not is all lost the jumbo predicted card is a king and the king tips his hat and then pulls a card out from behind his graphic. Mago Paulino is also known from doing Mexican Network Television Kid’s shows and he actively performs.



Mago Paulino Magos de Guadalajara



Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170

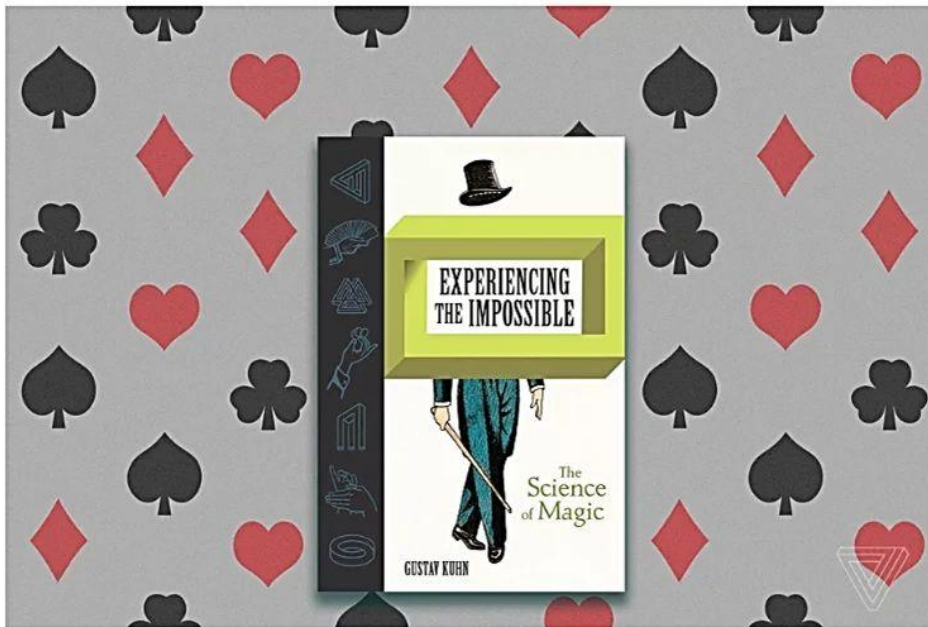
“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

May 2019

“Falsehood can hold out against much in this world but not against art” –Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

What brain-bending magic tricks can teach us about the mind

‘What happens inside your brain when you’re experiencing something that you know to be impossible?’



Graphic by Michele Doying / The Verge

Pick a card, any card, and you might feel that *you’re* in control when you pull the queen of hearts from a magician’s deck. But magicians have strategies that force their audience’s choice — from packing the deck with identical cards, to fanning out the deck with *just* the right timing so that the choice becomes all but inevitable.

This illusion of free will is one of the many illusions and magic tricks that [Gustav Kuhn](#), a magician turned psychology researcher at [Goldsmiths, University London](#), describes in his new book [Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic](#). Published in March by The MIT Press, the book explores the ways in which magic tricks and illusions can teach us about our brains. Kuhn takes the reader into the

psychological underpinnings of tricks — from optical illusions that reveal gaps in perception, to failures of memory that make people *think* they've seen a ball vanish, when in fact there was no ball to see in the first place

The book's immersive dive into the worlds of magic and science is only possible because of Kuhn's deep experience with both. Kuhn's passion for magic was sparked at age 13 when a friend pulled an egg out of his ear. After a stop in London to work as a professional magician, Kuhn eventually decided to turn his attention away from the tricks themselves, and toward the minds that he was fooling during his shows. "It was always clear that if I wanted to create powerful magic tricks, I needed to understand the system that actually allows me to create them," he says.

This will be a fascinating book for any magician who really wants to know why we experience mystery.

David Blaine is back in the news again. In the #MeToo era, we will continue to see more of this.

Since this allegation is beyond the time frame for criminal prosecution, then perhaps the issue is over pursuing a civil suit, for damages, against Blaine.



David Blaine is under investigation after reports of sexual assault were made against the magician, New York Police Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea said on Monday.

An active investigation is under way by the department's special victims division, Shea said at a news conference on Monday. Shea declined to provide any additional details.

Meanwhile, sources familiar with the investigation told CNN that an accuser has come forward to file a report against Blaine with the NYPD. However, the allegation is outside the statute of limitations, according to the sources. It is unclear how the NYPD will proceed with the investigation.

Blaine spokesperson Jill Fritzo said he intends to cooperate with the NYPD.



Years ago, Bob Markwood effect that's based on Billy McComb's 'McCombical Deck' with the names of famous magicians printed out on cards. The basics of the effect (25 years ago) was that you would show cards with the names of a famous magician on each. Most people, back then knew the names.

The effect: the performer decides to answer the age-old question of "who is the greatest magician of all time?" he says he has narrowed it down to the top five. He flips through a series of large cards with the names- Siegfried & Roy, David Copperfield, Doug Henning, and ... as he flips to the last card, he lets out a big smile when "Me" is on the last card.

Humbly he admits to being among the greats. He gets a volunteer and asks him to close his eyes and think of the world's greatest magician.

Magician says he will flip through all the cards and try to "read" the volunteer's mind as to volunteer's selection of world's greatest magician. He holds up the chosen prediction card, "Me", and lays this card aside.

Magician announces he is going to flip through the cards and now the volunteer is to make his selection. the volunteer is blindfolded or closes his eyes. While I am flipping through the cards he is to say "stop!" the magician will hold that one card and put the others aside. Well.... all the cards say "Me"!!!

So magician picks up the prediction card("Me) and the selected card("Me) and holds them facing to his chest. He now asks the vol. is asked to open his eyes, and tell the audience who is the greatest magician. the volunteer yells out "Houdini". The audience laughs that the magician has messed up. But when magician turns around volunteer's chosen card it says "Houdini". audience still thinks they have it over on magician, but when magician turns his own prediction over it says "Houdini" also!

David Copperfield did a similar effect with LP vinyl records called , "The Top Ten". There have been versions with breakfast Cereal Boxes.

The Markwood effect seemed so much more relevant back in the fading days of the Second Golden Age of Magic. Back then, most people knew the names: Copperfield, Henning, Blackstone, Houdini, Siegfried and Roy. I teach in High School and I often ask students to name a current magician. Most cannot name a single magician, past or present. Sometimes you get "Penn and Teller" but names like, "That dude I saw on a Cruise Ship" or "This guy in TV with spiked hair who pulled a ring out of his throat" just doesn't cut it." Magic desperately needs single superstar. As good as Shim Lim is, he is not a household name and

close-up magic bears the stigma of “sleight-of-hand” whereas heroic large illusions or life-threatening physical challenges are the stuff of popular legend.

I don’t have an answer to the dilemma of modern magic.

(The disgrace and criminality of Bob Markwood’s personal life is another issue)

Dan Stapleton performed a fascinating and self-working mental card effect at our March 2019. I am going to give some mathematical insight into the method and why it an exciting exception to the typically boring card trick using math counting and an example of the good use of math. I will get to the method in a moment but let me digress and give you some historical details .

One of my mentors was the late Martin Garner. He singlehandedly created the modern hobby of Recreational Mathematics and inspired many to study math and was a giant in explaining math and science to a generation of young people. I was one!

In the world of math, the awareness of sequences, place-value and the structure of arithmetic operation has been explored since antiquity. Fibonacci popularized the [Hindu–Arabic numeral system](#) in the Western World primarily through his composition in 1202 of *Liber Abaci* (*Book of Calculation*) . He replaced the Roman Numeral system with the place-value of Arabic numerals and immediately recognized the existence of sequences. Later, Blaise Pascal, created the famous Pascal Triangle. John Napier gave us logarithms, which is related to exponents. The Richter Scale, Decibel scale, you use, are written as logarithms (increasing powers of multiplication). Euler gave us the natural logarithm (“e”) for finance and calculus operation and I should mention Srinivasa Ramanujan, the mathematician from India, who died at a young age, in the 1920s, and whose amazing understanding of sequences and number systems are still being interpreted. His insight onto the Riemann Zeta Function is startling, in that he did most of his calculations in his head!

So, now to Dan’s trick. Dan explained that he got it from a Slydini lecture. Tony Slydini did not do many card tricks and this one seems to have originated in print as Alwyn Stevenson’s “No Name Card Trick”. One version found its way into “The Stein and Day Handbook of Magic” by Marvin Kaye. It lacked the dramatic and simple reveal that Dan did.

The effect can be done over the telephone! It begins with Dan turning his head away, so he cannot see anything, and with a spectator shuffling the deck and then the spectator cutting the deck about half way and taking one half. The entire effect is done with the cards being face down. The spectator then counts the cards makes sure that he has taken about half the deck or any amount between 20 to 29 cards and arrives at the total cards that he has cut off the deck. He then adds the digits of the number of cards. Example: If he cut off 23 cards, he adds 2+3 and gets 5.

Now, as he counts down the deck on the table, he looks at the 5th card as he is doing it. This (reversed stack) is placed on the top of the rest of the deck.

Dan did “the reveal” by using a ribbon spread and a couple of teases and bluffs, which was undoubtedly a Slydini technique. I like Dan’s way, but any sort of reveal can be done because, you have mathematically forced the chosen card to be the 19th from the top of the deck!

Now to show you the math sequence (you knew I would get back to this!) that makes this happen.

You do not have to memorize this chart! All you need to remember is the simple algorithm. “Add the number of cards (and they must be between 20 and 29) to get a single digit number and then have them look at that card as they do the reverse count down and their card will always be the 19th card. The one after the 18th card.

20 $2+0=2$ $20-2=18$

21 $2+1=3$ $21-3=18$

22 $2+2=4$ $22-4=18$

23 $2+3=5$ $23-5=18$

24 $2+4=6$ $24-6=18$

25 $2+5=7$ $25-7=18$

26 $2+6=8$ $26-8=18$

27 $2+7=9$ $27-9=18$

28 $2+8=10$ $28-10=18$

29 $2+9=11$ $29-11=18$

Thank you, Dan, for a great demonstration of the amazing order within mathematical operation.

Small illusions are “in”, big boxes are “out”, so it is time that we re-think our approach to stage magic.

You may enjoy these and my explanations. If you like them, please buy the props from the appropriate owner of the effects.

Paul demonstrates his box levitation trick as a 'tester' to a small general public audience in a tiny theatre.

I met Paul and Debbie at ABBOTTS in 1989. He was a great entertainer.

His method involves an internal collapsing shelf that you bring in when you are dropping the hooped curtain over the box.

I reversed engineered a mockup of it using cardboard when I first saw it. What I never imagined was the cords which are attached to the frame. They are used to carry and drop it in the box.

Obviously, the cords are long and he grabs them up by the knots.

Someone was selling it on a magic site a year or so ago and there was the photo which totally revealed it!

I think that you can figure this out from the photo. The metal work with the diamond plate and hinges require some precision metal work which is

why it sells for what it does. Notice notch in the top plate to allow one leg to stay on the bottom until the step top is pulled up and the sides are locked into place.



The Steve Fearson box , seen below, uses a mirror. It typically uses a Wooden frame box or a milk crate and has a diagonal mirror which reflects the front leg while the back leg stays on the floor.

You don't get very high up with this, so I consider it inferior, due to the angle issues on stage. It does look great in video and the right staging.



Below is the Nicholas Einhorn's Box Levitation method , and a totally different way of floating. .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um48LCLQoq0> It is simple. The “cardboard box” is a 3/8 inch plywood frame covered with brown paper and in the action of bringing the frame up, you flip

The lid back over it and stand on it!

I caught the moment of him flipping the front flap. The back flap is brought up by the ring in back while he is lifting the curtain.

See all the action at 5:44 in on the clip.



MagicDave Levitation Magic @ Northampton Lings Forum 20/2/15

Oh no! The Internet is at work again... Shim Lim's effects exposed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UemKZTyag>



Shin Lim's Top 5 Magic Secrets Finally Revealed | America's Got Talent | FactoFusion

That is it for this month.

Dennis Philips