

“Through the Trapdoor with Bob Neale”: Nine Session Exploring Thirteen Themes in Selected Works by Robert Neale



Hosted by
Michael Smith and Geoff Grimes

Purpose of the Workshop:

To continue an ongoing
dialogue about Bob Neale's
philosophy of magic



Introductions:

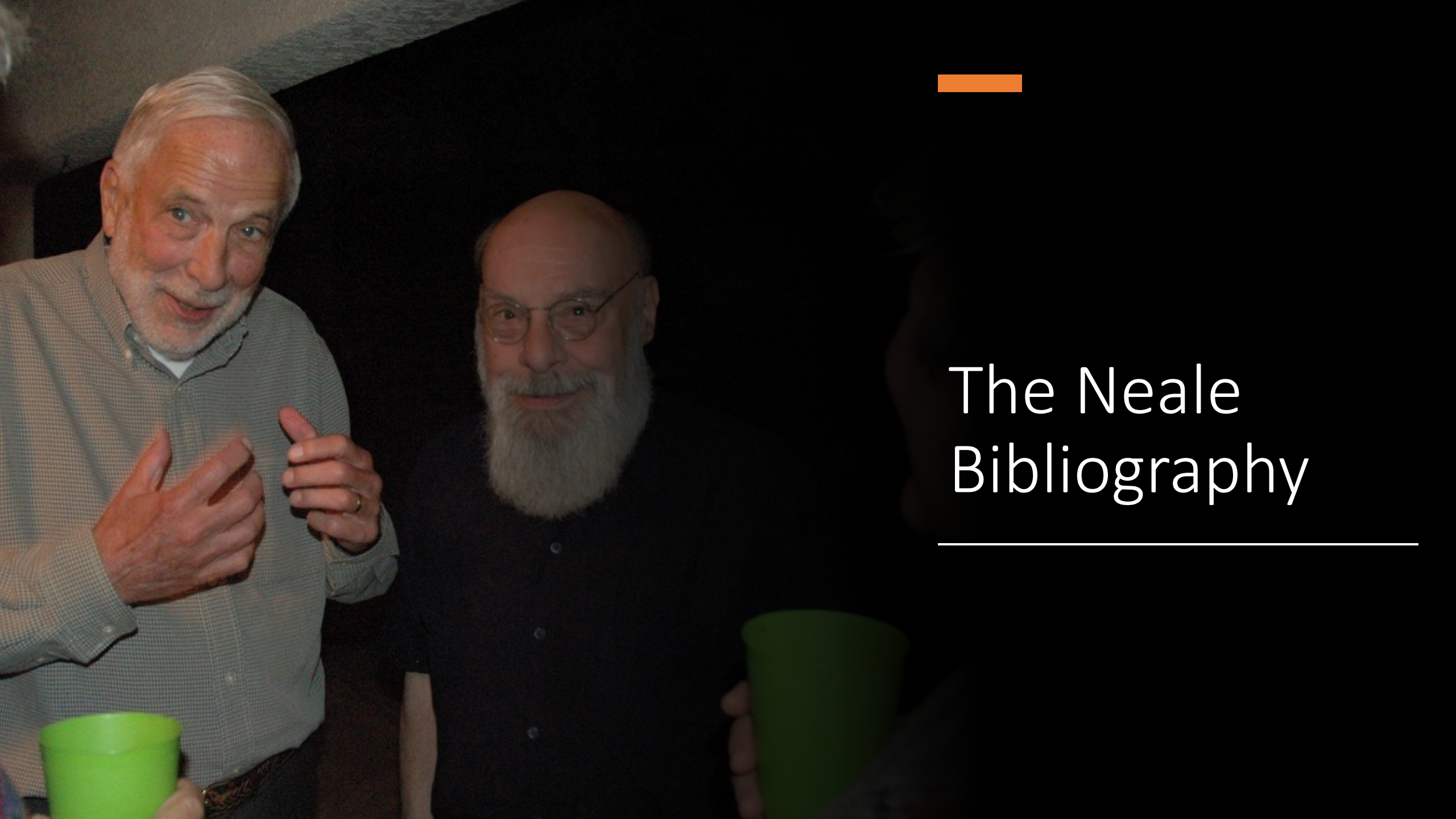
Your “Bob Neale” stories
(or magical interests)





About Bob Neale:





The Neale Bibliography

The Backstory for this Workshop:

Larry Hass and the “Trilogy”

The Magic of Celebrating Illusion
(2013)

The Sense of Wonder (2014)

An Essay On Magic (2015)



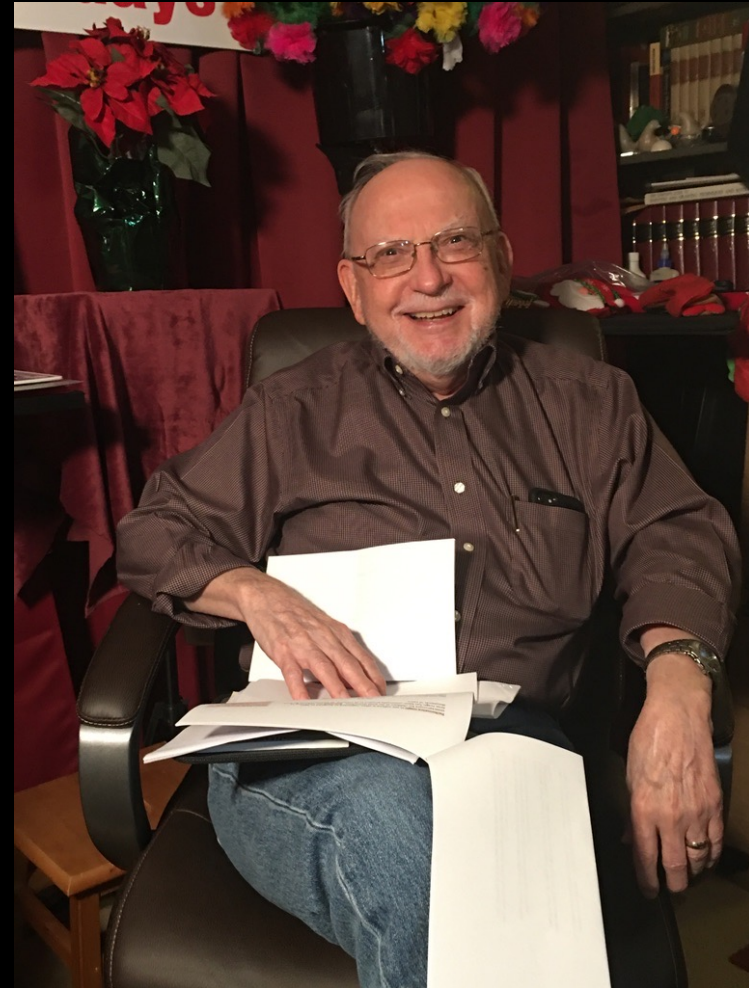
The Backstory for this Workshop:

Personal discussions in DeSoto

Identification of “themes”

Magic & Meaning Conferences,
McBride Magic & Mystery School
Las Vegas

PEPTalk Presentations



The Backstory for this Workshop:

The Index— Identification of the 13 “themes”

Play

The Trickster Spirit

Paul Pruyser’s Three World Perspective

The Imagination

Wonder

Illusions

Magic

The Magician(s)

Off-Stage/On-Stage Magic

Performance

Psychological Classification of Magic

The Ethical Heart of Spiritual Illusions: “The Four Falls”

Life and Death and . . .

THE 2018 MAGIC & MEANING CONFERENCE

The Robert E. Neale Index

A Resource for the Study of Robert E. Neale’s
Trilogy of Magic

Prepared by Michael Smith and Geoffrey Grimes
9/5/2018

The Backstory for this Workshop:

The Website —

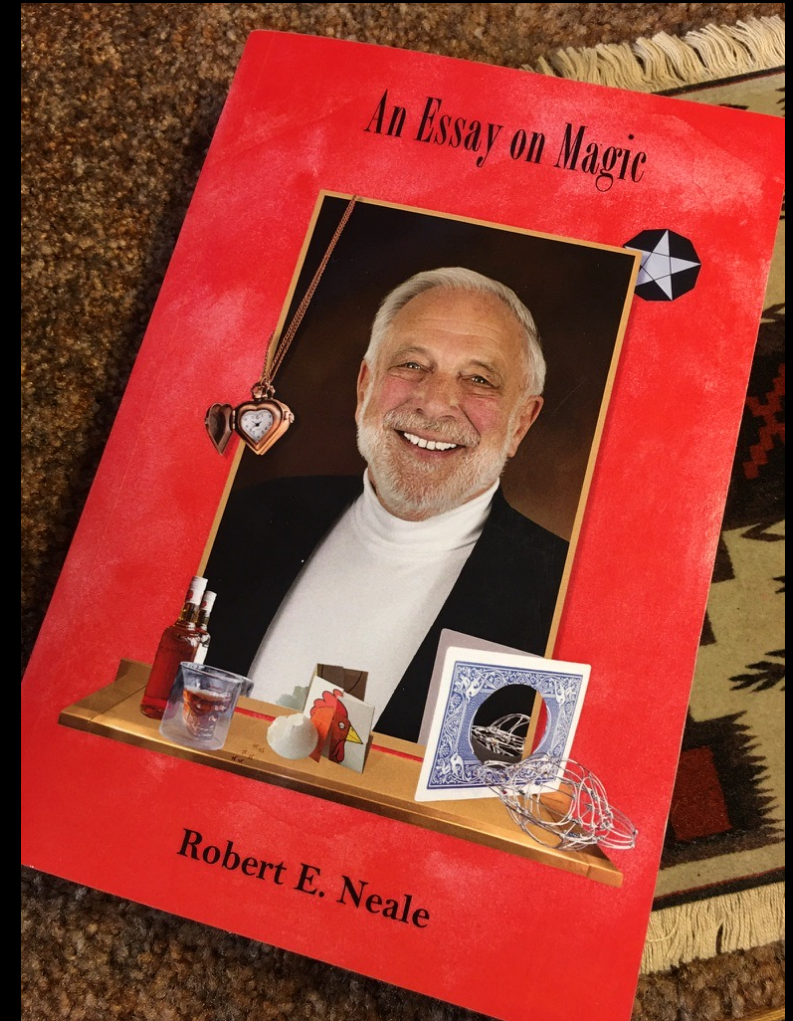
“Celebrating Illusions”

A Website Dedicated to the
Magic of Robert E. Neale

www.nealemagic.info



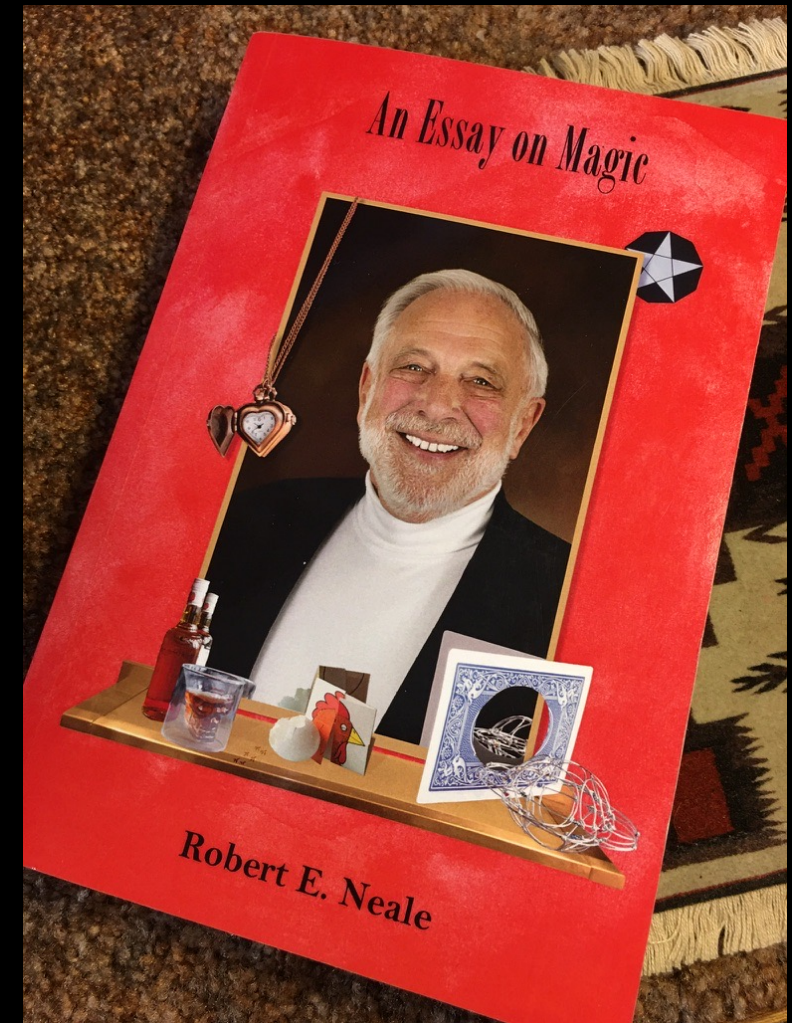
Why read Bob Neale?
What's the *point*?



Why read Bob Neale?
What's the *point*?

*“The best general theory of
magic we have yet in any
literature”*

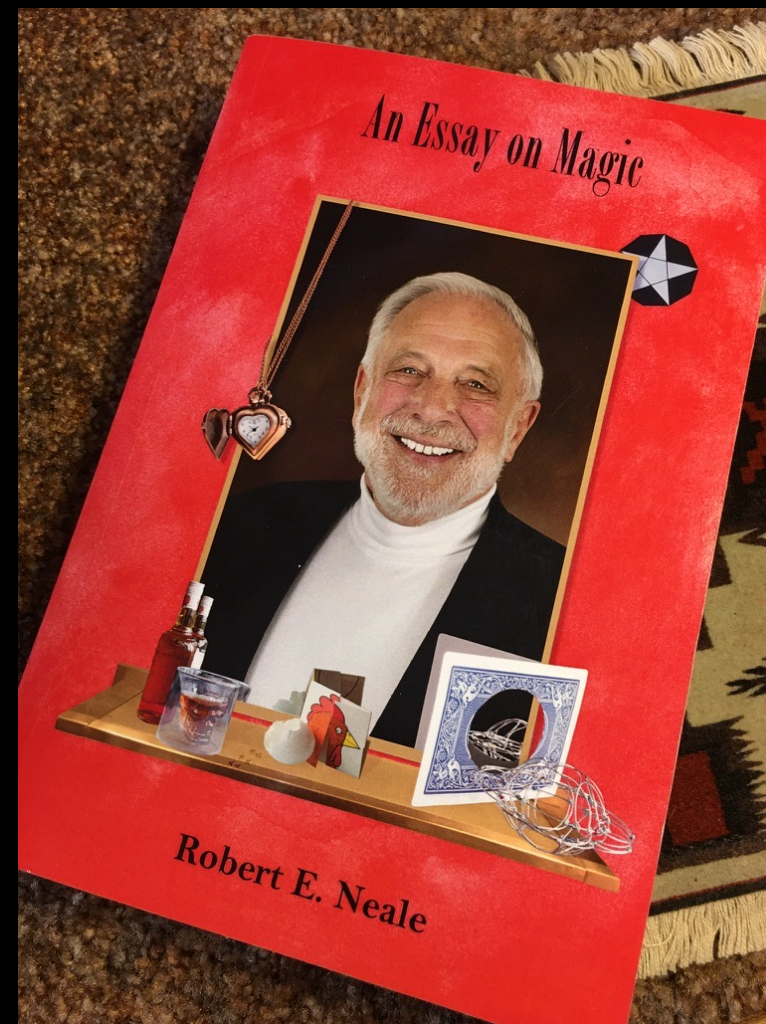
Dr. Lawrence Hass, Publisher
Theory and Art of Magic Press



Why read Bob Neale?
What's the *point*?

“To expand the horizon of magic performers . . . beyond an overly narrow focus on tricks and techniques”

Dr. Lawrence Hass, Publisher
Theory and Art of Magic Press

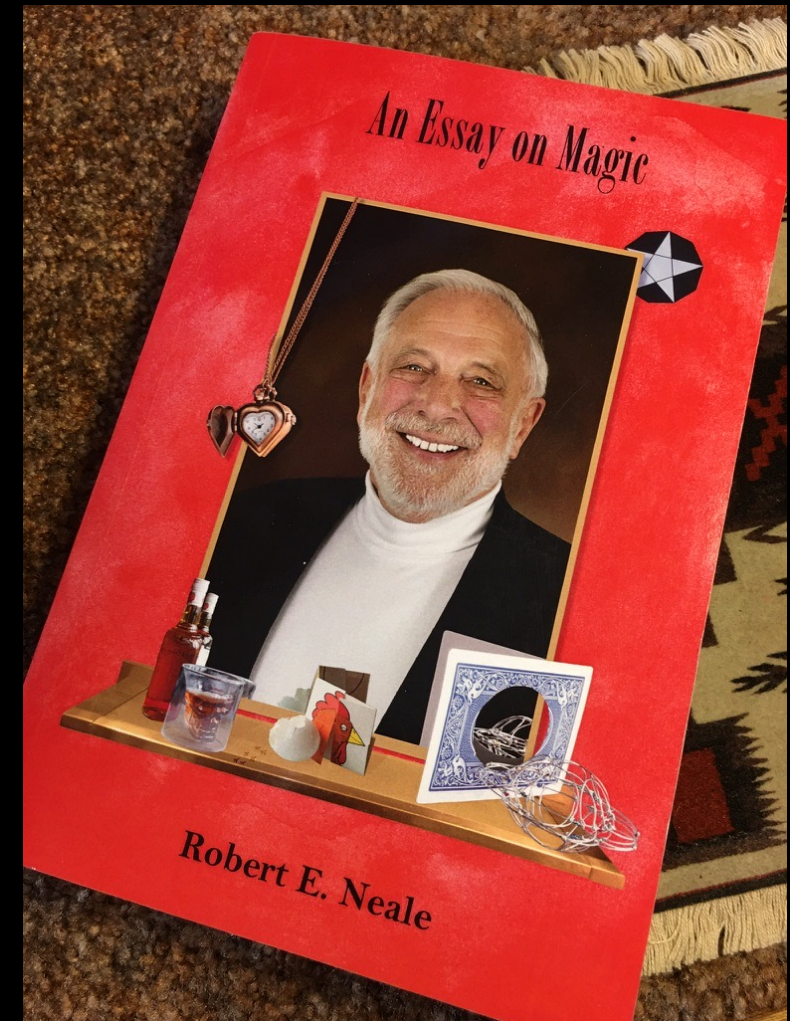


Why read Bob Neale? What's the *point*?

To explore:

1. What is magic?
2. Why does it occur?
3. Where is magic experienced today?
4. What is the purpose of stage magic?
5. And is there really any need for performers of stage magic to seek answers to such questions?

Robert E. Neale, Preface, *An Essay on Magic*



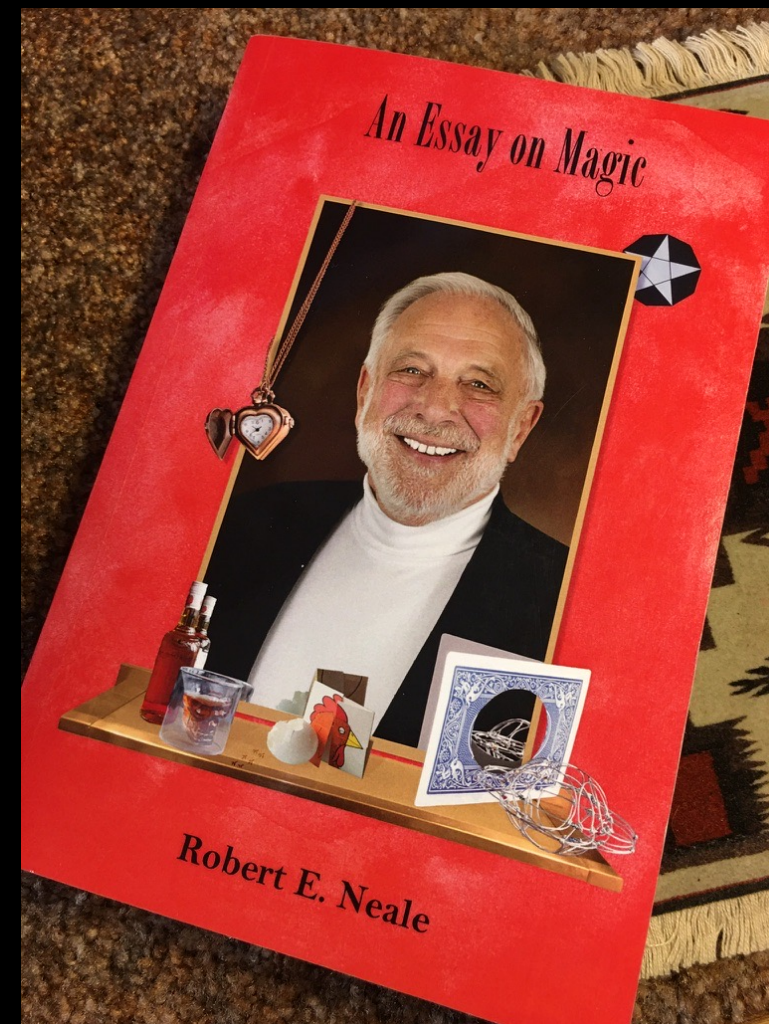
Why read Bob Neale? What's the *point*?

Bob's core thesis:

“Stage magic can reflect the magic that occurs in daily life.”

“Onstage magic is backstage magic, a mirror that enables the members of the audience to perceive in themselves the varieties of magic that occur offstage in their daily lives.”

Robert E. Neale, *An Essay on Magic*

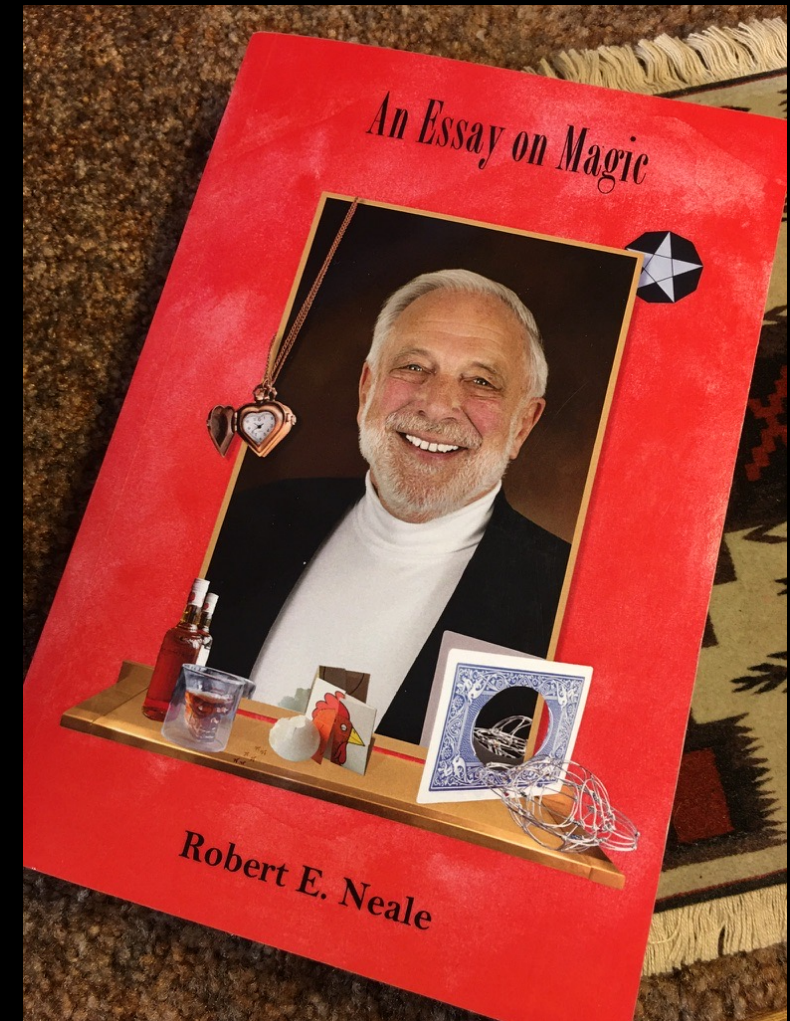



Why read Bob Neale? What's the *point*?

A Diagram of Bob's Theory of the "Many Magics":


- Life Magics
- Traditional Magics
- Modern Magics
- Stage Magics

Robert E. Neale, *An Essay on Magic*





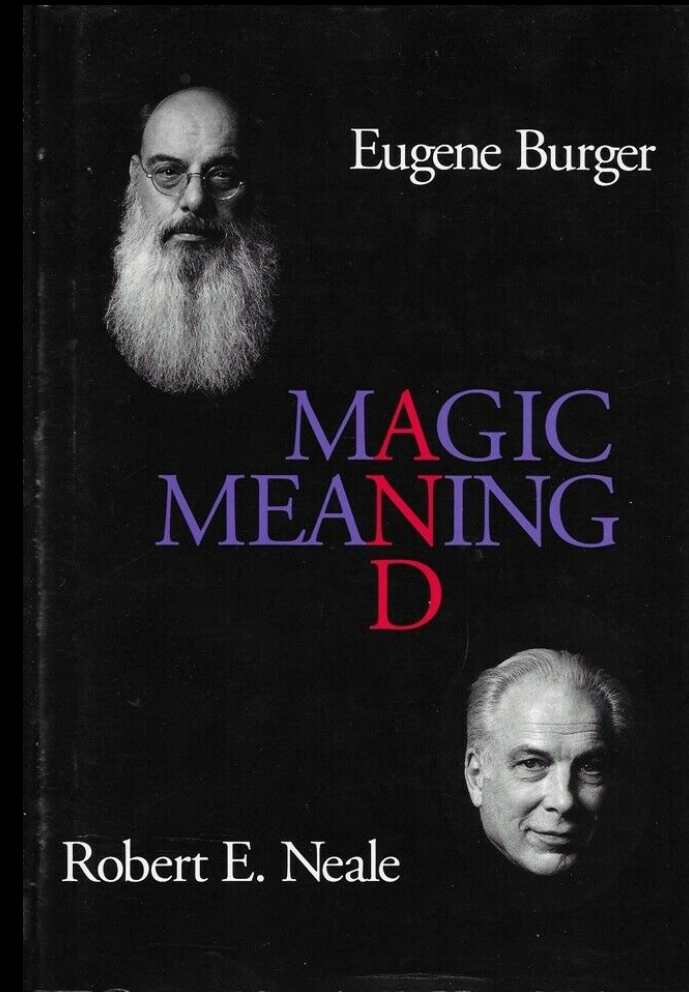
So, where does someone
new to Bob's work even
begin?



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So, where does someone new to Bob's work even begin?



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5. Astonishing Essays




So, where does someone
new to Bob's work even
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Our Sessions Schedule:

Jan 15: Introduction, Background,
and Overview

Feb 5: Play & Trickster Spirit

Feb 19: Pruyser's Three Worlds &
Imagination

Mar 5: Wonder

Mar: 19: Illusion(s)

Apr 2: Magic & Magicians

Apr 16: Off Stage/On Stage Magic

May 7: Psychological Classifications of
Magic

May 21: Ethical Heart of Spiritual
Illusions & Life and Death
and . . .

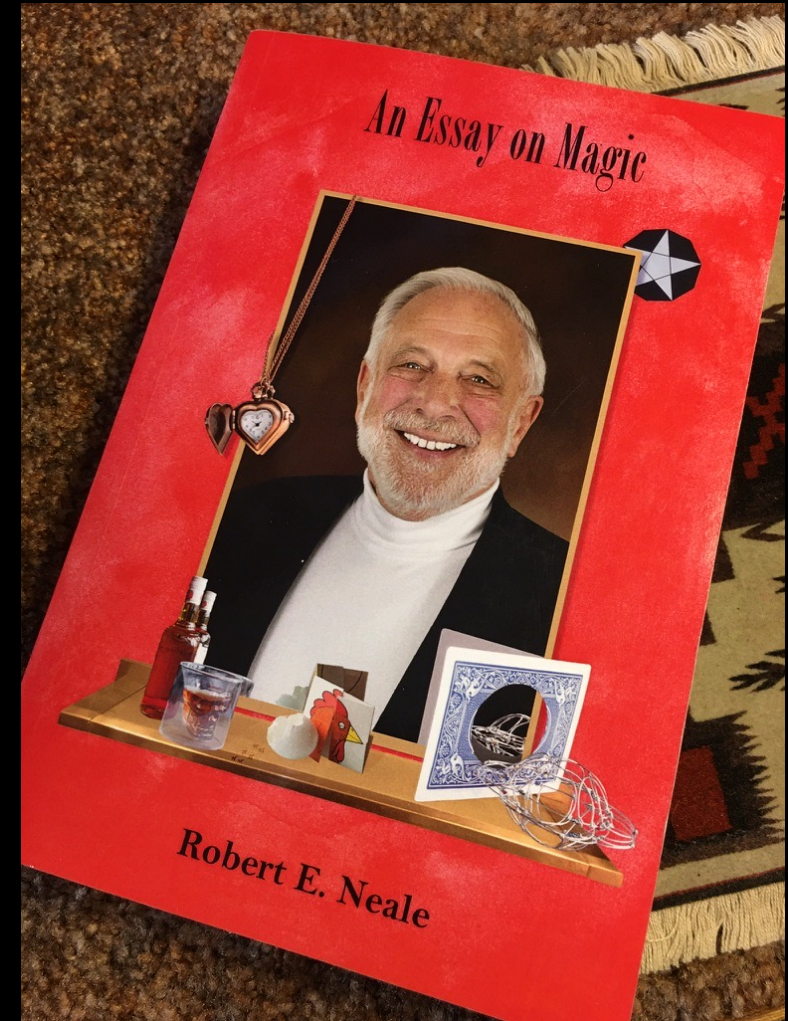


Homework:

Read *An Essay on Magic*,
Chapter 1 (pages 45-96)

Study questions:

- 1) Identify the “life magics”?
- 2) Define the differences between the “traditional” and the “modern magics”?
- 3) Explain the three types of “stage magic”?



Special thanks to Jeff and Abigail McBride for permission to share information about this workshop with members of the 2021 Magic and Meaning Conference participants.

Consider becoming a member of what the BBC has described as "the world's most prestigious magic school."

Go to:

www.magicalwisdom.com and click on "Become a member"!



A very special thanks to

Dr. Robert “Bob” and Gail Neale for their encouragement and blessing for this workshop

Dr. Larry Hass, Dean, The McBride Magic and Mystery School, Publisher, *Theory and Art of Magic Press*, host of the “Index” and for all his support and encouragement.

David-Reed Brown, Instructor, The McBride Magic and Mystery School, whose inspiration and support has made this seminar series possible

And the friends of Bob Neale who have contributed to the recording and transmission of Bob’s work over the years.

