



The Flash Paper

March 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

The trait of a magician we are concentrating on this month with our Junior Magicians is "Being Prepared" and that being prepared is not only having your props ready, but also practicing everything

you will say and do.

For being prepared, we also worked on some impromptu "Dinner Table" magic like the Three Cup Trick where you have to flip all three cups face up by flipping over two cups at the same time. We learned how to bend forks and spoons - not actual bending, but the illusion of holding a spoon in both hands while pretending to bend it. We also shared a rather convincing effect that was new to me where two straws are tied together and magically separate at the magician's command. Knowing a few good tricks that can be performed solely with objects on hand can help create your reputation as a magician.

It got me thinking about what truly impromptu tricks I know. Tricks that require no secret props or gimmicks of any kind and could be immediately performed with borrowed objects common to the environment in which one might find themselves. Watch for an upcoming discussion thread on our Facebook page, I would love to hear about your favorites.

Monday Night
Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

STEVE NESPOR

When you experience current OMS President Steve Nespor in performance, you will not only enjoy his family magic show but also the children's reactions to his magic.

Two shows in one!
Use the QR code below to also see the magic trick Steve will be teaching in the DIY section of his program.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
No charge for attending this event.

Monday, March 21, 2022 | From 7-8:00 PM (CST)
The Cross Training Center, 5030 N. 72nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska

All in person attendees will be wearing masks.

Might you know of a family who would enjoy a **Family Magic Show** on Monday evening, March 21, from 7-8 PM? A few tickets are available. Due to room size restrictions, only **twelve (12) Family Tickets** are available for this month's Monday Night Magic performance of **Steve Nespor**.

Although there is **NO CHARGE** for the tickets, the family will need to make a reservation by registering using the link in the bar below.



[Register For A Family Ticket HERE](#)

Regular members need no ticket. You can bring a trick or two to share with our guests.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



An Evening with Joe Cole

Assembly 007 Omaha NE - November 15, 2021

Sixteen folks gathered in person and 13 joined the fun through Zoom as thirty-year, veteran of tableside magic, and OMS member, Joe Cole, entertained us with a series of magic illusions and a lecture for our February Monday Night Magic event.

Starting off the evening with a sponge ball routine perfectly choreographed and scripted, Joe showed us several different maneuvers which he regularly performs in his close-up magic. Then, he walked us through his false transfers in his easy, conversational style. Witnessing these smooth routines, it was clear that Joe is a real pro when one imagines performing in the unpredictable environment inherent when working a room at an event or a restaurant. Those who get to see him while dining or enjoying whatever the event, are really lucky to watch his magic.



Joe and volunteer Adam Schact

He created a large butter knife from the normal size utensil which brought laughter. I had to mute myself on Zoom as did others. This was evident from the silent, but smiling, and obviously chuckling faces apparent in each window on the screen.

And of course, Joe brought along his “A” game with the card tricks he handles so deftly. It was fun to see him show us “Frustrated” with his humorous banter. Also, his force using a rubber-band as an aid was so simple and so clever. That was a really useful technique that he graciously gave to us.



Micah Johnson watches attentively.

Not only did he bring us ninety minutes of routines from his career, but also supplied, at no charge, a 36-page set of lecture notes with 67 photos as a reference for those who attended.

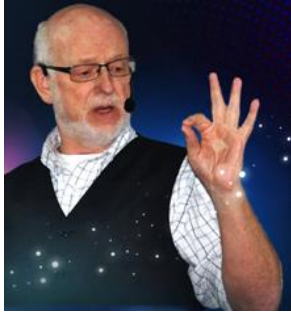
THANK YOU, Joe, for an extraordinary evening of sharing your expertise and experience!

Patrice Fisher – OMS Secretary



2022 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- Vice President** – Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehring gehringerr@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com



Larry's Logic

by

Larry Brodahl

What Magic Should Be

This next discussion really gets to the crux of the matter when it comes to magic.

What should a magic act – that you want to perform – look like?

Should it be a comedy bonanza with a smattering of tricks? Or maybe a TON of unbelievable magic with some funny lines?

Or perhaps manipulations? Card-istry? Or is this more juggling than magic?



Now your opinion might change with time. I'm willing to say it SHOULD change as you get older and more experienced. Let's face it, a lot of the jokes that KILLED me when I was 12 don't quite carry the same impact today, so why should magic be any different?

When I was in my 20's, I thought that my act should be as absolutely weird and funny as I could make it. And the spots between the jokes and gags would be when the tricks occurred.

Today, I think 100% the opposite. I'm a *magician!* That means the MAGIC has to be the focus of my act. I'll still try to make it funny, but I'm going to perform magic to the best of my ability...which means I'll make it as baffling, as impressive, as impossible as I can. Even if I have to lose a few jokes in the process.

And what this means is that what YOU think a magic act should look like is what you should built towards. And anything that doesn't fit your view should be ruthlessly eliminated.

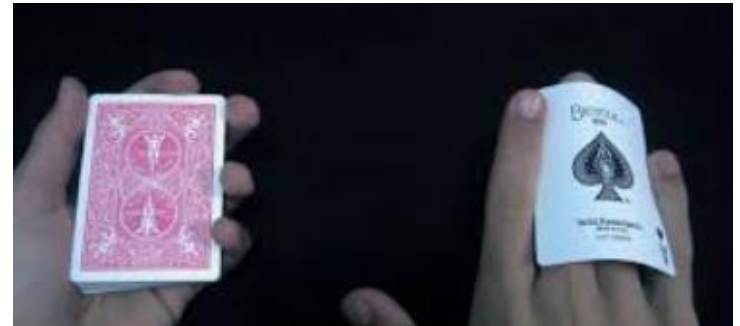
I know, this breaks your heart because you spent HOURS and HOURS learning to do back palming only to discover that a manipulation act doesn't fit you. But no one said doing magic is easy. And even if you are someone that only performs informally, and does maybe 1 or 2 tricks at a time, you still need to decide what your act should look like.

Let's say you're going to a cousin's birthday party, and you want to show him/her a single trick. You need to remember that you're building a memory for him/her...what do you want the memory to be of?

A cousin that's REALLY good with a deck of cards? A cousin that sorta freaked me out, as he somehow knew that I drew a picture of a duck? Or a cousin that plays around with funny sticks that have jewels glued to them?

The only right answer is of course, the answer that is right for YOU!

And before we finish this, let me explain that I do NOT think that learning a sleight such as back palming is useless.



Even if you never use it, it teaches you discipline, makes you aware of bad angles, etc. All useful stuff.

And as a side note, I use it a lot for the trick where you hold a duplicate of the forced card behind the spectator's head as they spin an egg beater and "send their thoughts" to someone in the audience.

Instead of a duplicate card, I steal the chosen card and then back palm it. This allows me to do the trick impromptu at parties, etc.



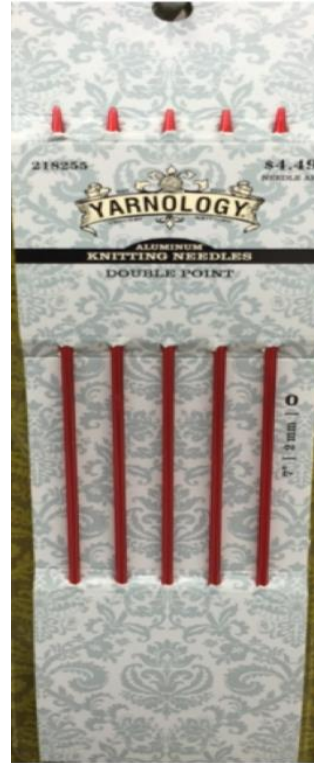
All paid up 2022 members will receive the 2022 password to our Online Learning Center. You can pay by logging in to our website.



Two ideas demonstrated on this month's video library addition. From the repertoire of carnival conmen comes this simple seldom seen matchbox scam as well as a visual pseudo-juggling stunt with multiple matchboxes.

STEP RIGHT UP!

The barker at the carnival has a colorful dispenser of multi-colored drinking straws. "Step right up!" he says. Pick a straw and win a prize. There's a winner every time. Only two dollars to play. At least 25% of the straws contain an expensive prize!"



What they don't know is that the barker has put two small paper pellets in each colorful plastic straw. If he pushes with his long needle from one end, the inexpensive prize comes out written on the paper pellet. If he pushes from the other end, the better prize pellet comes out.

When the crowd dwindles, he lets somebody win. The crowd grows again.

After all, . . . even the big prizes cost him less than what he charges people to play his little game.

Excerpt from the unpublished *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



THANK YOU to all who shop Amazon through Amazon Smile - designating The Omaha Magical Society as your charity of choice. The club just received a \$117 donation from Amazon today as result.

Visit <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate> to learn more and how to sign up.





PERSONALITY - The Indispensable

Why do some prefer one comedian over another? Don't they all tell jokes? Why do some prefer one late night talk show over another? Don't they all have guests, monologues, and music?

How about singers? Don't they all sing songs? How about magicians? Don't they all perform magic tricks?

In addition to skill, PERSONALITY plays an enormous role.



Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper at the Oscars

When the process works as it should, singers find a song and processes that song through their own personalities -- singing it in a manner only they could deliver. They literally share a part of themselves with their audience. It's magical! An audience knows when it's happening!

And an audience also knows when it isn't happening. In this sad scenario, the singer simply sings the song in a technically perfect albeit mechanical manner. Or worse yet, they try and sing it just like another singer has successfully performed it. They do not share themselves with their audience. Instead, they literally hide behind the song. And its performance fails to satisfy the listener.

Pay attention for several evenings to the musical guest section of a late-night talk show and see if you can tell the difference between when a singer is sharing themselves with the audience or when that singer is merely singing a song. Once you understand the process of a singer sharing themselves with the audience, the difference is not difficult to detect.

With an understanding of the process, we can now change the words to joke, comedian, and audience, and the process remains the same.

If we use the words magic trick, magician, and audience, the process is unaffected.

Performing magic is a dynamic form of self-expression!

With this understanding, it's not difficult to see that a magician with an uninteresting/ unlikable personality will have great difficulty presenting any magic in an interesting manner.

And a magician with an interesting/ likable personality will have little difficulty presenting magic in an interesting manner.

The difference is the magician! No high-tech push button magic trick will ever be able to compete or replace a knowledgeable magician with an interesting personality! Now for the good news! I have never yet met a magician that didn't have some aspects of their personality that others would find interesting.

Sometimes it was a special talent, hobby, interest, or an experience from their past. Sometimes it was a difficulty they had overcome or a character strength everyone admired.

However, many magicians take these aspects of their personality for granted and consequently never have capitalized on their most interesting/ likable qualities nor focused on their character development. Still others are afraid of vulnerability and continue to hide their strengths -- presenting material but never sharing themselves with their participants.

As your own magic routines increasingly become a form of self-expression, both you and your participants will notice the difference.

What would others find interesting/ likable about you? You might need to ask someone you trust.

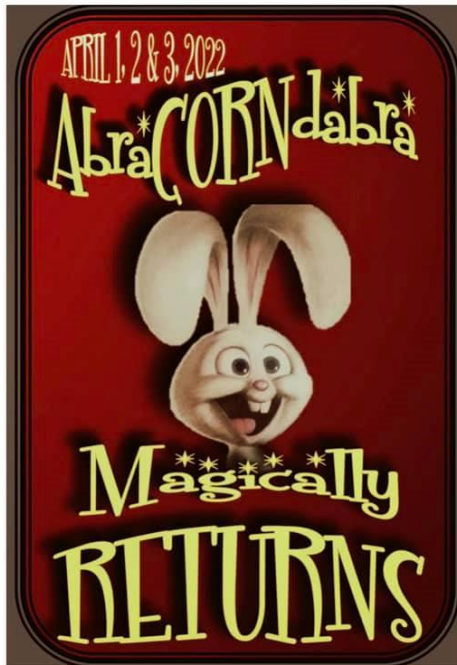
Excerpted from the book *Showmanship for Presenters*. Used with permission.



Omaha Magical Society - S.A.M. Assembly #7 Facebook Features Some snippets for those who don't visit Facebook

[Dave Arch](#)

Thinking about driving over to Des Moines? I'm going to. See the schedule of shows, lectures, and dealers here: <http://abracorndabra.com/schedule/>



AbraCORNdabra IS
BACK IN 2022!

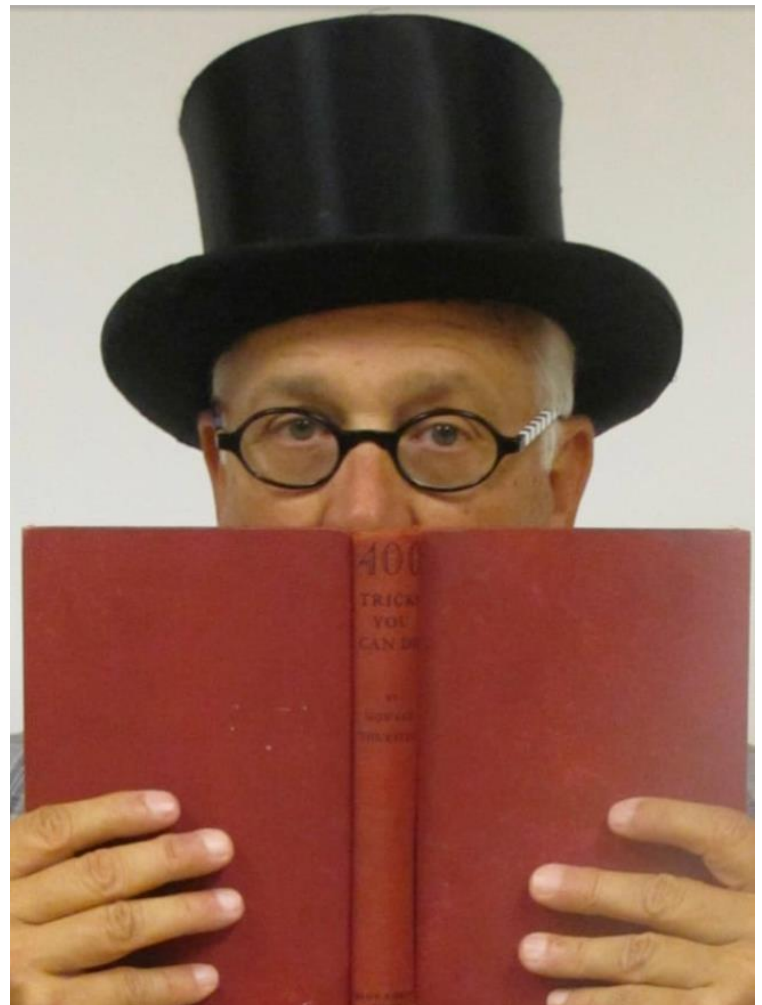
WE ARE BACK! For the first time in two years - our little magical family reunion will happen April 1, 2 & 3, 2022! We are **SO EXCITED!** We will have **LOTS** of laughs - and - since it is **APRIL FOOLS DAY WEEKEND** - we are celebrating with an **ALL-COMEDY MAGIC CONVENTION!!!**

Register TODAY - We will be sold out at 200 registrations - we are close to that now!

Stephen Bargatze is lecturing Friday night, April 1st at the **AbraCORNdabra** magic convention in Des Moines at 6:00 PM.

You can read more about Stephen's incredible life story and the impact of magic on it here: <https://bit.ly/3BTBW9I>

You can read more about the convention here: <http://abracorndabra.com>





Saw OMS member [Ryan Chandler](#) this afternoon at Mahoney State Park with two of my oldest grandchildren. Made for a delightful Saturday afternoon watching a true professional work his routines ... and the room.

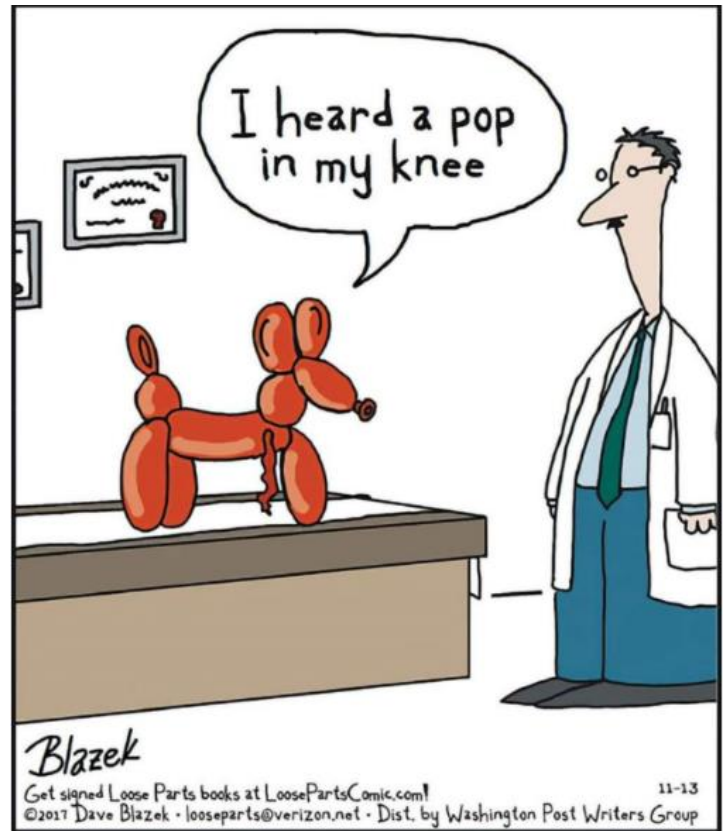
The family audience loved him, and I got to watch his full cups and ball routine honed in hundreds of street shows to what I consider to be an awesome perfection. Thank you Ryan from my grandchildren and me for providing such an enjoyable experience.

I encourage you to catch him if your schedule allows.

<https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/shows>



OMS member Jerry Golmanavich recommended this movie on Amazon Prime - chronicling the history of black magicians in America. Interesting to be sure.



Thomas Neddo

March 8 at 8:43 PM · 🌐



I am considering getting a group of magicians together to work on coin routines.

Personally, I'm working on a

single coin routine and would like the feedback and fellowship of like-minded magicians. If you are interested in taking part in a coin-focused series of magic jam sessions and would like to improve your own routines, let me know. Once/if I get the names of everyone interested, we can meet to discuss specifics.

Please note, that this is not, technically, an OMS only sponsored event. I am open to meeting with magicians outside of the club. Also, I haven't been to the club in person for quite some time. If you are new to the club, but don't know me, don't let that stop you. 80)



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When you're ready to join via **ZOOM**, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings). All in person attendees will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing throughout the evening.

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

