



The Flash Paper

November 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

So, this month I'll be touching on a few more items from the club survey. First, responses indicated that people want us to continue the Junior Magicians group, our

Flash Paper, live-streaming the monthly meetings, lectures, going out together after the meeting, refreshments, and prize drawings. Let's take a moment to look at those.

Our Junior Magicians group will start a new wand level in January, so if you know a young person between the ages of 7 and 14 with an interest in magic, you might invite them to consider joining us on Monday nights. One new thing we will be reviving for this age group is the Associate Member status as outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws which says any person who is at least fourteen (14) years of age but less than eighteen (18) years of age may apply for acceptance as an Associate Member. At the age of eighteen they may reapply for acceptance as an Active Member.

The Flash Paper will continue under the able editorship of **Bob Gehringer**. Many of us look forward to it each month and under Bob it has grown into a top-notch publication. We will also continue live-streaming the monthly meetings on Zoom and have some improvements coming that should make the process more streamlined for **Roger Reese**, **Larry Brodahl**, **Tim Begley**, and **Steve Osborn** who show up before we get there to set it all up.

People would like to continue having lecturers brought in and as more of them begin regularly working the circuits again we can look forward to a variety in the coming year.

Several folks commented on how much they enjoy going out together after the meeting. For the present, Maloney's is the place that happens and our thanks to **David Fox** for taking point on this one. The last couple of favorites were refreshments at the meetings and prize drawings at the formal conclusion of our gatherings. Thanks go to **Bob Miller**

for the treats during meetings and we still have prizes for drawings so that will keep happening.

There was a question as to whether we would be doing the Boys Town picnic again. That was stopped of necessity during Covid and as of last summer, such events were not yet getting a green light. We will happily continue it once we get their permission.

At our November meeting we will have elections for the 2023 OMS Officers right before our featured lecturer **Ben Ulin** who has the longest running amusement park magic show in history. He will share his tips for success, teach a simple formula for creativity, and show us some useful magic hacks. I personally use his handling of the Zig Zag Pencil prop that he routined with a borrowed, signed dollar bill.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Cross Training Center on Monday, November 21st at our regular time, or catch us on the Zoom live-stream for some Monday Night Magic.



Pizza and Prestidigitation

Our first pizza party and magic round-robin rotation made for a lively evening. Food always nurtures camaraderie, so to start the evening early and break bread with each other will definitely continue to be on the agenda in the future. This year we have several new members. So, beginning the evening at the pizza and beverage table before getting seated at tables for the close-up magic created the perfect atmosphere to connect old and new members. The banter began with food and continued throughout the evening, settling down between sets as four of our members entertained those in the room and on Zoom with their close-up illusions. Four magicians rotated between four tables after fifteen-minute sets at each. I guess, for Halloween, let's call it a round-raven venue.



First up was the senior magician **Denny Rourke**, well-known for his card-fanning artistry. Along with his card manipulations and sleight-of-hand, his comedic patter is always a treat. Years of entertaining experience has created clever illusions that he most graciously shared. The new members certainly gained respect for his expertise, as card-fanning is not practiced commonly by young magicians. In addition, Denny is the author of *The Everything Card Tricks Book* and *The Lost Art of Human Memory*, both available on Amazon. Personally, I ordered the memory manual immediately.

Next, **Trevor Groenje**, a new member, sat down at our Zoom featured table. His love of magic was stimulated when his parents bought him a magic kit when he was six years old. By the time he hit high school, he was proficient at juggling and even eating fire. While his fellow classmates loved these tricks, his teachers were not as happy with his fire-eating props and maneuvers. Soon, he earned the nickname Tricky Trevor. His routines for the evening included an obscure and rather fascinating story using a full deck of cards, which he learned at the age of eight from a mentor for his magic.

The next member, new to our group, brought magic that was perfect for Halloween. The young magician, **Aleister Knight**, performed some bizarre magic that really brought a spooky vibe to the evening. His true love is for card illusions. It was fun to see his sleights, creepy mentalism, and geek stunts, all amidst strange story elements.

Our fourth featured performer was young new member, **Adam Schacht**. His enthusiasm and ease with entertaining has infused much new energy to the club. His first paid performance was at ten years old! This encouraged his magic such that he has been a part-time magician since he was seventeen years old. His stage confidence was further cultivated as he traveled the world with the *Young Americans* troupe from California, which he joined after attending high school in the midwest. We are excited that he is sharing the magic that he has performed across the globe with our Omaha Magical Society!

Halloween is a magician's playground. So, we were happily surprised that our October pizza palooza was well attended. Thanks to four of our members who created a night of magical entertainment and to the volunteers who ordered the pizzas and coordinated the other arrangements, the evening kicked off the season successfully. - **Patrice Fisher - Secretary, O.M.S.**





Ben Ulin
sort of a magician

Spent an evening with a master entertainer and creator of the longest running amusement park magic show in history. Learn tips for success, a simple formula for creativity, some useful magic hacks, and a few favorite routines.

Monday Night
Magic

FEATURING
BEN ULIN

Sponsored by **The Omaha Magical Society**

Spent an evening with a master entertainer and creator of the longest running amusement park magic show in history. Learn tips for success, a simple formula for creativity, some useful magic hacks, and a few favorite routines.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022 | 7-8:30 PM (CDT)
The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska

With special thanks to our sponsor Taylor Made Home Solutions



Here is a link for those who might want to read a little background on Ben: <https://bit.ly/3Ta6Hht>



Larry's Logic MOVES

Before we get bogged down in discussions of double lifts, etc. let me

clarify what I mean by MOVES.

I mean any motion, subtlety, sleight, etc. that **MUST** be done to complete the trick.

And we also need to agree that a move can be detected **WITHOUT** being understood.

If someone does a pass, and an audience member thinks, "What did he just do?", then the pass was not successful.

I personally don't believe **ANY** audience member has ever **ACTUALLY** understood a pass but many have seen one.

I don't believe that a layman would actually:

1. Believe that you can cut the cards undetectably or even try to.
2. Understand that what they saw was the deck being cut.
3. Understand **WHY** someone would do this.

But if the spectator notices "something", that moment becomes the moment the trick was done. Regardless of what the spectator understands, the magical impact of the trick is greatly lessened.

So, you need to look at each move and try to make it undetectable through whatever means you can. This includes:

- misdirection aka guided attention
- staging and blocking
- doing the motions identically even when you're **NOT** doing the move. Aka naturalness.
- Doing the move casually. No body tension, no blinking, etc.



To give you a good example, **Mel Mellers** has a spectator write on 2 separate billets, 2 words, 2 billets. And the billets get mixed up.

He does a center tear on one of the billets and tosses the bits to the floor. He then asks the spectator to read the **REMAINING** billet, and Mr. Meller ensures that he **CAN'T** peek at it by turning his back on the spectator while the spectator reads the remaining billet.

Meanwhile, with his back to the audience, he opens the center tear and reads it. That my friends, is perfect **COVER!**

And the psychology behind the ploy is perfect. If there's one thing the audience doesn't want, it's for the performer to have a chance to peek at the billet. By turning his back, he gives the audience **EXACTLY** what they want **AND** ensures the reading of the center is covered.

Now you still want to keep all arm, shoulder and head motions to a minimum, but that's certainly an easy thing to do.

So, you need to analyze every single step of the trick to make sure that it has everything it needs to remain unseen.

Even linguistic ploys, such as equivoque need to be examined. Magicians such as **Hugard, Annemann, and Goldstein** have all published ways to tweak equivoque to be more deceptive.



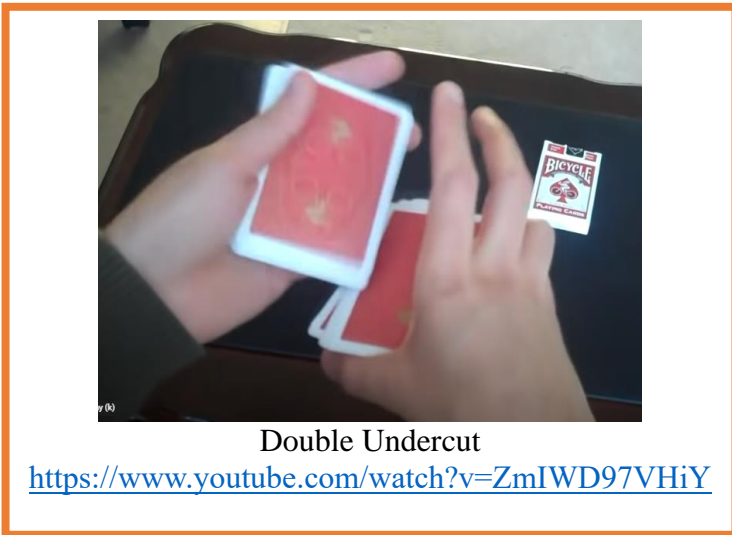


Now, let's assume that you can't do a pass to save your soul. Well, more practice would fix that, but let's assume you don't want to go to that much work. Change the pass to a double undercut. It works.... **but**...notice that it's NOT the same trick now.

When the magician uses the pass, the audience sees the card put back into the middle of the deck, and THAT'S IT!

When they see a **double undercut**, they see the card put back into the middle of the deck, and then the deck is mixed up by cutting the deck a couple of times. And a suspicious viewer could imagine that the selected card is somehow controlled somewhere. After all, if you legitimately put the card in the middle of the deck, and legitimately cut the deck twice, it's even possible the chosen card would be at the top of the deck.

Next up – PROCESSES.



Double Undercut

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmIWD97VHiY>

2022 OMS Officers

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

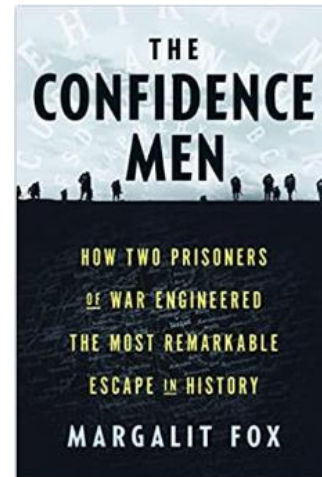


Book review by Steve Osborn

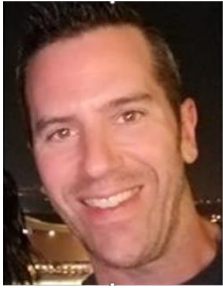
The Confidence Men by Margalit Fox

This story recounts the amazing true tale of a British

and Australian officer who were captured by the Turks in WW1. They were sent to a secluded POW camp in the middle of Turkey with no chance of escape. What follows, especially to those versed in the world of magic, mentalism and psychological manipulation is a fascinating story of the will of the human spirit combined with the skills of those empowered by the art of conjuring and mental seduction.



What started as entertainment using a Ouija board and conjuring performed for the inmates' entertainment developed into an intricate plot to convince the guards and commander that they truly could communicate with the spirit world. 1918 was a time that spiritualism still was widely practiced and believed. If the magic of radio communication was true, so possibly could mental communication with the spirit world be a reality. Their skills involving seances and complex codes developed into an elaborate plan to escape their jailers with great risk to themselves as well as the other prisoners. The book is a great read and I believe everyone in the Omaha Magical Society would enjoy it. Furthermore, for those going to Magifest 2023 in Columbus the author Margalit Fox will be there to give a talk about her book and sign copies. Good chance to grab your book and get it signed.



Magic of the Night: Hiding in Plain Sight

Review by Jered Schaugaard

40th Street Theater, *Magic of the Night: Hiding in Plain Sight*, was the sixth year of the annual magic show produced and performed by **David Fox**, **Theron Christensen**, and **Ryan Chandler**. For anyone unfamiliar with the show (shame on you), it's a Halloween "themed" show with the three producers/performers, and a special guest. This year was exceptional with the inclusion of not just one guest performer, but three: **The Amazing Lindy** and **Ann and Denny Rourke**. Denny and Ann pulled double duty by also MCing the show, which kept it moving seamlessly forward, with amazement and laughter.

Featured performers **Ann** and **Denny Rourke** opened the show to a packed house, manipulating the hearts and minds of the audience, with beautifully skillful card manipulation.



Ryan Chandler, former *Penn and Teller Fool Us* performer, was next and while his macro expressive style kept the audience laughing, it was the micro expressive spectator that kept them guessing. Next, he wowed the audience with his ability to predict the future, in the present, using a piece of apparatus from the past. I've heard this is a feature in Ryan's Mahoney State Park shows, so I won't spoil it for you here. Finally, he guessed the name of a spectator's favorite child and the exact time they were born. If you haven't had the opportunity to see Ryan perform, do yourself a favor and track him down.

Denny returned to the stage, performing *The Linking Rings*. I feel a description of *The Linking Rings* would be condescending (and not just because it came from me), so let's just say, it was beautifully choreographed and leave it at that.



Next, **The Amazing Lindy**, took the stage his intro... was on fire! In an unexpected twist, he stepped out of the spotlight and cued a spectator to take over the role of magician and perform the first effect. Next, he invited a very, very, very brave young man up on stage to do a bit of sword swallowing. Finally, Mr. Amazing donned a

lab coat, complete with bloody handprints and performed a mystical rendition of, what I can only describe as a liquid version of the classic effect, *Sands of the Desert*.

Denny once again appeared, this time recounting a story about his first encounter with the infamous *Three Card Monte*. The audience, captivated by his story telling and skill, were unable to avoid being metaphorically duped out of their money.

David Fox was up next. His presentations were intricately weaved together in a ghostly story about a trapped spirit that touches the mind of a helper. The helper then becomes a conduit for the ghost, who uses the helper to reveal their identity, which (in my interpretation) sets the spirit free. David has such command of the stage that at times, it felt like I was watching a play.

At this point, the show took an intermission. I took the opportunity to walk around and eavesdrop on conversations. As I expected, the conversations were filled with things like, "Where's the bathroom?" and "I'm getting another drink!" but in between those comments, people were chatting excitedly about how great the show was and how they couldn't wait to see the rest of it.



Denny kicked off the second half of the show with a childhood story about learning to count from one to Jack, that culminated with him introducing his biggest fan.



Next up was recent *Penn and Teller Fool Us* performer, **Theron Christensen**. Theron brought his contagious knowledge of magical history to the stage, in the form of two classic magic effects. In the first presentation, a mash-up of fairy tales comes to life, with sinister witches, possibly dubious children, and a dark

and mysterious forest. Since I'm writing this, I'm taking creative liberties and calling his first presentation, "Can't see the Forest-Witches for the Trees". His next performance gave tribute to the Top Hat, one of magic's most honored and powerful objects. Outside of the hat, physics ruled the day, but inside the hat, all bets were off as rings penetrated, and ropes restored and grew. Leaning on my creative liberties, I will call this one, Dean's Inspiration.



Denny and Ann returned to the stage. I'm going to skip past the jumbo knife, the jumbo cards, and the jumbo prediction (you should have been there) and get right to the part where they performed possibly the most Halloween-eee magic trick of all time, The Guillotine! Despite knowing the spectator is going to be safe, there's a part of every person watching, that squirms just a little

bit, when that big old blade drops through the air. Denny and Ann, you really know how to bring elegance and style to 18th century execution devices.



David Fox performing with his cohorts on stage.

Finally in true *Magic of the Night* fashion, all of the performers returned to the stage for their finale, which was something of a masterclass on wrap-up closers. I've seen every *Magic of the Night* and while each one was great in its own right, this one really struck me as the best one, so far. I can't wait to see what next year brings.

Permit me to use this space to clarify a couple things. Firstly, memory is fallible and my memory seems to be more fallible than most. While I tried to depict the show as it was performed, it's more likely I've depicted it as how I remember it. This is somewhat ironic to me, considering the memories are of a show that includes world-renowned memory expert, **Denny Rourke**.

Secondly, for those of you that hoped for a more thorough description of the effects, I think magic is best enjoyed in the mind of the viewer and I would be doing the performers a disservice by attempting to recreate the experience here...on paper. Also, I don't have a talent



Ryan backstage working on sound.

for writing. I find it mentally exhausting and putting the onus on the reader, to get out and see the performers, requires fewer words and in this case, fewer is easier, for me.



Predicting The Score of a Sporting Event

No . . . I'm not talking about the joke of "I'll bet I can tell you the score of the game before it even starts." 0 to 0

This isn't that lame. Actually, it's pretty cool.



I think the initial idea of using a fabric pen (available at Hobby Lobby) for a prediction may be buried in a Larry Becker book.

Prior to your performance you meet with your contact – giving him/her a cursory look at your full-page prediction (from a distance).

You then ask him/her to write and date a statement on the back of the paper to the effect that s/he's seen the prediction and is now signing the paper to make sure no switches are possible.

S/he writes her/his statement in black permanent fabric ink.

You have written your prediction in air erasable fabric ink. In a couple days, the prediction side of the paper will be blank ready for you to write your legitimate prediction with a permanent blue fabric marker.

You bring the paper home for safe keeping – giving it to your contact prior to your performance from whom you ascertain on the stage that s/he has “kept the prediction in his/her possession since receiving it – having written on the back of the prediction days before. He has shown the prediction to no one nor has allowed anyone to tamper with it.”

He reads his statement. You read your prediction. He keeps the paper as a souvenir.

Excerpted from the unpublished book *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.

Sideshow Spoofery



Two guys were walking along the midway at a carnival when they saw the above sign by a fortune teller's trailer.

"If she can't even spell the word 'weight' right, come on and let's see her. She can't be very bright," they said to each other.

She met them with a cheery smile, took their money and asked them to sit down for a couple of minutes as she was with another client at the time. They obliged her and sat down.

About four minutes later she came out of her trailer and told the boys that their wait had been about four minutes. They couldn't argue.

She went back into her trailer, and the guys moved on a little wiser for the experience.





OMS Club Library



All 1200 books in the club library have now been catalogued at the UNO Library!

You can browse the titles and their overviews online here: <https://bit.ly/3DJ14IP> and read more about accessing the catalog books on our website at: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/library>

A particular shout out to **Larry Brodahl** for being the liaison between our club and the folks at UNO during the years-long cataloging of this significant collection.

Theron Milo Christensen shared a link.

If you didn't get a chance to see it yet, here is my set! Thanks everyone for your support!

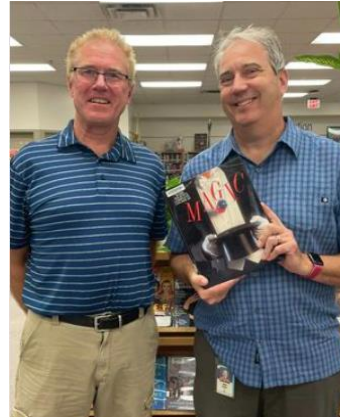
[Theron Christensen, Penn & Teller Fool Us - YouTube](#)



Check Facebook for **Travis Nye's** incredible tricks on *Late Night Blooming*.

Speaking of Libraries

Bruce Jacoby has been busy in Lincoln with our club's Mark Wilson book give away. Check Facebook for more details.



Leftler MS



Pound MS



Northstar HS



Southwest HS



Lincoln HS



Schoo MS



Park MS



Irving MS



Mickle MS



Moore MS



Monday Night Magic

Monday November 21st
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, NE

Or just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
(which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

13405 Marinda St.
Omaha, NE 68144

