



MAGIC **MENTORING**

Showmanship For Magicians
Curriculum
by **Dave Arch**

Showmanship For Magicians™



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OMS PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK FORM

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Directions: On the blank following each question, you can score the performer from a low of 1 to a high of 10 – sharing any reasoning for your score on the line provided for a comment.

1. **EYE CONTACT:** Did EVERYONE in the audience feel like they were acknowledged (looked at) by the performer? _____

Comment: _____

2. **VOICE PROJECTION AND ENUNCIATION:** Was everyone in the audience (even in the back row) clearly able to both hear and understand the magician? _____

Comment: _____

3. **SCRIPTING/STORY TELLING:** Was the script/story enjoyable/engaging for the audience? _____

Comment: _____

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The Performance Feedback Form

The Showmanship For Magicians™ mentoring curriculum has been built upon The Performance Feedback form used as a tool by [The Omaha Magical Society](#) - providing a structure around the sharing of magic performance feedback and mentoring.

With an introductory session included, there are twenty-two sessions in the total curriculum with one class per item of focus from the feedback form.

Each session contains an instructional online video for the topic of focus as well as a magic trick tutorial for applying the principles being explore. ***Please switch out the tricks per the student's skill level and interests.***

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of The Performance Feedback Form.

SHOWMANSHIP ESSAYS



Supplemental Showmanship Essays

While your mentee is proceeding through the Showmanship For Magicians curriculum, be sure that they're also receiving the showmanship essays delivered weekly to their email inbox.

Use the website <https://davearch.com/showmanship> to have the mentee register.

You might even wish to incorporate these essays as part of your mentoring session with the mentee bringing his/her best idea to share from an essay s/he recently has received.

The Curriculum

Your Curriculum Binder Cover Photo

Click [HERE](#) to download a cover photo - printing it in color and inserting it into the transparent sleeve on the front of a 1/2" white three-ring binder for the student (into which s/he can place their completed handouts).

Showmanship For Magicians: Introduction

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Showmanship_Intro.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808334269/4b9d59034c>

Magic Trick Link: Ten Count Warm-Up

<https://vimeo.com/299444974/397c070464>

This magic trick was selected for illustrating the definition of the word "showmanship" in that it takes something ordinary (two quarters) and turns them into something extraordinary through the portrayal of a behind-the-scenes look into the secret world of magicians and how they warm up prior to a performance.

It also serves as the beginning of a multi-phase coin routine that will take at least five classes to completely learn.

Showmanship For Magicians

1. Showmanship For Magicians: Eye Contact

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Eye_Contact.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808371571/0c6b1307c3>

Magic Trick Link: Coin Catch Warm-Up
<https://vimeo.com/299570955/3b47555c73>

Building on the previous trick the magician now accelerates his/her warm-up with FOUR quarters. The temptation to consistently look down when performing this trick is very real. Consequently, the emphasis on eye contact will be particularly pertinent.

After learning this routine, be sure and have the students practice transitioning from the first trick to the second trick as the full routine begins to come together.

2. Showmanship For Magicians: Voice Projection and Enunciation

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Voice_Projection.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808407759/3060554dbc>

Magic Trick Link: Three Coin Trick
<https://vimeo.com/299794659/5500be5b40>

This class begins the learning of The Three Coin Trick. This multi-phase routine will take at least three classes to learn with each phase teaching the student another sleight. This class gives the basics of what's known as the "Two In The Hand And One In The Pocket" plot. Once taught . . . time with the student might be well be spent brainstorming other items besides coins that might make for other suitable presentations.

3. Showmanship For Magicians: Scripting/Story Telling

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Scripting_Story_Telling.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808464813/b6fd7373c8>

Magic Trick Link: Three Coin Trick

<https://vimeo.com/299794659/5500be5b40>

This class continues the learning of The Three Coin Trick. This class gives the basics of what's known as the "The Shuttle Pass." There should be time in this class to go back to the first class in this series and bring whole coin routine forward - again brainstorming the story that's going to go with the routine.

I use the question "Do you think it matters what a parent names a child?" Do people live out their names? I believe it does if for no other reason than what you're about to see. Someone named this trick 'The Three Coin Trick.' It tends to constantly lives up to its name. Let me show you."

4. Showmanship For Magicians: Vulnerability

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Vulnerability.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808784635/b2fc67607f>

Magic Trick Link: Three Coin Trick

<https://vimeo.com/299794659/5500be5b40>

This class concludes the learning of The Three Coin Trick. This class also presents the basics of what's known as the "The Click Pass."

Showmanship For Magicians

Taking time to discuss how the student is going to use the full routine (from the first class until now) to reveal some part(s) of himself/herself so each one grasps the importance of including a piece of vulnerability in their work.

It's almost like a mini graduation as the student gets a chance to perform the full routine - containing all that they've learned since their first class.

Hopefully this will give them a sense of accomplishment - giving them motivation for that which is yet to come in the next phase of the curriculum.

5. Showmanship For Magicians: Stage Fright

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Stage_Fright.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/808801993/77853077d5>

Magic Trick Link: Si Stebbins Multiple Mind Reading:

<https://vimeo.com/360366502/d5a77a4722>

Performing a magic trick depending on the Si Stebbins stack in one's living room is quite different than performing the same trick on a stage while seeking to remember the stack. Hence this is a good magic as the backdrop for exploring the subject of stage fright.

Once the basics of the stack are learned by the student the fun begins - creating variations that will play to the largest crowd to a crowd of one.

6. Showmanship For Magicians: Attitude

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Attitude.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/809376413/e86621d4b1>

Magic Trick Link: Si Stebbins Multiple Mind Reading

<https://vimeo.com/360366502/d5a77a4722>

We're taking another class on the practicing of this mind reading trick so the student can not only get the mechanics in their long-term memory but also find their style for delivering the presentation in an entertaining manner.

How about not being able to discern someone's card and passing them by - saving them for the end? Or having everyone who has a card stand up and when the magician guesses correctly, they must sit down until only one is standing?

Don't forget to go back over the Performer's Feedback Form to provide to the student feedback from numbers 1-6 as they perform their routine.

7. Showmanship For Magicians: Audience Participation

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Audience_Participation.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/809383922/cf572e082f>

Magic Trick Link: Psychic Ability Testing

<https://vimeo.com/301120929/03f7d764f9>

Showmanship For Magicians

With one person from the audience having their psychic abilities tested and five other people standing in the audience to receive two cards each from the volunteer, they then can sit down in unison if they have been handed one red and one black card. Now that's an applause cue if ever there was one!

What might the performer use to get the psychic juices working in the volunteer? Some weird music or binaural tones?

Be sure to spend time on the false shuffle taught on this video as it has many applications.

8. Showmanship For Magicians: Instructional Clarity

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Instructional_Clarify.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/811068186/5871cf85de>

Magic Trick Link: Spirit Writings <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10251094>
Password: spooky

In this video showcase, you'll have SEVEN different methods of apparently producing spooky writing on little business-size cards. Select the ones that you'd enjoy teaching and also use to emphasize the feedback form focus for the class.

9. Showmanship For Magicians: Managing Difficult Audience Members

Handout Download Link:

https://davearch.com/Managing_Difficult_Audience_Members.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/811121523/98dd32e739>

Magic Trick Link: Spirit Writings <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10251094>
password: spooky

Again you'll be using the spooky writing showcase from the previous class to teach yet another method for producing spooky writing. This time you might consider selecting one in which you could illustrate what to do when a volunteer makes a mistake in what you want him/her to do or becomes overly aggressive in their desire to examine the props.

10. Showmanship For Magicians: Recovering From A Mistake

Handout Download Link:

https://davearch.com/Recovering_From_A_Mistake.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/812938442/607c564f01>

Magic Trick Link: Gypsy Eradication Ritual
<https://vimeo.com/302726599/02e68ac2c5>

Magic Trick Link: Ritual Reading Paper: <https://davearch.com/gypsy.pdf>

Brainstorm how a person might recover if one of the participants makes a mistake in following directions and the trick didn't end as intended . . . or worse yet the reader didn't read it correctly - causing everyone's ceremony to not end as desired.

11. Showmanship For Magicians: Effective Rehearsal

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Effective_Rehearsal.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/812969836/fe1d060cb8>

Magic Trick Link: Blister Voodoo

<https://vimeo.com/303846030/f6b3212005>

Use the steps discussed in the class about Effective Rehearsal as the mentee presents the trick and is taken through the Effective Rehearsal Equation to feel how their confidence grows through each repetition.

12. Showmanship For Magicians: Technical Precision

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Technical_Precision.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/818000686/1a1c897945>

Magic Trick Link: Crazy Man Handcuffs

<https://vimeo.com/301115844/cbb8c8dafd>

Building on the previous lesson regarding Effective Rehearsal, Crazy Man Handcuffs does require a focus on technical precision without even beginning to think about what your presentation might be.

Showmanship For Magicians

13. Showmanship For Magicians: Prop Management

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Prop_Management.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/816653102/e3285e2100>

Magic Trick Link: Rubber Band Through Deck.

<https://vimeo.com/301125608/6635ab8a26>

BONUS VIDEO (Creating Set Lists):

<https://vimeo.com/816667084/9bf189f335>

Combine the Rubber Band Through Deck trick with the previous Crazy Man Handcuffs as you discuss the most efficient placement of all props involved both before and after they've been in use. If you don't plan to use the Bonus Video. on the subject of Creating Setlists in the lesson on Routining, this might be a place to use it with its particular emphasis on Close-Up Magic.

14. Showmanship For Magicians: Music

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Music.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/815145018/ed3781c881>

Magic Trick Link: Broken and Restored Rubber Band

<https://vimeo.com/301114482/6785f24682>

After working through the class video and the handout, what genre of music would they most likely select for the broken and restored rubber band and why?

Showmanship For Magicians

You might also encourage them to watch a late night talk show some evening and note particularly where they use music and what type of music do they use. They're the professionals.

15. Showmanship For Magicians: Character

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Character.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/815387656/b0779e23b8>

Magic Trick Link: Laser Cards <https://vimeo.com/303846628/288c676d81>

Work together with the student to use the multiple choice worksheet on the handout to help each student define the adjectives they wish to use in defining the person they wish to portray to the audience while they're performing on stage. Then work with them on the Laser Card trick to help them think through how they're going to demonstrate those character qualities in their presentation.

16. Showmanship For Magicians: Costuming

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Costuming.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/817405128/1daa70e2d1>

Magic Trick Link: Laser Cards <https://vimeo.com/303846628/288c676d81>

Based on the description of their performing character how would they ideally costume themselves for the Laser Cards trick? Remember, it might be as simple as a pair of hazmat gloves (or oven gloves) for you holding the deck or some protective gear for the person firing the laser.

17. Showmanship For Magicians: Routining

Handout Download

Link: https://davearch.com/More_Than_Meets_The_Eye.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/780586314/68f9f64480>

Magic Trick Link: Laser Cards

<https://vimeo.com/303846628/288c676d81>

BONUS VIDEO (Creating Setlists):

<https://vimeo.com/816667084/9bf189f335>

Make sure you break Dan Harlan's lengthy video into bite-sized chunks. Like filling a glass with water, when you sense the student getting overwhelmed by the content, pause the video and have them tell you in their own words what they just heard him tell them. Doing this multiple times through the presentation (no longer than twenty minutes at a time) will help them retain his content.

Another option is to watch the video yourself so you can teach it - using the page 5 worksheet in the handout for the students to build their own routines.

And/or use the Bonus Video as an abbreviated (i.e. less detailed) way to approach routining with a specific emphasis on Close-Up Magic.

18. Showmanship For Magicians: Humor

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Humor.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/815362350/c498c6b741>

Magic Trick Link: Cards To Pocket

<https://vimeo.com/301051695/2f77c6e2c0>

After helping people determine how to describe their own sense of humor, use Card To Pocket to explore where in the routine they might be able to incorporate that humor. Spend time on the Buckle Count as it is one of the easiest false counts with multiple applications.

19. Showmanship For Magicians: Pacing

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Pacing.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/816355242/adfe7e10b7>

Magic Trick Link: Three Shell Game

<https://vimeo.com/302355788/1ff5d637fd>

Brainstorm the trick The Three Shell Game as to where the performer might wish to slow down, speed up, or pause all together for maximum effect. A hand towel will or table cloth will oftentimes work as a decent surface for performing this trick.

20. Showmanship For Magicians: Stage Blocking

Handout Download Link: https://davearch.com/Stage_Blocking.pdf

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/815340178/1f7b23c0c1>

Magic Trick Link: Laser Cards <https://vimeo.com/303846628/288c676d81>

As you'll see, we go back to a review of the magic trick Laser Cards to walk our way through the trick with an eye towards proper blocking so as not to prevent the audience from seeing what we want them to see and to not see those movements that we wish to hide (i.e. the banding of the deck).

21. Showmanship For Magicians: Unity

Handout Download Link: <https://davearch.com/Unity.pdf>

Class Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/815412194/f6bb126910>

Magic Trick Link: Cards To Pocket
<https://vimeo.com/301051695/2f77c6e2c0>

This is the time where we bring it all together. Does the performer's costume, mannerisms, vocabulary, tone of voice, and routines create a cohesive whole without disparity in what is being presented to the audience. Cards to pocket is a nearly perfect trick for illustrating various ways of presenting it based on the selected character of the performer.

"Local magic clubs are dead."

The Omaha Magical Society's Executive Director Dave Arch strongly disagrees with the above statement. He believes it doesn't have to be. However, as you'll see in this tested curriculum, he believes a club will thrive and/or revive only when it becomes serious about an area in which YouTube can never compete - relationships.

Drawing from his twenty-five year career in managing the corporate mentoring program for Tenaska - Nebraska's largest privately held company, he also believes that the generation currently in their twenties and thirties are more open to mentoring than any of the previous two generations. However, if you've never been mentored, how do you know how to mentor another? Here Dave has given you a curriculum with twenty-two sessions (complete with online videos) to use with one student or a small group to work in making sure the above quote at the top of this page never comes true.

