



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2023 Volume 16, Issue 5

March's meeting

"And now for something completely different!". That was the theme for March's meeting. And we saw a lot of different gimmicks, props and tricks.

Scott Hood showed off his collection of different *change bags*, including a Christmas stocking and even a large Crown Royal change bag! He also demonstrated a Die Box and a Zig-Zag effect – both using *compact disks*! He also had his own wonderful *3 Card Monte* routine using the story of **Soapy Smith** from the Yukon!

Mark Hogan performed **Johnny Thompson's** "*3 Balls and a Net*"; **Jon Armstrong's** "*Orbs of Power*" using Toronto Maple Leaf coasters; **Troy Hooser's** "*Charming Chinese Challenge*" using metal washers; and his own Egg Bag routine ending with **Denny Haney's** idea of a shot glass in the bag!

Keith O'Brien showed us a host of different card effects: **David Penn's** "*52 to 1*" where he cut to a thought-of card; card switches with **Rick Lax's** "*Tornado*" and "*Contact*"; Calen Morelli's "*Quantum*" (pen thru card); **John Bannon's** classic "*Twisted Sisters*"; **Rick Lax's** new "*Past, Present & Future*", and Keith's own update to a set of *Spirit Slates* where a thought-of card and number magically appeared on the slates; a novel use of **David Penn's** *Overlayered* with **Mark Southworth's** *Double Cross* where a written X on Keith's hand disappears from a picture on a spectator's phone and reappears on their hand; and a demonstration of **Benjamin Vienney's** great phone effect *RDigit!*

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, APRIL 12

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: (CHOP) CUPS AND BALLS!

**Location: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

Andrew Olmstead performed two **Martin Gartner** effects using handmade dice he used like flash cards: "*Digital Roots*" where he divined a missing number in a sum, and "*Heath's Fast Summing Dice*" where he revealed the total of a roll of the dice without looking!

Byron Berry exhibited his *see-thru blindfold*, a *cool card in bread* gimmick that blew Keith's mind; and one of **Roy Kuepper's** Toonie/Loonie coins.

Thanks to everyone for bringing something a little different!

Mark Hogan

March's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, APRIL 12

TIME: 7:30 PM

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

TOPIC: (CHOP) CUPS AND BALLS!

A request was made to have a night on *Cups and Balls*: especially any routines that include *chop cups*.

So if you have any cups and balls sets to show off, or any cups and balls routines (especially *chop cup* routines) please bring them to display and perform!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Magicians on Canada's Got Talent

(canadasmagic.blogspot.com)

Canada's Got Talent is back! The premiere of the popular talent show was March 21, and there are a number of magicians in this year's lineup from all across the country.

Here are the Canadian magicians appearing this year:

- Atsushi Ono** (Calgary Alberta)
- Will Stelfox** (Vancouver, BC)
- Dean Gunnarson** (Onanole, Manitoba)
- Christian Mascia** (Stoney Creek, Ontario)
- Richard Forget** (Whitby, Ontario)
- JP Parent** (Montreal, Quebec)
- Magic Ben** (Whitehorse, Yukon)

The *Canada's Got Talent* Champion will receive **\$150,000** and the opportunity to work with a financial advisor, courtesy of *CIBC* – to help realize their ambitions. Plus, the opportunity to perform in "America's Got Talent Presents: SUPERSTARS Live" at the *Luxor Hotel and Casino* in Las Vegas.

The live two-hour finale will be broadcast on **Tuesday, May 16** at **8:00pm** from the brand new *OLG Stage* at the *Fallsview Casino* in Niagara Falls.

David Blaine dislocates shoulder; continues performance

(New York Post)

David Blaine proved his superhuman abilities to power through injury after dislocating his shoulder during his Las Vegas show Saturday night.

According to the Las Vegas Review Journal, the magician had a faulty landing during his "In Spades" show at the Resorts World Theater.

The stunt involves an 80-foot drop into a stack of cardboard boxes in the audience.

Blaine landed incorrectly and ended up dislocating his shoulder.



He shared video of several people helping him pop his shoulder back into the socket on his Instagram page with the understated caption, “*Wow that hurt!*”

After a break, **Blaine** continued the performance.

The 49-year-old is known for his street magic and impressive feats of endurance, like being sealed in a Plexiglass box above the *River Thames* in London for 44 days, or staying submerged in water for seven days and escaping from handcuffs at the stunt’s conclusion.

The Las Vegas Review Journal also reported that this is not the first injury Blaine has sustained since the opening of his show.

On Friday, **Blaine** told the outlet he nearly blacked out during his underwater breath-holding stunt.

He also pierced his palm during a Dec. 17 trick, which involved slamming his hand over three cups positioned over an ice pick.

On his website, the performer described the show as having, “some of my favorite pieces of magic, and interaction with the audience.”

He continued, “*But a lot of the show will be brand new things that people have never seen before. I visited Resorts World when the theater was still under construction — and fell in love with the room. The stage is high-tech. The ceilings are 85 feet tall. Having such great heights allows me to dream up things that I’ve always wanted to do but has not been possible in any other theater, until now.*”

Blaine’s show runs only once a month over Fridays and Saturdays, and there are currently three upcoming weekend shows listed on his website for April, May and June.

He continued: “The show must go on, so I just cleaned up the blood and started again a minute later.”

Blaine has performed variations of the ice pick trick throughout his career, but admitted it was never his favorite.

“*I wasn’t a big fan of the trick until now*”, he said, suggesting the recent mishap made the stunt more exciting.

Blaine is expected to perform the trick this weekend, when his show returns to *Resorts World Theater* in Vegas. His residency kicked off back in September and will conclude on March 11. The show is packed with jaw-dropping illusions and death-defying feats, including a nine-story jump from the top of the venue.

Australian cruise ship magician allegedly assaulted

(7news.com.au)

An Australian magician has shared footage of him allegedly being assaulted onboard a *Royal Caribbean* cruise, sparking outrage on the internet.

To watch the video, visit:

<https://7news.com.au/news/crime/australian-magician-ben-murphy-allegedly-assaulted-onboard-cruise-ship-during-act-c-10014214>

Ben Murphy was performing on the cruise on March 1 when the man, who is believed to be the partner of a female volunteer in the show, allegedly stormed the stage and shoved him.

Murphy shared a video of the incident to his social media. In the video, **Murphy** and the volunteer are shown onstage taking part in a trick. **Murphy** and the volunteer are holding objects in their mouth and briefly lean towards each other to tap them against each other.

It's at this point that a man, understood to be the volunteer's partner, is shown storming onstage and tackling **Murphy**, who is pushed backwards, while the woman reaches out to stop the man, who then walks away from the stage.

"Entertainment, comedy, and magic are not contact sports," **Murphy** wrote online. "This guest should not have been allowed to enjoy the rest of his cruise."

Murphy said his statement was not taken until a week after the incident. "*Statements should have been taken by the witness on the day*", he said. "*How they said there were no witnesses to this baffles me.*"

The volunteer "*was lovely and was laughing and having a really good time*", **Murphy** said. "*She danced and giggled and gave consent for it all. How awful to ruin her good time.*"

Murphy was "*physically bruised all over*" from the incident, he said. "*(I) hit my head so have had blurry vision.*"

The onboard medical team wanted him to see a neurologist, he said. "*(I'm) quite shaken by it.*"

Many have voiced their support for *Murphy* online, labelling it "*disgusting behaviour by a grown a** man*".

"*I am sorry to see this Ben*", a comment on *Murphy's* Instagram post reads. "*I do hope the cruise does something about it.*"

"*It's just not on.*"

"*I also feel sorry for his wife and kids too.*"

"*I hope you're okay and that you've got a supportive team.*"

One commenter said they were actually present for the incident. "We were in the audience for this and my jaw nearly hit the floor", they said. "(I) feel sorry for not only you, but the poor wife and kids who saw the whole thing."

Royal Caribbean was contacted for comment but said "we are unable to comment on an ongoing investigation".

Australia Federal Police have also been contacted for comment.

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Concept by: Steve Seguin

The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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