



THE BUZZ

AMSTERDAM MAGIC SOCIETY



WILLEM VAN DER
WEIDE PERFORMS
IN THE
SEPTEMBER
EDITION OF THE
AMSTERDAM
MAGIC SHOW



ABBY SEGAL (USA)
PERFORMED IN DE
AMSTERDAM CLOSE-UP
SHOW, WEDNESDAY
STROLLING IN THE
BUTCHER AND
THURSDAY ONE OF THE
STARS IN BOOM
CHICAGO.

September
2023

ISSUE 7

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And? Did you finish that magic book you were supposed to read on your holidays? Or did you catch up with episodes from Fool Us?

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JAMIE IAN SWISS

We hear you think: who is that man on the cover.....? He was the inspirator of Fred Kaps and one of the best magician, comedian and inventor in America of the past era.

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A lot of fun, magic and mystery in The Butcher in Amsterdam.



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THE MERLIN AWARD SCAM (2)

TOM STONE

Of course collegial respect and solidarity is good, but it should not include reputation leeching from those who have been meritorious enough to receive authentic awards. Enough is enough



This magazine is a production of the Amsterdam Magic Society. If you like to contribute, send this to our editor & designer, Frans de Groot: amsterdammagicsociety@gmail.com

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DEAR READER

And? Did you finish that magic book you were supposed to read on your holidays? Or did you catch up with episodes from Fool Us? I recently got a really big book in the mail and it was Derren Brown's "Notes from a Fellow Traveller". It is on my list to finish this summer and I will let you know in the next issue of "The Buzz".

As I type this, I am in Swedish Hogwarts. And that is no joke. I am a participant in the [Conjuring Course](#) where Tom Stone, Leif Olberious, and Tim Starr are teachers.

We will be learning about magic principles, applying dramatic ideas to magic effects, and making magic props. And no, we are not learning tricks. But there are enough opportunities to sit down with other magicians from all around the globe and create new magic. Who is here, you ask? Amongst others, [FISM-winner, Horret Wu](#), [Fool Us-participant Abby Segal](#), and BGT's [Hakan Berg](#).

At the same time, Magic Live is being held in Las Vegas, Penn & Teller are filming a new season of Fool Us, and the Fringe in Edinburgh is well on its way.

And of course, we are having our very first barbecue with the Society.

Yes, the summer is still magic!

"FRITZ"



Roy Benson

If I was presented with a one-time opportunity to take a time machine trip to another period in magic, tempting as it might be to go to the turn of the 20th century and see the great stage performers of England, or the great world traveling illusion shows of the so-called Golden Age of Magic, or the famed stars of vaudeville like Cardini and Harry Houdini, if I had to choose a particular magic era, it would be the “Night Club Era” that was born in the 1920s, fueled by Prohibition, and barreled toward its peak in the aftermath of vaudeville. As the great vaudeville houses were converted to movie theaters, and only the well-to-do could go out to shows in the aftermath of the Great Depression, the best hotels in big cities across the country opened nightclub rooms where live bands performed, patrons could dress up and dance, and a mini-vaudeville program could include singers, comics, and variety acts like magicians. The Night Club Era drew a straight line from the Roaring Twenties, through the Depression, through Vaudeville, finally reaching its apex in the rise of Las Vegas as a center for live entertainment.

The kind of magic that was seen in these high-end hotel clubs was the same kind of magic we feature at Monday Night Magic. (I am one of the four producers, along with Michael Chaut, Peter Samelson, and Todd Robbins; the show is now New York City’s longest-running Off-Broadway show, in our 19th continuous season.) Our mix of four acts on stage every week—EmCee, opener, middle, and

1914 - 1977

headliner—represent a blend of silent and talking acts (mostly magic but with other occasional variety performers), that by and large rely on small props, clever talk, and memorable personalities—the very same kind of performances that were featured in those grand night clubs. I would give anything to have seen Paul Rosini, a nightclub star in the ‘40s and ‘50s, who could work a week in a hotel club, entertaining repeat patrons by varying his program night after night with a blend of card tricks and classics like the Linking Rings, the Egg Bag, the Card in Cigarette, the Miser’s Dream, and the Blindfold Card Stab (and I suppose I probably would like to have seen Max Malini, the originator of this last routine, more than any other performer in all of magic’s history).

One of the last of the great nightclub magicians was Roy Benson, who was a headliner in the ‘40s and ‘50s, playing clubs including the Latin Quarter in New York, the Empire Room in Chicago, the Casino Nazionale in Havana, and the Golden Gate Theatre, in San Francisco. Benson was a profoundly influential magician. His stage and nightclub work was focused on comedy, combining a sly, offbeat sense of humor with an air of playful if deadpan repartee. But the light comic touch belied a deep current of magical talent, including innovative creations that influenced countless other performers of his own time and later, and monster sleight-of-hand chops. And he was also a creative and expert close-up performer, whose signature trick, the Benson Bowl Routine, became trademarks of legendary pros like Don Alan, Al Goshman, Johnny Thompson and more. Benson was a teenaged protégé of the vaudeville legend, Nate Leipzig, taking the lessons he drew from that great sleight-of-

hand artist and turning them to more humorous purpose. Benson was at the cutting edge both magically and comedically; in one routine he would lie down across the edge of the stage and talk to the audience as if he was on the couch speaking to his psychiatrist, while the odd magic effect unfolded in his hands. He was not only hilariously funny, but his ironic, self-deprecating take on magic was decades ahead of its time.

I haven't the space to do justice to Benson's life and accomplishments (he was also a musician, a movie actor, and he appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show 24 times, more than any other magician). The complete Roy Benson biography can be found in Roy Benson by Starlight by Todd Karr and Levent (The Miracle Factory, 2006), in which my friend Levent—a top pro in his own right who follows in Benson's footsteps as a comic performer with tremendous sleight-of-hand skills—reconstructs and recounts the workings and lessons of Benson's magic in extraordinary detail. (The book is out of print but copies can be found for under \$200, a worthy investment for any serious magic student.)

But this brief overview of one of the greatest magical performers and innovators of the 20th century should, I hope, serve to encourage you to bring your close attention and appreciation to these two film clips. They are black-and-white, they are of less than stellar quality, they are of another era ... but no recorded version ever does full justice to magic, so it is up to you, like any audience, to invest yourself in the performance, and that investment will be returned to you by the performer (even if it is from beyond the grave). Expand the browser, turn up the volume, and enjoy the truly great, truly inimitable, Roy Benson. This recording reflects the core of Benson's act. He had much more material than this, but the act was built on this core structure: a quick opener, then his classic version of the Chinese Sticks, and closing with his original creation, the "long pour" ending for the ancient Salt Trick. Enjoy ...



This recording, of poorer quality, repeats some of the same material, but this version closes on a Benson trademark: the Billiard Balls. This is truly beautiful magic, which also happens to be staggeringly difficult. We've skipped the duplicate material and rough spots to start you right at the billiard ball routine at 4:30 in. Be amazed!



JAMY IAN SWISS

PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION OF MAGICANA

Note of the editor.

Roy was, to say the least, a significant influence on the work of three times FISM winner Fred Kaps. Fred was inspired not only with the Salt Pour, but also with Benson's version of the classic Chinese Sticks and the Benson Bowl, which were perhaps passed along to Kaps by Henk Vermeyden, without Kaps' knowledge of **their origins**. Some Americans say that the word "inspired" is somewhat generous.



AMS

Close-up Show

Three decades ago, Amsterdam North was not a place where you go for entertainment, good food, art and everything that made life happy. But now directly across the river IJ, Amsterdam North boasts the best contrasting worlds: vast green expanses and charming little villages plus some of the city's most cutting-edge architecture, exciting festivals, museums, gig venues, fantastic dining options and waterside hangouts with beautiful terraces. A free ferry from behind Central Station will take you there in minutes. Go to the left, you will find a café-restaurant, The Tolhuistuin, a sun terrace on the IJ, three theatre and concert halls, and exhibition spaces. You cannot miss the striking architecture of the "Eye Filmmuseum", one of Amsterdam's modern icons. Between these two is the A'dam Tower with "A'DAM LOOKOUT", an observation deck with an unrivalled panoramic view of Amsterdam. For you, daredevils and thrill seekers, get your adrenaline rush with Europe's highest swing, 'Over The Edge'.

Under this tower, The Butcher Social Club transforms an established brand into a connective place with international charisma. The concept unites people as an easy-going coffee spot, a business centre, a casual restaurant and bar, and an unexampled after-party hangout with live DJ music. An urban lounge fused with a famous burger bar.

One year now, the Amsterdam Magic Close-Up Show performs here once a month in one of the upstairs rooms with a private bar. I was there on

AMSTERDAM CLOSE-UP
SHOW ON JULY 19 IN "THE
BUTCHER"



July 19 and was lucky to meet and see Michael Vincent.

The first half of the show brings Rico Weeland and Fritz with a Z, and Abby Segal from the USA (known for her appearance in "Fool Us") did strolling magic before, after and in the interval of the show.

Rico, founder of "Invisible Practice" and columnist of The Buzz, performed a



beautiful coin routine and a couple of card routines which bring the hands together. With Fritz, he does a double act where a chosen and signed card appears in the mouth of Fritz, who wears a paper bag over

his head - a comedy "card in an impossible location" plot.



Fritz has a comedy and energetic style. He started with a Five Card Repeat of Bill Abbott and his version of the billet switch. Hilarious was his production of a chosen animal inside a balloon animal. He closed the show with an astonishing multiple selection routine.



After the interval, Michael Vincent performs a one-hour show. I saw Michael before at different conventions, lectures and on DVDs. Michael has been named "Best Close-Up Magician" three times by the UK's Magic Circle in three consecutive decades. His performances have been featured at the world-famous Magic Castle, numerous television shows and performed at the London Palladium. Still, now I saw him live before a lay audience (and with some magicians) a few meters away. One of his previous quotes was: "A performance of magic has the potential to be a very sophisticated experience and, dare I say, deeply moving. I

believe we must strive for this level of experience". Now I saw this quote in reality with his rope routine. The audience was excited. What happens in this "Professor's Nightmare" has to be seen; words will not do a description justice.



After that, we saw the best "Slydini Silks" I ever see before. Yes, you may think, "Oh, some classics of magic", But here saw a lay audience some wonders they never see before, brought to them by a pleasant and skilful magician.

After this, Michael performed some of his best card and coin routines. Some I have seen before, but now with real people watching, we saw the impact of these beautiful routines.

To close, he performed "Pandora's Paradox", a version of the card in an impossible location. I saw Tommy Wonder do the card in a wooden ring box dozens of times, and I thought this was the best one, but now I saw Michael does a similar routine, and I'm embarrassed to say it, but I was beginning to question what was the best. Let's say they are equal.

Michael gave the box to the assisting spectator to carry home. And I am sure she will keep that box in a particular place and never forget what she saw, as we do. A standing ovation was the reward for this experience.

TEXT AND PHOTOS FRANS DE GROOT



The Merlin Award scam (Part Two)

It's quite informative and entertaining to step forward and follow the early years' updates via the archived pages at the Wayback Machine. The archived pages can be viewed here: [LearnMagic](#) and [MagicIMS](#).

The first thing one notice is how exaggerated the membership number is – or the customer list rather, since it is not a membership organization. If you bought a single Hassini video 25 years ago, you are still counted as one of today's active members. You are not taken off the membership list even when you die. In 1998, Hassini claimed that he had 20 000 new customers since the start 4 years earlier. Let's put that number in perspective – Hassini and IMS are just one person. And the process is that the prospective member sends a letter of interest. Hassini receives and opens the letter. Copies the personal data into a reply letter with payment information. When the payment comes in, the starter package is collected (binder, two videos, membership card filled out and laminated, diploma filled in), and wrapped and taped together, and left at the post office. We can calculate that the whole process takes at least half an hour per "member". For 20,000 members, it takes 10,000 hours. If you calculate with the assumption that he works 12 hours a day, every day of the week, without a break, then it will be uninterrupted work for 30



months, or 2.5 years. The claim is completely unrealistic. Compare with "The International Brotherhood of Magic", the world's largest membership organization for those interested in magic, which has existed since 1922 and has 88 sub-divisions around the world – they have a total of about 15,000 members – that actually exist.

Since there is no end to the stupidity, Hassini also claim that IMS also has a "Magic Academy", a building where magicians can come and study to get the academic title "Doctor of Magic". One might wonder, if such a building actually exists, why does Hassini need to put his logo on the house via a bad photoshop montage? And has he completely missed that Google Streetview exists? If you look up the two addresses listed on the IMS website, what are the chances that you will see an elegant Magic Academy building?



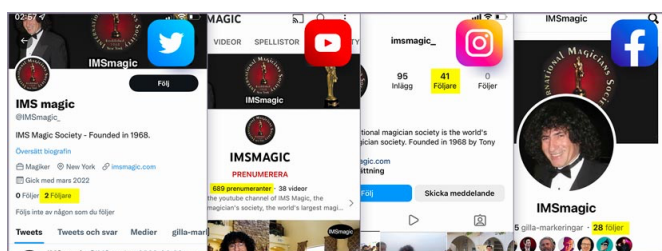
The Las Vegas address & The New York address



Pure fiction... As far as I can see, the whole “Magic Academy” was just a ploy to get people to commit to buying 50 videos.

Jumping back to membership numbers – today, Hassini claims that IMS has over 57,000 members, four times as many as the International Brotherhood of Magic – the world’s largest authentic magic society. Funnily enough, IMS social media tell a completely different tale! (The numbers are from July 21, 2022)

I’m no genius on social media, and definitely don’t have 57k supporters. But when compared to my own relatively low numbers of followers and subscribers, it becomes embarrassingly obvious how much Hassini is exaggerating.



Now, social media is perhaps not the best gauge, so let’s instead examine a better metric – number of “backlinks” on the internet. A “backlink” is a link from someone else’s web page to one’s own web page, and is a reference that can be compared to a citation. A large and important organization automatically receives many “citations”. And we can extend the comparison to include The Magic Castle in Hollywood, International Brotherhood of Magic (IBM), Society of American Magicians (SAM), The Magic Circle in London, and the trade journal Genii.

The comparison shows the scope of Hassini’s exaggerations. For example. IMS has only 0.9% of the backlinks that IBM has. Genii has 627 times more links than IMS. Even I myself have more than five times as many backlinks as IMS – even though IMS’s website has been around for many more years than mine.

The IMS is “the world’s largest magic society as recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records”, according to Hassini. Not surprisingly, you can’t find a single word about that when using Guinness own search function.

The only thing that impresses about IMS is how many skilled and well-known magicians Hassini has managed to make instructional videos with. Paul Gertner, Lennart Green, Tabary, Paul Wilson, Kevin James...etc. However, most of the videos seem to be quite primitive, filmed in one take with a single fixed camera, dreary environments in existing light, slightly stressed atmosphere. Since I know some of the artists, I asked around a bit. Turns out it was often recorded in a hurry at magic conferences, between program points. Some have been paid, in few cases quite well paid. Others have been promised compensation, but never received it. The gigantic list of “IMS Officers” also looks impressive at first glance... provided you don’t look too closely.

If you look closer, you notice that some names on the list are people who are no longer alive. For example. William H. McIlhenny who is listed as the IMS “Magic Historian” – he died 6 years ago. Max Toth died 12 years ago, in 2011, but death didn’t stop him from continuing to sign Hassini’s letters (example from 2016 and from 2023).

Others are listed multiple times. Cathy Edwards & Cathy Emin who are listed as “World President”, “Treasurer” and “Director”... it is the same person; Hassini’s current wife. Still others don’t even seem to exist – Mark Ziaian who is listed as the contact person for Finland is impossible to find. It says that there is an IMS branch in Germany, but neither website nor email works.



And in the middle of the list we find a Swede! As far as I can remember, I have never met any Frank Anders. Does he even exist? And how did a Swede end up in the middle of this kind of

nonsense? Strange surname, maybe misspelled... Andersson?

The phone number didn't work, and the search combinations of name and address returned absolutely nothing. But then by chance I saw the name "Anders Frank" as a friend of a friend on Facebook... Could it be him?

I got in touch and yes, it was the right person. I thought I recognized the voice and it turned out that we had actually met a couple of times, in passing, at various conventions. At the beginning of the conversation, Anders was friendly, collected, correct and "official"... but after a while it began to seep through that he was not particularly satisfied with the role he had been given, and that he did not quite understand why his name was still on the list. Since he first was listed as a contact person 28 years ago, he has moved and changed both address and phone number several times, and each time he had sent a change of address to Hassini, plus asked him to change the misspelled name – without it ever being updated.

Finally, Anders asked to have his name and outdated information removed from Hassini's website – but that too has been ignored. I asked Anders how he ended up in this role to begin with. It turned out that Anders worked with youths in the mid-90s. When he saw Hassini's large ads in the trade press, he thought it might be a fun leisure activity for the youngsters to learn a little about magic, so he answered the ad with the aim of buying 2-3 suitable beginner videos. Hassini had quickly responded with an "offer" to invest in the business. He said that Anders himself should buy a number of "Master tapes" that he could copy and sell himself, with a small royalty to Hassini per copy sold.

Hassini proved to have answers to every objection. When Anders said that Sweden was too small a market for it to be profitable for him, Hassini replied that Anders could also be general agent with exclusive rights for all of Scandinavia; Denmark, Norway, Sweden and

Finland. The persuasion continued, and finally Anders paid a fortune for a few "master tapes". A slight whiff of a pyramid scheme here.

While Anders was still trying to find suitable machines to duplicate the master tapes on, he discovered that Hassini had made an identical deal with a person in Finland, completely contrary to the agreement they had made. Then he discovered that Hassini had continued to sell videos directly to Scandinavian magic hobbyists, even though the deal was that these would be referred to Anders. Within soon, it became clear to Anders that it would be impossible for him to recover the invested money by selling videos. Paying for professional video duplication would just add to the losses, so the master tapes ended up in a box in the basement, untouched and unused. It later emerged that by the time Hassini sold the master tapes, he himself had already begun the transition to DVD, well aware that VHS was a dying format.

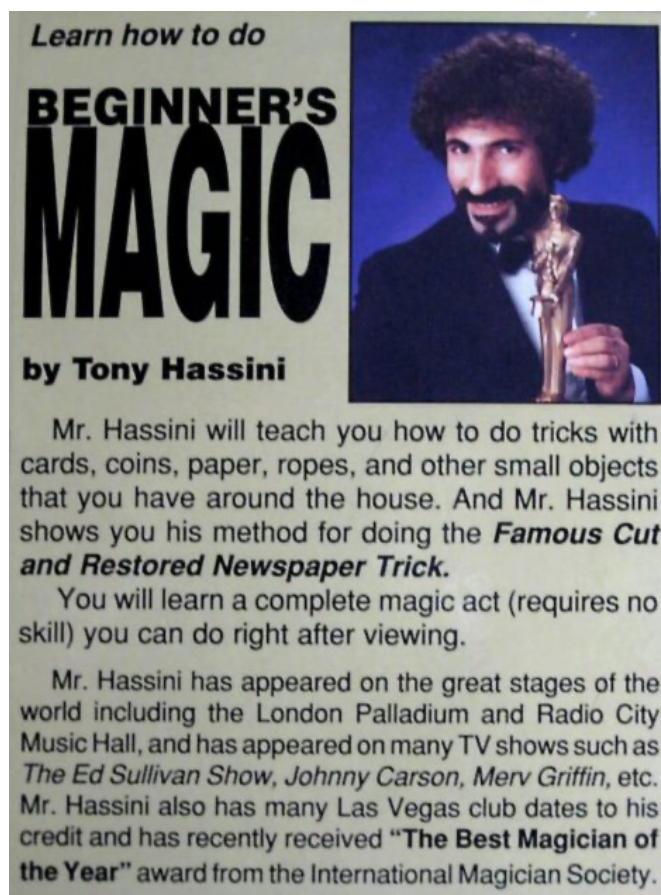
In short, Anders felt taken advantage of and cheated. That he felt painted into a corner by being listed as the official representative of a business he himself did not believe in.

During the conversation with Anders, a couple of other missing pieces of the puzzle emerged regarding how the sculpture by Hassini's first wife came to be such an iconic symbol of deceit.

The Merlin Award – the Swedish catalyst

Producing new videos for a video club is a pretty specific job that has nothing in common with the job of traveling the world handing out fake awards, so one wonders how that transition happened.

If you look at the back cover of Hassini's "Beginner's Magic" video (ref.), you will see that all the pieces of the puzzle were already in place in 1990. The bullshitting is in full bloom – These days it is quite easy to look up who has been a guest on various TV shows, and Hassini, of course, has never been a guest on Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin or the Ed Sullivan Show. Obviously, he hasn't performed at the London Palladium or Radio City Music Hall either. In the photo, he happily poses with the statuette



that his first wife carved for him. The statuette has yet to be named, so when he nominates himself as the Best Magician of the Year, he simply calls it “The Best Magician of the Year Award”. And it is here, on the back of the video cover, that the “International Magician’s Society” is mentioned for the very first time ever – which then still is a figment of the imagination, as it will take yet another four years before he decide to use it as the name of his video club.

The thing is, at this point, he’s still using his wife’s statuette to boost himself up. How did it change into boosting others? To get an answer to that, we need to take a closer look at how the world looked at that time.

In the mid-90s, the Internet was still a fairly new thing, and it was a bit of the “wild west”.

Neither Google nor PageRank existed until 1998, so there was only one metric that search engines of the time followed; backlinks. And less discerning people didn’t hesitate to manipulate the search engines through various dirty tricks. Popular “Black Hat SEO” trick at the time was to hand out various “Web Awards”.



The procedure was to create a small image designed to look impressive and “official”. Then they contacted a couple of hundred randomly selected websites and said “We have had a vote about the best sites

on the web, and your site has won the award for ‘Excellence in Design’. Please place the attached price picture on your site and link it to our site!”. Those contacted were of course delighted and flattered, and followed the instructions with pride. The result was that you quickly got hundreds of backlinks, and ended up at the top of the search engines of the time – without having to do anything other than make a single spam email and rely on the vanity of others.

It’s quite easy to imagine how Hassini, in the mid-90s, hears about the dirty trick of bringing attention to yourself by giving out awards to others, and sees the statuette his wife carved, and then puts one and one together.

As a former prop maker, it is no problem for him to make a new mold to duplicate the figurine and then spray paint it with gold paint. In 1996 he does a few careful tests, he gives his “prize” to Harry Blackstone Jr. and Tony Clark. They react as naively as the recipients of the various “web awards” did – they are surprised, happy and gladly tell the outside world about the “award” they received... and the result is that there is a small boost in Hassini’s video sales.

Hassini gets a taste for it, and casts more copies of his first wife’s sculpture. The fumes from the gold spray lie thick in his basement. He also contacts those around the world whom he tricked into buying “master tapes”, and advises them that they can also generate attention for videos by giving out “prizes”, and that he can provide them with gold-painted statuettes that they can distribute.

(To be continued)



Convention

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in September, at approximately 4:35pm, at a convention centre in Eastbourne, UK, a blue collar of office, emblazoned with numerous small brass name plaques, was placed over my head and on to my shoulders: I proudly became the 2022-2023 president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians British Ring No. 25. A real honour.

As part of my role as the president, my duty is not only to promote friendship and passion for magic but also the society itself and, most importantly, this year's upcoming convention. So, if you're sitting comfortably, let me begin by showing you what we have in store for this year's: the 85th I.B.M. British Ring Magic convention In Eastbourne, UK, from 7-10 September.

If you've never been to one of these conventions before, you're in for an absolute treat! Before I go any further and, to give you a brief introduction, let me break it down into one sentence: 10 lectures, 7 stage shows, 2 prestigious competitions plus much, much more...all at one convention. I could stop there, but then this wouldn't be much of an article would it? Plus, I haven't fulfilled my role here so...I'll continue. Each year we pick the best magic shows straight from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

This year's selection includes Charlie Caper, the first magician in the world to win a Got Talent contest in Sweden and a magician's favourite at the Edinburgh convention. He'll be performing his

7-10 SEPTEMBER

one man show and lecturing - this will be his first UK magic convention appearance. Plus we welcome back Griffin & Jones, the winner's of last year's I.B.M. Stage Competition and JezO. Lecturers include Christian Grace, a unique innovator of card magic and founder of Magic Monthly, Adrien Quillen, the audience favourite at Blackpool Magic Convention's 'The One' competition. He'll be performing his bar act in the gala show and presenting his lecture. Other lectures include Joel Dickenson, Chris Congreave and John-Henry Larson. Artistes and acts appearing throughout the 4 days of magic include South Korean manipulator Yollin Lee, Scottish magician & illusionist Louise Andrée, Keith Fields and Lady Sarah, illusionist Richard Cadell plus many more.

One of the unique experiences that can be discovered at the convention is that all events, shows, workshops and talks never overlap, giving you time and freedom in between events to buy from the magic dealers, jam/session/catch up with friends, grab a drink or make new friends to jam with. We like to describe it as the friendly convention: it's relaxed, fun but with plenty to do.

For further details and to register Book on our website: www.britishring.org.uk or contact the registration officer at ibmbritishring25reg@gmail.com.

I look forward to welcoming you and introducing you to the next president! I'll be placing the blue collar of office onto their shoulders on a (hopefully!) sunny Sunday afternoon in September.

OLIVER TABOR

PRESIDENT OF THE IBM BRITISH RING



I.B.M. BRITISH RING NO. 25
7TH-10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

**CHARLIE CAPER - ADRIEN QUILLIEN - CHRISTIAN GRAC
YOLLIN LEE - RICHARD CADELL - LOUISE ANDREE
JEZO - GRIFFIN & JONES - SAFIRE - KEITH FIELDS & LAD
SARAH - JOEL DICKINSON - JOHN-HENRY LARSSON
CHRIS CONGREAVE - MEL HARVEY - SOOTY**



Out of sight out of my mind

Getting back to the core of things



I was very lucky when I started with magic. At least, in some way, I was very lucky because I started with magic late.

I started with magic when I was about 16 years old. This might not be very late compared to some rock stars that only started with their passion once they were 30 years old. However, considering the age that most people start at 16, it is fairly late.

I was lucky in the sense that I still do remember some of my earliest memories of magic. I remember the feeling that they gave me and how simple stuff can evoke great emotions. This is something that many of us have lost and have no recollection of due to starting magic at an early age.

It is important to see magic from the eyes of the audience rather than the eyes of the magician. In some way, when we see magic from the audience's perspective, we can start to craft an experience for them. We often lose this when we start to focus too much on technique and secrets. Our ego will creep in and we start to see only "a fun new routine" rather than "an experience for the audience".

For the audience's experience to work two main things are important: conviction and clarity.

Clarity needs to be there so that the audience understands what is happening and that they can instantly understand what the effect is. Conviction is important because the audience needs to believe 100% in what they see you do. If you've given them a copper coin, there needs to be no doubt in their mind that the copper coin is actually in their hand.

So, if understanding the audience's experience is so important, as well as conviction and clarity, then are we lost when we started magic at a later age? Is it possible to still regain that feeling of wonder and transfer that to our audiences?

Well, Yes! It is possible by working around our ego in some sense, but that needs some work. I see the feeling of magic and the understanding of why something is impossible creeping away further and further when I don't do this work.

This is because I'm getting older and my earlier memories of magic are becoming less

clear. This, however, can be solved by doing some work.

The work I'm referring to is journaling about magic. What I like to do is to take an effect that I'm working on, for example, the Biddle trick, and then write down what the effect is.



Effect: Teleportation, the card traveling from one package to another.

Next, I like to write down what conditions are important for that effect to work.

Conditions: The conviction that the card is in the first package until the end, a free choice, and it happening in their hands.

Then, next, I like to journal about presentations, psychological subtleties, and other ruses to make the effect more convincing and amazing.

By writing these points down it clarifies for me what the effect is and the conditions that I need to communicate the effect.

Once I have this clarity of mind, I can start to work on touches that will stress my conditions and, in terms, make the effect even stronger.

I highly encourage you to take up this practice of journaling as well. We want to be able to understand what is impossible about the effect so that we can set the frame for the magic."



Thursday, July 20th was a great day for magic. Why? Well, you should have seen the quality of magic at the Amsterdam Close-Up Magic Show in Boom Chicago.

The first half consisted of three magicians: Killian was doing some great sleight of hand magic in Dear Reader style that is suave and cool. Abby Segal from the USA connected her card magic act to Amsterdam like cycling, clogs, and more. Very strong and well-routined magic. The closer of the first half was Rico Weeland and as usual Rico had a very good set and balance of cards and non-cards. The way Rico does the Linking Rings is my favorite.

After a small break, the second half commenced with the headliner from London, Michael Vincent. Simply put, he was astonishing. There is something about Mike once he enters the stage. He is immediately likeable, commands authority over the room he performs in, and draws his audience in his world of magic.

Mike did a few different pieces compared to the show at The Butcher; he performed card through handkerchief, his handling of Roy Walton's The Smiling Mule, and he did the Ladies' Looking Glass. The latter is a card plot that was unfamiliar to me and it was a delight to see it. Lastly, Mike closed his set with a Lao Tse presentation for the Gypsy Thread.

Overall, magic was represented well that evening and it was an amazing evening.

RICO WEELAND

TEXT: FRITZ WITH A Z
PHOTO: MICHAEL VINCENT



Who Created the Magic Tricks in Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning

The latest instalment of the hit movie franchise features clever sleight of hand, magic tricks and pickpocketing. But which magic consultant is behind the tricks

The Newest Mission: Impossible Member... Ben Hart. Forget "Barbenheimer," the name for the dual release of blockbusters Barbie and Oppenheimer on the same weekend. The other hot summer movie, Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part One, had magic in it.

The franchise's star, Tom Cruise, famously does his own stunts, climbing rock walls and hanging off the side of planes. So, when tasked with a magic trick for the newest film, it checks out that Cruise would learn how to perform sleight of hand himself rather than hiring a hand double. But how is a Hollywood star supposed to fool thousands of moviegoers? Enter Ben Hart.

British magician Ben Hart was the sleight of hand consultant behind the magic tricks in the new Mission Impossible movie. For those unfamiliar, Hart is a sensation in England, bringing a new show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival every year and then touring with it. His book The Darkest Corners was an instant hit when it was released in 2020, and his newest

show, Jadoo, is set to premiere on August 2nd at the Fringe.

On IMDb <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3355834/?ref=oneahead.com>, Hart is listed as the "magic and pickpocketing consultant" for the new Mission: Impossible film. According to Hart https://issuu.com/thelistltd/docs/the_list_festival_week_1/s/16487256?ref=oneahead.com, it all came together the night before. He received a call from the film crew, asking him to be in a car at 6 AM the following day to work with Cruise. He then got to spend about two weeks on set teaching a movie star card tricks – pretty cool, yeah?

There's a long history of magicians consulting in movies. Perhaps the most famous recent example is Now You See Me, which theory11 played a massive part in. You can check out the cards used in that film here.



Likewise, Hart is no newcomer to magic consulting. "I'm always happy to help with a beheading," he said after consulting on a Royal Shakespeare Company production that featured the illusion.

The Mission: Impossible series is known for its deceptiveness—pulling off a lifelike mask to reveal someone else has become a staple of the franchise. But you'll have to see the movie to find out if the newest trick lives up to the hype. And with the cacophony around "Berbehneimer," you just might be able to secure a ticket..

MAX DAVIDSON



AGENDA

August 24-27 - Poe's Magic Conference in Baltimore, Maryland - Website: <https://poesmagicconference.com>

August 24-27 - European Magic History Convention in Ghent, Belgium. Website: <https://www.emhc2023.com>

September 1-4 - Texas Association of Magicians (T.A.O.M.) in Fort Worth, Texas - Website: <https://taom.org/2023/>

September 07 AMSTERDAM MAGIC SHOW Boom Chicago Website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

September 7-10 - IBM British Ring Convention in Eastbourne, England. Website: <https://britishring.org.uk/convention-countdown/>

September 7-10 - Magicians' Alliance of Eastern States, Cherry Hills, New Jersey. Website: <https://maesconvention.com/>

September 7-10 - Magistrorum - Las Colinas, Dallas, Texas. Website: <https://www.magistrorum.net/>

September 10 - Magic Shopping Day at "Kasteel La Motte", Sint-Ulriks-Kapelle (B) Website: <https://sitemn.gr/TabascoMagic/swfiles/files/Uitnodiging-Tabasco-Magic-Day-2023--1.pdf>

September 9-12 - Fröhlich Magic Convention (National Austrian Convention) Bad Aussee, Salzburg, Austria. Website: <https://zauberfestival.life/>

September 11-17 - Magialdia Magic Festival in Vitoria, Spain. Website: <http://magialdia.com/worldmagicconvention.com/>

September 11 - Amsterdam Magic Society. Mascini Amsterdam.

September 15 - 17 - Secret Session II Vienna. Website: <https://magic-theater.at/index.php?c=show&id=56>

September 15-16 - Magic Cocktail in Czech Republic Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072270683879>

September 17 - Leeds Magic Jam in Leeds, England. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/leedsmagicjam>

September 20 AMSTERDAM MAGIC CLOSE-UP SHOW Website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

September 22-24 - Magic Festival Dreamfactory in Degersheim, Switzerland. Website: <https://dreamfactory.ch/events/>

September 23-24 - New Mexico Magic Festival - Albuquerque, New Mexico. Website: <https://www.thewonder.store/new-mexico>

September 28 AMSTERDAM DINER SHOW Batavia 1920 Website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

September 28-30 - Abano National Convention ITALY, Abano, Italy. Website: <https://www.clubmagicoitaliano.it/congressocmi/congresso>

September 27-29 - Vorentscheidung Magica in Kavelaer, Germany. Website: <https://www.mzvd.de/magie-erleben/details/magica-kevelaer-231013.1311.0>

September 29 - October 1 - Original Close-Up Magic Symposium in Wien, Austria. Website: <https://magic-theater.at/index.php?c=category&id=7>

October 1 okt - NED. KAMPIOENSCHAP GOOCHELEN Figi Zeist. Website: <https://www.nmumagic.nl/nk/>

October 5 - 8 - 56ème Congrès Français de L'illusion (La Grande-Motte France). Website: <https://congresffap.com/>



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