



THE BUZZ

AMSTERDAM MAGIC SOCIETY



KOBE VAN
HERWEGEN AND
HIS TEAM
ORGANISED THE
9TH EUROPEAN
HISTORY
CONFERENCE



WE ALSO HAD OUR FIRST
SUMMER BARBECUE WITH
THE SOCIETY. WE HAD
LOVELY WEATHER
OUTSIDE ON THE DECK OF
THE BUTCHER SOCIAL
CLUB, AND AN EXCELLENT
GRILL-MASTER!

October
2023

ISSUE 8

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I hope you had an amazing summer holiday. The end of August/beginning of September is the start of the theater season here in Amsterdam.

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CONJURING 2023

FRITZ WITH A Z

Have you heard about Sigtuna? It's Sweden's first town. For over 1000 years, Sigtuna has been a meeting place for people from all over the world. Not my words (it's on the tourist website of Sigtuna) but it is definitely true for the Conjuring Course 2023.



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

I hope you had an amazing summer holiday. The end of August/beginning of September is the start of the theater season here in Amsterdam. And so do the magic shows: the Amsterdam Magic Show, Hans Klok & Friends Tour, and the [gala of the Dutch magic championships](#).

Speaking of gala shows: I performed at the gala show of the European Magic History Conference last month and Frans de Groot was there as well and wrote a review about the show that you can read in this issue on page 6.

Furthermore, I attended the [Conjuring Course](#) in Sweden and in this issue I will share my experience with you.

Finally, we got the AMSociety pins and certificates. We hope you frame the certificate and wear the pin with pride. Share them on your socials and tag us in it. Also, congratulations to our new members who finished their exams!!!

We also had our first summer barbecue with the Society. We had lovely weather outside on the deck of The Butcher Social Club. More than 20 people ate and drank in the sun and enjoyed performances from members and Apprentices. It was fun flipping burgers.

This week, a few of us will visit the Magic Cocktail convention in the Czech Republic. Our own members Rico Weeland and Killian Petrick will compete and we wish them all the best.

And to prepare for the Halloween season, [The Rose Seance Experiment](#) (see page 4) is a new show of the Amsterdam Magic Show. It's the first immersive seance in Amsterdam.

All in all, it will be a fun season of magic to look forward to!

"FRITZ"



THE
ROSE SÉANCE
EXPERIMENT



OCTOBER 12, 30 & 31

THE ROSE SÉANCE EXPERIMENT

I'm very excited to tell everyone about a project we have been keeping secret for some time now. Along with my studies in NLP, I have been studying Séances and how they have been presented throughout the years and in several countries. Raising one became a goal of mine some time ago, and I asked Fritz if this would be possible. He has always been enthusiastic and supportive of this idea, and the time has come!



This October, the Amsterdam Magic Show will present The Rose Séance Experiment instead of the regular close-up show at Boom Chicago.

It is not your 'regular' Séance if such a thing exists.

In your regular séances, there is typically a light portion and a dark portion, where the dark portion may involve hidden assistants messing with the participants in the dark.

The Rose Séance Experiment is more of a mystery story where, through some bizarre-style effects, we try to solve a mystery that happened in the building over 100 years prior. The group will do this by contacting the spirits involved in the mystery. The story was inspired by the real-life history of the Boom Chicago Theater and the room we will be presenting the Séance in. We are very fortunate in that respect.

Additionally, we are very fortunate to have the talents of Edgar Brumaire. He will be acting as our medium and facilitator for the experiments and has brought several of the effects on display. Arthur Gerards will also be there for the October 12th show to take the sitters through the history of séances via his most excellent slates act.

Will you help us solve the mystery? We welcome all psychics, believers, skeptics & spirits. We will randomly select a believer and a skeptic to directly participate in the show - with the believer making contact with the spirits. Please visit roseseance.com and get your tickets now for The Rose Séance Experiment.

The Rose Séance Experiment runs at Boom Chicago Attic Theater on October 12, 30 and 31 starting at 19:30 and runs until 22:00.



Have you ever been to a convention where there were no dealers, no tricks were explained, nobody wanted to show you a trick, and no close-up show was performed? No? I did, and it was one of the most memorable conventions I ever visited!

Much has happened since the last edition of The European Magic History Conference in Vienna. A worldwide pandemic pushed the pause button, forcing them to distance themselves and sometimes say goodbye to all we held dear. Performances were postponed, magic societies went digital, and conferences got cancelled. So did the planned 2021 edition of this conference in London. On top of that, amid preparations for this conference, a war emerged. The future was uncertain. But Herman Dufrain, Nikolaas Martens, Luc Poppe and Kobe Van Herwegen took the risk and organised this 9th edition. A team of old and young collectors, exactly where they stand with this edition: connecting the past and the future in every possible way.

In the city of Ghent, Belgium, where once Leon Herrmann, Alexander Herrmann, Donato, Jean Lambert Pickman, Theatre Gransart-Courtois, the Davenport Brothers, Charles de Vere, Henri Robin, Benevol, Steens and Suzy Wandas, among others, delighted audiences with their magical art.

It was their goal to honour all of the above artists. In four days, we share our passion, friendships are formed, knowledge is passed on. It becomes clear once again that no pandemic or war has been able to stop magic and wonder.

House of Mysteries

At a central location, only 10 meters from the famous medieval castle "Gravensteen" stands a

mysterious house: the House of Mysteries! This house is a unique total concept located in the heart of Ghent.



A mirror tent, close-up room, séance attic, mini museum... These are just a few things that can be found in the House of Mysteries. With magic as the central theme, magic performances and happenings can be seen regularly. Here was the conference's opening by Kobe van Herwegen, introducing an archive of all the French magic books. You can find them at www.bibliographiemagique.com made by Jack Cooper and Thibault Ternon, and after that, the first lecture by Jack Cooper about Leopoldo Fregoli (1867- 1936), the greatest quick-change artist of his generation.



After the opening, we walked to the "Huis van Alijn", where a Magic BBQ took place (free of charge) and free drinks!



During the BBQ we go in groups to the Magic Galantee Show Laterna. Ditmar Bollaerd and Els Prenter present the unique glass slides from a rich collection of more than two thousand later slides for this Historical Conference.



What a surprise at this beautiful day!

Friday, day of lecturers

Today, there were nine lectures planned on various topics. They were held in the church of the conference Hotel Monasterium (an old Monastery). The subjects were fascinating, but some people spoke not enough English to communicate their knowledge.

All the lecturers spoke passionately about their issues, which was nice.

Francois Bost (FR) talked about the influence of the 18th century and its magic on Robert Houdin's magic.

Charles Greene III (USA) had an exciting story about Ionia - Magician Princess Secrets Unlocked. During a recent trip to France, Charles visited several de Vere family sites. Fergus Roy (UK) made us happy about Murray's travels - The Marco Polo of magic. Very entertaining!

James Hagy talked and gave us a free book of 327 pages about the instant illusionist and the Cleveland Buch: Dreams of a Vaudeville life.



Frederic Tabet & Pierre Taillefer (FR) explore the social function of the conjurer and its use of photography from 1850-1880. Very funny to see all those 3D glasses.

Raphael (BE) presented a fun lecture looking back at the life and magic of Ali Bongo and demonstrated many of Bongo's original props and Ideas.



Mike Caveny has a passion for Zati Sungur, the Turkish Wizard. Through the kindness of Zati's daughter, Aynur, Mike told his story

with dozens of previously unseen photographs. Ian Keable (UK) considered the relationship between the Cups & Balls and Timble Rigging (known today as the Three Shell Game). Despite his hard work at the conference, Kobe van Herwegen (BE) found time to give a fascinating lecture about the Belgian Jean Lambert Pickman, who was known as one of the greatest hypnotics and magicians of his period (1857 - 1925). Kobe sketched the life of this personality using unique material from various private collections.

Reception, Conference Dinner and Quiz

After this waterfall of lectures, we were ready for some fresh air. The organisation surprised us with a walk to the City Hall of Ghent, the political heart of Ghent since the 14th century! A cocktail of styles and influences spiced up down the centuries. It is still the administrative seat of the city, so all corners of this magnificent building hum with activity. Where the deputy mayor received us and treated us to a glass of champagne.



Then, on foot to the next surprise, the Conference Dinner (all included in the conference fee).

In the beautiful restaurant Amadeus, a Burgundian rib restaurant with an interior from the 1920s and 1930s, obligatory Vichy tablecloths and nostalgic knick-knacks are everywhere. You can eat ribs, fish or vegetarian food until you drop because it is à volonté! Delicious food and drink.

Another walk to The House of Mysteries for the last activity of the day, "The Quiz". I had joined a group of new Belgian friends. Unfortunately, our knowledge of the history of magic turned out to be too limited, and the Americans won, so we could drink away the sorrow of this loss at Luc Poppe's bar. That helped, not a lot, but it helped!

Day 3, Lectures and Magical Minard

I got up early again to see, this time not magicians but scientists from the universities of Antwerp and Leuven—a collaboration of SciFair and B-Magic. The research of SciFair starts from the hypothesis that fairs were not only folk events but also centres of international exchange. SciFair performs pioneering research on the role itinerant show people between 1850 and 1914 played in disseminating information about scientific and technological advances in Western Europe.

B-magic aimed to rediscover the unwritten history of the magic lantern as a mass medium and cultural practice in Belgium. We saw Kate Wills talking about the king of travelling magnetisers to a vendor of illusions: Donato and the science of hypnosis in the late 19th century. Hannah Welslau was searching for spirits at Belgian fairgrounds. Tim Overkempe introduced us to X-ray imagery, the phenomenal science of the fairground. Evelien Jonckheere traced the shadow of Méliès, who performed "magic orientale" in Belgium. Interesting! Kurt Vanhoutte lectured about the joker in the deck or the many faces of Henri Robin. His shows successfully struck a delicate balance between spectacle-driven entertainment and scientific education. Nele Wynants researched the vanishing ladies or

the disappearance of women in the history of magic. Ellenora Paklons told about gossip about ghosts and fairies and the magic lantern performances of George R. Tweedie. Thibaut Rioult treated Mannirism Illusionism, the foundation of modern illusionism and its socio-aesthetic paradigm. The European Union subsidizes all these studies, so you know the EU spent your tax money also on our magic art.

After lunch, the last lectures took place. Steffen Taut (DE) researched the Papyrus Westcar - an iconic document of magic history. The oldest record describes a trick performance in the "Tale of King Cheops' Court", written about 1550 BCE. George Nodet lectured about the trip Robert-Houdin made to Belgium in 1848. Enrico Pezzoli (LV) has his magic theatre and museum in Riga called Mystero.



Dick Koornwinder (NL) talked about the fascinating story of the first 25 years of Fred Kaps. Dick could not resist to share a few unknown secrets. He hilariously did that during his PowerPoint presentation; a ringing hotel bell appeared unexpectedly, which reminded Dick of a new anecdote. Paul Kievee (UK) told the story of Servais Le Roy (1865-1953), the best magician Belgium has ever had! This performer (also the conference's logo) has come to almost personify The Golden Age of Magic.

The day of lectures was then closed with the announcement of where the next Historic Conference will be held. That is in August 2025 in Riga, Latvia. Make a note in your agenda!

Ghent was the favourite halting place for many magicians from the past. All stood on the Ghent's Minard Theater stage to dazzle the audience with their performances. For the European Magic History Conference, the smoke screen in this beautiful theatre will rise again to enchant the audience with contemporary magicians. Rafael was the conference attendant. He is a genuinely many-sided artist and award-winning magician, inventor and comedian. He did his job well. Because (I heard later) there was a technical problem with the Asrah Illusion, the wise organization decided to leave that out of the show, and Rafael filled that gap with his vanishing audio set.

Tim Oelbrandt performed his Spirals act about a man so isolated that he no longer feels the difference between real life outside and his fantasy world inside. The central object in the performance is a marble track made entirely of copper, which only marbles the size of a billiard ball fit. It looks like an installation reminiscent of Jules Verne or even more of the buildings of Royal de Luxe. Later in the show he performed the razor blades from mouth.



I am proud of our president of the Amsterdam Magic Society. Fritz with a Z performed two old timers, his version of the homing card and a beautiful revelation of three chosen cards, skilfully cut from a newspaper and even the spectator could do it! Jack Cooper showed an intriguing version of the illusion: Sawing a lady in half.

Kevin Laurens brought the old craft of hand shadowing back into modern times. Well done!

Jonas de Bruyn also proves that magic is of all times and the old tricks of the fairgrounds are more than what they seem at first sight. The well-known Belgian comic mentalist Gili did a great job and got the laughs on his side. A beautiful almost Belgian show produced by Mystery Lab in collaboration with the House of Mysteries.

Conference final day

The day started with a flea market of books, posters, tricks and many more! Lots of stuff changed from owner to owner. And there was a lot to buy!



After lunch, it was raining cats and dogs. Because a boat ride to the "Boekentoren" was planned, and the tourist boats had no rooftop. We had to wait till it was dry. Happy enough, it was dry after a while, and the sun shone through the clouds. We walked to the jetty of the boat and after some cleaning work from the captain, we were able to

board to enjoy a nice boat trip through the canals of Ghent.



We then walked to the Book Tower of Ghent University, where the curator had gone out of her way to surprise the group of connoisseurs with gems from the archives. There were everyday documents, such as advertisement brochures, business cards, flyers, tickets, and program booklets, from many magicians, circus and theatre performances.

We were honoured to be one of the few allowed to go to the 20th floor of the Boekentoren - a tower filled with thousands of books and, on top, a magnificent view over the city.



We walked back to The House of Mysteries where the closing ceremony took place.

It was the first time I went to such a conference. It was a unique and educational experience. I forgot my bag, but Rafael found it. Thanks again! I made new friends. The organization was caring and well-coordinated.

Herman, Kobe, Luc and Nikolaas, you gave me a few unforgettable days; thank you!

TEXT: FRANS DE GROOT
PHOTO'S: PATRICK PICKART



AGENDA

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 29 - October 1 - Original Close-Up Magic Symposium in Wien, Austria. Website:

<https://magic-theater.at/index.php?c=category&id=7>

October 1 - NED. KAMPIOENSCHAP

GOOCHELEN Figi Zeist. Website: <https://www.nmumagic.nl/nk/>

October 5 AMSTERDAM MAGIC SHOW

Boom Chicago Website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

October 5 - 8 - 56ème Congrès Français de L'illusion (La Grande-Motte France). Website:

<https://congresffap.com/>

October 8 - BMF Convention Day, Vilvoorde

Website: <https://www.belgianmagicfederation.be/event/bmf-convention-day-a-vilvoorde/>

October 12 - THE ROSE SÉANCE EXPERIMENT [PREVIEW]

Boom Chicago website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

October 30 & October 31 - THE ROSE SÉANCE EXPERIMENT Boom Chicago

website: <https://www.amsterdam-magic.com/>

November 2-4 - TRICS (Carolina Close-Up Convention) in Charlotte, NC - Website:

<http://tricsconvention.com/>

November 3-5 - Daytona Beach Festival of Magic - Daytona, Florida - Website: <https://daytonamagic.com/convention/>





Belgian Championship of Magic Close-Up & Stage 2023

Sunday
8 October
2023

LOCATION

CC Het Bolwerk
Bolwerkstraat 17
1800 Vilvoorde - Belgium
Starts at 10 am

Competition – Lectures – Black Box Dealers - Gala Show

Lectures/Gala : GAETAN BLOOM (FR) - ALEXANDER DE COVA (DE)

Gala: SWIEBELIENTJE (BE) - DANIEL ADRIAN (BE)
ALEXANDRA MALTER (BE) – MAXIME MANDRAKE (BE)
ALFREDO LORENZO (NL)

DAYTICKET (incl. Galashow)

ENTRANCE : Pre-sale

BMF Member: €50

Non-BMF Member: €60

Junior - 18 BMF: €35

Junior - 18 Non-BMF: €40

As of 1 October

BMF Member: €60

Non-BMF Member: €70

Junior - 18 BMF: €40

Junior - 18 Non-BMF: €45

GALA ONLY (also access to competition)

Adults : 25€ Junior -18 : 20€

Reservations www.belgianmagicfederation.be

8 oktober 2023 - Belgian Magic Federation (BMF)

cc het Bolwerk, Bolwerkstraat 17, Vilvoorde

GALASHOW start 19:00

Inkom 25 € / <18jr = 20€



Gaëtan Bloom (FR)



Swiebelientje (BE)



Alexander de Cova (DE)



Alexandra Malter (BE)



Maxime Mandrake (BE)



Daniel Adrian (BE)



Alfredo Lorenzo (NL)

+ winnaars Belgisch Kampioenschap Goochelen



Out of sight out of my mind

Moving to the stage



When I started with magic, I was mostly a close-up magician. All of my material was gambling or skill-based and moving my material to the stage or rather the parlor terrified me.

It was one of those things that I was afraid to do, it felt awkward and I simply didn't know any tricks that were meant for the stage. What was even worse it that I couldn't find any routines for the parlor that interested me.

All of this changed when I read Guy Hollingworth's *Drawing Room Deceptions*. Guy's book is an amazing tomb that I start to appreciate more the longer I'm in magic, but, the thing that opened up my mind in when reading that book for the first time was his chapter on twisting the aces. Guy created these beautiful moves through which twisting the aces could be done at chest height. Not just at chest height, but all the twists were also visible!

The thing that I took away from Guy's analysis of the effect is that effects can be changed for different situations. Before this book, I always thought that a routine was either meant for stage or for close-up, but this can't be further

from the truth. Routines aren't placed in categories, moves, however, are. There are some moves that are just awkward on a stage, such as the Biddle move. Changing up the move, however, could change the routine from a close-up piece into a parlor routine.

Another book that shows this wonderfully is Daryl's *For Your Entertainment Pleasure*. In this book Daryl shows a similar routine three times, but with a few different moments and moves that will be changed depending on the situation in which he is performing.

I could go on for hours about different books and sources, but the most important thing to remember is that a routine can always be changed. If you want to make a move towards the stage I would pick a routine with which you're comfortable in close-up and try to change the moves and the moments so that the entire routine is performable at a chest height.

This will be your first exercise and challenge in moving from close-up to stage.

RICO WEELAND



Conjuring 2023

Dear Diary,
Have you heard about Sigtuna? It's Sweden's first town. For over 1000 years, Sigtuna has been a meeting place for people from all over the world. Not my words (it's on the tourist website of Sigtuna) but it is definitely true for the Conjuring Course 2023.

With 43 participants from around the world (12 nationalities!), we all spent a few days in what could be considered the Swedish Hogwarts. Before I describe my experience to you, dear Diary, let me tell you a few things.

The schedule for Monday to Friday is very much structured: breakfast, class, fika, class, lunch, class, fika, class, documentation, dinner, and an extra event. What is fika, you ask dear Diary? Well, that is Swedish for a coffee break and important of the day. Saturday morning was reserved for performances and showcases using the information and techniques we learned that week.

Remember that I took Course A last year? This year I continued to Course B and was very excited, specifically about the prop-making class by Tim Star.

Last year we learned a lot from Tom Stone, one of the instructors, meaning we had a lot more magic theory. This year we had a lot more Leif Olberius, another instructor. This meant we had a lot more dramatic exercises.

Quick side note, dear Diary; Tom and Leif created a safe space where you can fail and experiment with new things and get out of your comfort zone. Besides creating your own ensemble magic (most assignments are executed with groups of 2, 3, or 4

FRITZ WITH A Z

people), you're watching your classmates too. It's inspiring to see what they came up with within the same time frame. OK, dear Diary, let's get back on track.

Because lots of ideas, inspiration, and feedback come from the classes, it was wise to either record the performances or document everything. This is why you are here, dear Diary. You are my recorder. So are you ready to experience the Conjuring Course 2023?

Sunday

I flew into Arlanda airport on Sunday afternoon with Abby Segal from the USA. Do you remember her, dear Diary? While she went to Sigtuna folkhogskola (a 20-minute Uber drive), I decided to stay in Stockholm for the night to meet up with my good friend Martin Hansson. Later that evening I traveled back to the airport to stay at a hotel.

Monday

After a good sleep, I checked out of my hotel and took a Bolt to Sigtuna. The Bolt driver dropped me off in front of the building and I walked up the hill to the school. After saying hello to several participants from last year, I grabbed a coffee, and at 9:00 we went to the venue for our lessons. A church, dear Diary, a church.



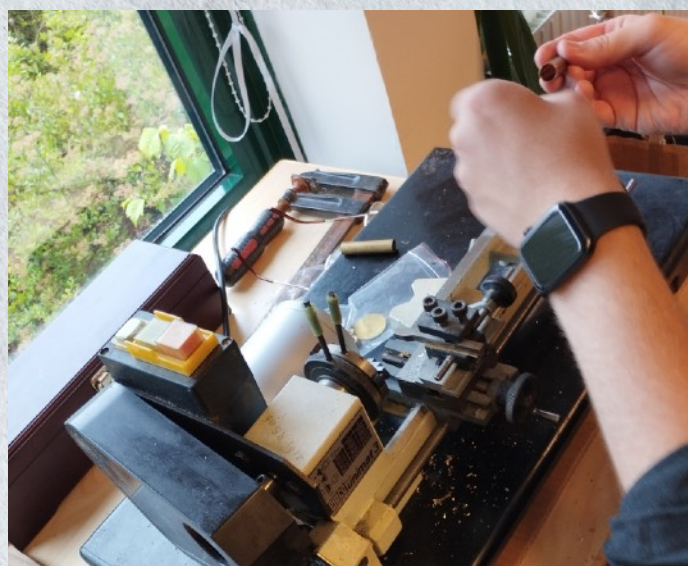
The whole day we spent with Leif. We discussed 'conflict & effect', what is the effect, and the internal/external conflict. Later on, we worked with masks. The idea behind this is that a mask gives you a neutral face. Therefore, you have to use your body to communicate to the audience. It was quite a task to execute this with a magic trick, dear Diary. But so much fun!

Tuesday

This day was without a doubt my highlight: making props with Tim Star. After a short introduction, we could choose what we wanted to craft: a dye tube, a magic wand with a bag, or a cupholder that you can steal (so sorry that I do not know the name, dear Diary).



I chose to make a magic wand because completing that felt like a rite of passage for me. The cool part was that Tommy Wonder's workbench (a lathe) was also there and was used by us. I was told that Tommy hammered a crate and sent it to Tom after a workshop Tommy did in Sweden in 2002.



After soldering, using a Dremel, painting, spraying, sewing, cutting, and bending metal, I was so proud to finish my magic wand. I even had time left to make a match pull. During the whole day, Tim was so patient and helpful with all of us. He showed us how to perform the Vernon Wand Spin and even had a few stories about Dai Vernon. It is such a proud feeling when you make something from scratch!

The extra event in the evening was about 3D printing by Micke Askernäs. It was very interesting because he also showcased 3D prints. If you have an idea but you cannot make it yourself, you can easily have one 3D printed by a variety of online shops.

Wednesday

'High/low status'. This is something I was familiar with as I participated and taught in improvisation classes. It could be a relationship, dear Diary, like father/son, soldier/commander, etc. Me and Joni had a fun scene. The premise was that I was a student and he was a teacher. Joni was teaching me color changes. But every time I'd mess up and he got angry. At some point, Joni got so angry he would hit my hand, so I could not use it for a color change. To solve this problem, I used magic and suddenly, Joni was impressed. He asked me to teach him, enabling a status shift.

Later that day, we had a class from Tom for the first time this week and it was about 'Crossing the gaze'. We already worked on this concept last year but now we used Slydini's "Paper Balls over the Head" and how to utilize crossing the gaze.

After the afternoon fika, Tom discussed 'breaking the "lines"'. It's basically the line between the secret action and the effect it produces. Where in your current routines could you break the lines?

The extra event in the evening was for women called "Towards a mutual body of knowledge" which meant that the men had some time off. Like last year, me and a few of our class went out for drinks. Some of us

performed from a group of strangers, while others shared magic for each other.



Thursday

“What are your freaks doing?” That was one of the sentences one could only say during ‘Text & Voice’ class from Leif. But how you say this sentence can change your intention and meaning. The assignment was difficult, dear Diary, but so much fun! Me, Marc, Adrian, and Peter had 25 minutes to come up with a scene that used one line, had a conflict, had a change in tempo and status, and of course, had a magic trick in it. It is truly amazing what a deadline and a group brainstorm can create.



In the afternoon, Tom talked about amodal completion and object permanence. This means the tendency of the brain to add backsides to what we

cannot see. This was a very cool concept, dear Diary. Me and Peter created a pretty cool scene where we made water appear and at the end chocolates where we played “All You Need Is Love” by The Beatles.

Later that day we worked on The trick that cannot be explained. As I was very familiar with this plot, I showed variations in how I approached this. For me, this effect is improvising with a deck of cards and I like that very much, dear Diary.

In the evening was the open stage. As with last year, I was asked to host this year’s edition.



It was great to see such a variety of magic. New experimental pieces or routines that people are working on. I spoke with Hakan on Monday and he told me he was working on a new routine (coincidentally, a routine I was also working on called “Hold-Out”) and it was great to see Hakan perform his routine. Because the show was open to everybody, a few laypeople showed up as well. And Caroline Ravn, Anders Moden, and Johan Stahl also visited. Overall, a fun evening to relax and enjoy each other’s company.

Friday

Hakan Berg, the King of Birds, talked about honesty in performance. His talk could be summed up in one sentence: be real and commit 100%. It was nice to see Hakan talk about this topic while seeing his performance last night.

After the morning fika, we worked on coins through the table. The challenge was to come up with three different methods to make coins through the table, where ideally each method canceled each other out. Me, Marc,

and Peter did this in a Buddhist style that was quite interesting.

The afternoon was reserved to work on your routine to showcase the next morning. In contrast to last year, I decided not to create something new but to work on a thing I came up with on the plane last year. It was based on a routine that Tom showed us and was based on Slydini's Paperball in the hat. With my variation as a start, I tried to implement what I learned that week into that routine. With help from Leif, Elmo, and Abby, the routine got more polished.

The extra event was of one of the students in class A, Horret Wu. It was about the evolution of a card sleight where he taught us an add-on. His starting point was Dai Vernon's "Strip-Out Addition" and a few years later became something completely different. A fascinating journey to watch his tweaks and variations.

And like last year, dear Diary, all the students were scattered over the school. Everybody was working hard on their performances for the next morning. Either with headphones in going through the motions or editing their routine in their notebook. Eventually, I found a piece of music for my routine and started rehearsing until going to bed where I rehearsed more in my mind...

Saturday

It was busier than usual at breakfast. Maybe we were all excited to share our magic, dear Diary. We had a long morning ahead with a lot of performances. Even though it was recommended to have an act no longer than 5 minutes, a lot of the routines went over time, so a few of us missed the fika.



I took it upon myself to be in charge of the tech and made sure the performers had their music played when performing. It is great to see so much variety of magic (shout out to Lil' Markus!), potential ideas for acts, and more.

Because I got so involved with the tech, I forgot that I also had to perform. It went great, I just made one small mistake with the choreography. But I got nice feedback about the act, most notably that I can make the routine funny if I perform it often and maybe change the music so it becomes more poetic.



After an evaluation of the week, we took a group photo and shared hugs while me, Abby, and a few Fins waited for our taxis. On our way to the airport, we already talked about Conjuring Course C. On the flight back to Amsterdam, I reflected on my week participating in Conjuring Course B. It was such a learning experience and I hope you also enjoyed it, dear Diary.

I will "C" you next year!

THE CONJURING COURSE 2024 IS FROM JULY 29 THROUGH AUGUST 3RD WWW.MAGIC-WORKSHOPS.COM. SIGNING UP WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 2ND.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: MARC HERREN, TOM STONE, MALINDA LODGE, AND MARTIN CEDERBOM.



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