



THE BUZZ

AMSTERDAM MAGIC SOCIETY



Februari
2025

ISSUE 2

10 Questions to Finn Jon

1/ FRITZ WITH A Z

You may have seen news of the fires in Los Angeles, including striking images of the Magic Castle illuminated by an orange glow in the background.

3 p.



6 p.

2/ NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN MAGIC HISTORIC CONVENTION



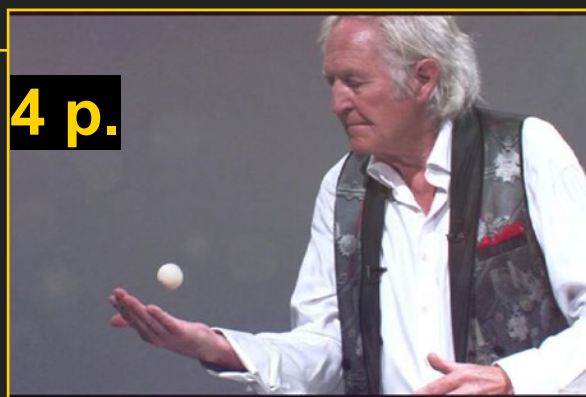
Splendid Palace is one of the most magnificent and long-standing European cinemas that has brought joy to film lovers with excellent quality art since 1923. artistic training by studying physical theatre

3/ 10 QUESTIONS TO FINN JON FRITZ WITH A Z

We can wake you up in the middle of the night for.....

A snack.

4 p.



4/

THE MAGICIAN'S TABLE



12 p.

STEPHANE VARRAULT

London is giving you its best attempt at a cold, mysterious, December night when the lights of this ancient factory turned theatre come into view.

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

Copyright © 2023 by the Amsterdam Magic society. All rights reserved. No part of this publication be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior permission of the Editor of The Amsterdam Magic Society. Views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Amsterdam Magic Society unless specifically stated.



DEAR READER

You may have seen news of the fires in Los Angeles, including striking images of the Magic Castle illuminated by an orange glow in the background. Thankfully, the fire was contained, and the Magic Castle has since transformed into a hub for aiding others impacted by the disaster. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to the magicians and community in Los Angeles.

For those unfamiliar, the Magic Castle is a truly extraordinary place nestled in Hollywood. I've had the privilege of visiting twice and even performing for a week in their renowned close-up gallery. During my time there, I was lucky enough to see performances by Morgan & West, Karl Hein, Joe Monti, and many other incredible magicians. One of the highlights of the Magic Castle is its library, an unparalleled treasure trove of knowledge. During my visit, I had the pleasure of spending time with Bill

Goodwin. By sheer coincidence, he was in the process of filing my DVD, *Let's Go Dutch*, into their collection! Regrettably, I wasn't conducting research at the time, so I couldn't fully explore the vast array of books and videos housed in the library.

Currently, I am delving into research on the "multiple papers to money" plot, a fascinating journey that led to a conversation with Norwegian magic legend Finn Jon. While discussing his handling of the effect, I took the opportunity to ask him 10 questions about his craft and career. His insightful answers are included in this edition for your enjoyment.

Inside this issue, you'll also find a review of *The Magician's Table, Sips & Sorcery*, highlights from our most recent online meeting, and much more.

ENJOY READING

Fritz with a Z

10 QUESTIONS TO Finn Jon

1) Hello mr. Jon, how are you?

I'm ok, in a way. I'm 85 years old now.

2) What is one of your hobbies?

I like to go fishing in the rivers.

3) Favorite city?

That is very difficult. I have no favorite. Paris, I like it. I was also in Frankfurt for 10 years. And I was also on cruise ships around the world. So it's very hard to pick my favorite city.

4) Who inspires you as a magician?

Silvan. He had a very special style. But also Ken Brooke, Fred Kaps, Patrick Page, and Slydini.

5) What magic item should every magician have?

Nothing special.

6) Bubbles or smoke?

Smoke. Even though it is hard to do that indoors.

7) If somebody travels to Norway, what is one thing he/she should see, eat or drink?

Norway is not a big country. A big city is different compared to a small city. My country is beautiful, you can find everything in Norway.

8) Best magic act you have seen

Cardini. And Fred Kaps. Silvan. It's very difficult for me to decide.

9) What is it about magic that you enjoy?

Mostly depends on who performs. When you saw Kaps, it was not boring. I also saw Dai Vernon in Las Vegas perform 'Out of this World'.

10. One piece of advice you give somebody when somebody wants to work with thread.

I started when I was 10 years old, so start young. You have different strengths for different effects, so play with it. I like the elastic loops a lot.

FRITZ WITH A Z.





Out of sight out of my **mind**

Go back to the basics



Magicians often come to me for advice. One question that shows up quite often is:

“What advice would you give to a beginner magician?”

The answer I have for this isn't just for beginner magicians; it's advice I'd give to any magician, no matter their level:

“Go and study the basics.”

But Rico, I already studied the basics; I'm proficient at them.

No, probably you're not. Let me explain why. We often think we are proficient at the basics when we're not. We also often make the mistake of thinking the basics are just for beginners—something to focus on when starting out—and once we can do them reasonably well, we move on to more advanced moves and routines.

The truth is that in any craft or art, the people who master the basics are the ones who progress the most.

I remember studying martial arts for 10 years. At the beginning of every training session, everyone—regardless of their rank—would spend the first 30 minutes practicing the moves we learned during the first year of training. It didn't matter if you were a black belt or a white belt; everyone worked on the same foundational moves.

This is because martial artists understand that the basics are the building blocks of the entire art. Whenever we had competitions, the person who would win was usually the one with the strongest foundations—not the person with the fanciest or flashiest moves. The same is true for magic: the magician with the strongest foundations is usually the better magician.

But why do I have to go back if I already know how to do the basics well?

Just like in martial arts, where we practiced foundational moves every week, you want to keep your basics sharp. What's even more important is that you likely learned these foundational moves while having a limited understanding of magic as a whole. You didn't have the proper framework to see how all the elements flow together.

Going back to the foundations as an advanced magician allows you to notice things you missed before. Developing strong foundations as a beginner makes everything else in the art easier and more efficient to learn.

The truth is that, to do good magic, you don't need much. You only need a few basic moves executed superbly. If you can perform a perfect:

- **False shuffle**
- **Invisible control (such as a pass)**
- **Top change**
- **Double lift**
- **Palm**

...then you can perform nearly every effect in card magic at a level that will fool both lay audiences and magicians.

Focus on:

- **Learning break management.**
- **Achieving naturalness in your controls.**
- **Mastering moves so thoroughly that you no longer have to look at your hands.**
- **Removing all tension from your technique, until you're barely aware of performing the moves.**

Work more on your basics, and you will improve as a magician.

RICO WEELAND



NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN MAGIC HISTORIC CONVENTION

At the moment, at the end of 2024, this is the list of what has already been confirmed

Visits

Visit to the Riga Circus Building (with lectures and a small performance)

Visit to the Splendid Cinema (with a conference and screening of a Houdini movie)

Lectures

Flip Hallema: *Six Generations of Bamberg Magicians: From Eliaser to Fu Manchu*

Dace Pezzoli: *Tales of a Latvian Travelling Magician: San Martino di Castrozza*

Anne Goulden: *The Davenport Brothers and J. N. Maskelyne*

Lucia Raggetti: *A Rabbit from the Turban: The Natural Science of Magic in the Arabo-Islamic Middle Ages*

Sara Fani & Marianna Marchini: *Magic on the Tip of the Pen: Impossible Surfaces and Inks for Special Effects*

Marco Baschetti & Marianna Marchini: *Let's Egg On! History, Tricks & Secrets of Arabic Medieval Egg Magic*

Walter Maffei: *Magic & Movies: A Short Story of a Long Relationship*

Pauliina Räsänen: *Celebrated but Forgotten: Female Magicians in Northern Europe in the 1880s–1890s*

Maciej Puławski: *Charlatanism on Stage: Pseudo-Magical Rituals and Cures in Italian Renaissance Comedies*

Jan Isenbart: *Magic in Advertising and Advertising's Magic*

Panel Discussion

Strategies for Sustaining Magic History Communities (hosted by Marco Pusterla) It's time for RIGA !

For the first time the European Magic History Conference will be held in Riga in the MYSTERO Theater & Museum a former movie theater built in 1930 which today hosts a 300 seat fully equipped theater, a private collection and a permanent expositions of magic tricks and antique posters.

Houdini will be here !

[Splendid Palace](#) is one of the most magnificent and long-standing European cinemas that has brought joy to film lovers with excellent quality art since 1923.



Since the very beginning, the cinema stood out due to an excellent film repertoire and perfect service. During the silent film era, a wonderful orchestra provided the visitors with an immersive experience into the films' universes. Splendid Palace was a trailblazer in many aspects. It was the first cinema in the Baltics to screen sound films, and in the 1930s, it became the premier venue for showing Latvian films. The cinema was very successful – statistics show that from 1923 to 1940, the cinema was visited by 6 million viewers.

HOUDINI movies:
"The Master Mystery"

Step back in time: once you enter the Splendid Palace doors you will feel like to be back in the '20.

For this reason, during the visit of this magnificent building, we will organize the projection of a selection of the Houdini movie "The Master Mystery" with live music from a piano to give a full feeling of the silent movies era and, of course, the magic of Houdini.

B'A'ROLFE
PRESENTS

HOUDINI ^{IN} *The* **MASTER MYSTERY**

BY ARTHUR B. REEVE AND CHARLES A. LOGUE
DIRECTED BY BURTON KING



**EPISODE
TEN**

**B.A.ROLFE PRODUCTIONS
OCTAGON FILMS, INC.**



REVIEW SIPS & SORCERY

On Wednesday, December 11, I visited another Amsterdam Magic Society tree branch. In addition to the Amsterdam Bar Magic Show, there is now Sips & Sorcery, a show in the heart of Amsterdam in Cafe Backstage. They advertise as the cheapest bar in Amsterdam and regularly organize events such as the abovementioned show.

What is actually "Bar magic"? In my experience, it is magic, as the most famous American bar magicians Doc Eason and Bibik do, behind the bar with their audience sitting at this bar. In the Netherlands, Henk Rekelhof and Joop Heuvel conjured the stars from the sky in café Whiskey a Gogo in the Utrechtsestraat and Café Heuvel behind the bar, respectively.

Unfortunately, they are no longer with us. They were highly valued members of Mysterium, of which Joop was the chairman. After his death, I was allowed to take over from him.

The Amsterdam Bar Magic Show in café De Buurvrouw is a close-up show in a café. Very nice to see. The manners with the audience are a bit more relaxed, but it is still a show behind a close-up table. The audience is, of course, having a great time and enjoying the magic close-up.

Sips & Sorcery approaches Bar magic the most. In addition to the "normal" bar, they constructed another bar behind which the audience takes a seat. The magic occurs under the audience's eyes and is much more interactive.

Kilian Petric (NL) opened the show and immediately knew how to win over the audience. In addition to some amazing card tricks, he starts his performance with a mint that eventually comes out of his eye through his mouth. The tone was immediately set.

Stefano Rosa (I) performs mental effects and makes his audience believe he has unique gifts. He is charming and knows what he is doing.

Jose Carlos Valera (S) was there for the first time and interacted with the audience engagingly and cheerfully. My highlight was when he used a joint as a magic wand to make several selected cards from a deck rise.

Zippo Guo (CH), who we know from his Emoji and dance manipulation act, is also skilled in close-up and card magic. After a few card tricks, he surprised me with Woody Aragon's "Love Ritual" trick, not by playing cards but by blank cards on which the audience could make their drawings. The audience was cheerful and amazed!

Rico Weeland (NL) closed this show with a few card tricks followed by a perfectly executed rope trick and a linking ring routine. These were not bar tricks, but for him, they were a nice moment to try out his act, which he showed a few days later with great success in a sold-out Mascini. The audience enjoyed it very much.

I had a lovely evening, and the audience certainly did!

TEKST & PHOTOS FRANS DE GROOT





International Club Night

Hello Everybody!

Our fourth edition of the International Club Nights in December was a huge success. I'm thankful for the group we have gathered and the support from our members here in Amsterdam. Together we have created this new experience for magicians worldwide. We focused on Christmas, festive and holiday magic in honour of the holidays. To start us off, I showed off some of the holiday-themed illusions from Paul Osbourne via various GENII magazines through the '80s and '90s.

Fritz, Killian, and Robina all performed magic this month for the group - what a joy to see! We found out that it is relatively easy for people to send in video clips of themselves - so if you'd like to perform but do so in a pre-recorded way, feel free to send them in advance to my email, evan@evankastor.com

Shawn Farquhar dropped in for a surprise visit! It was wonderful to speak with him about his private theatre, Hidden Wonders, in New Westminster. <https://hiddenwonders.ca> He performed a new trick he has been working on, which involved moving a hole punched through a card. We spoke about many things, including his Fool Us appearances and a peek behind the scenes into how things work over there. He also let us know that perhaps, finally, the mystery in his documentary might be solved as the body might be exhumed soon.

Loshayden performed his latest Okito box, 'The Magic Currency Exchange,' which I must say was even more unbelievable than the one last month.

Six different coins changed into other coins - two at a time - all from the same box. He also showed a special Lifesaver-themed trick, which he has been working on. You can always catch Losh's latest effects on his YouTube channel. <https://youtube.com/@loshaydencreations>

Ian and Reg joined us again this month. Ian dug up Reg's first contribution to Paul Daniels' British television series - and we could all watch it together, the first time it was seen in many years.

Coming up the last Sunday in January is our fifth edition! It will be on the 26th of January, at 8 pm Amsterdam time. What is the topic? Performers love them, mentalists use them, and magicians collect them: Book Tests! If you don't perform one in your act now, then perhaps this meeting will convince you. We will have special guests, including Jim Kleefeld, the author of The Book Test Book - an expansive tome that details many book tests throughout time. <https://jimkleefeld.com> Later, we'll see the cutting-edge new book test from Josh Zandman; it is unbelievable. <https://joshzandman.com>

I've got something special in store for you all as well.

See you on the 26th



OkitoCoin Box



Robina



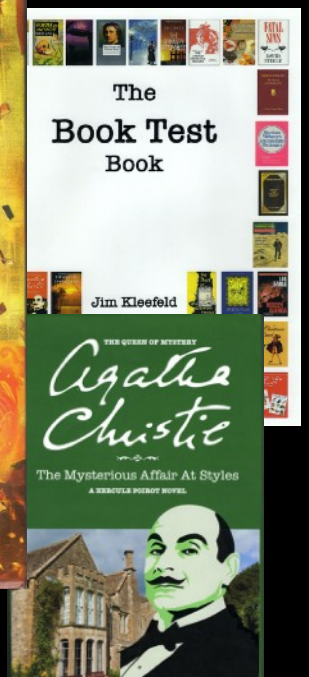
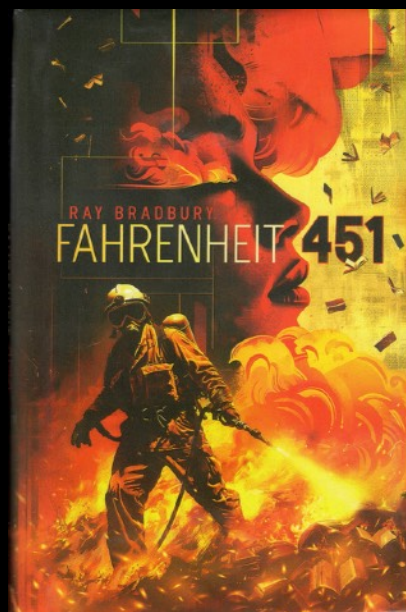
Shawn



Paul Daniels



Live Savers



Booktests

—THE— MAGICIANS TABLE

Magic, brilliance, and mischief in secret South London venue

London is giving you its best attempt at a cold, mysterious, December night when the lights of this ancient factory turned theatre come into view. Only two streets away from a very busy road, yet the quiet atmosphere could make you swear you are anywhere but in a big metropolis. You reach the door and before stepping in, a line of people is forming behind you. All wearing casual chic and retro attire, they too seem to have dressed up for the circumstance.



Past the staircase is the home of a curious, dazzling and artfully produced evening you will remember for years to come. One too rare occasion for you, as a magician, to stand on the receiving end of Mystery.

You are a guest at The Magician's Table, a show written by BAFTA and Olivier Award winner Iain Sharkey, also long-time collaborator of Derren Brown. The finest UK close-up artists are present, and your seat awaits you.

Four Spicy Margaritas and... a funeral?

One of the greatest strengths of the show is how it invites you to a seemingly traditional cabaret event, before progressively twisting reality and sending you right into a fantasy world. While the word "immersive" is nowadays applied to many productions to varying degrees of success, The Magician's Table is a clear demonstration of immersive done right, with perfect mastery of the space, story flow and production means.

The bar area welcomes you on the first floor, the atmosphere rich with speakeasy and carnival flair. It's all there: wooden floors, leather sofas, exotic scents, dimmed lights and the occasional ancient magic poster. A Magician from the cast sits in one corner of the room. Guests are welcome to join them and witness the first miracles of the evening.



But what catches my attention at the time is the odd postcard given to me upon entrance: "A celebration of the life of Dieter Roterburg", with a photograph of... a death mask?!? I decide to leave questions for later, and instead focus on the fine choice of cocktails available. Mystery does not stay distant for long, though.



On the way to the theatre space on the upper floor, a mysterious woman quietly greets the participants.

Something odd about her beautiful black velvet dress sets her apart from the crowd: to austere for a show but to sparkly for a funeral. "Thank you for being here", she says, "it would have meant so much to Dieter".

Emblematic of the tonal duality of the show, the costume perfectly illustrates the consistently tasteful creative choices that maintain the entire experience on the positive, celebratory side, while allowing it to address profoundly human themes.

Or more simply put: you have just met Dieter's widow, your host Calliope (main character of the story, and part of a terrific cast of actors). And in case you were wondering, yes, the show is already on.

Close-up with stage ambitions

"So, how did you meet my late husband?", says Calliope as she briefly visits your table. You are upstairs in the attic, amazed by the – once

more - carefully crafted atmosphere. Ten large oval banquet tables comfortably await the guests, each seating ten people on one side. On the opposite side, a large oval close-up mat already hints at the wonders to come. At the end of the room: a stage, with a sofa bed and... the death mask that featured on the flyer, Dieter Roterburg's. Calliope goes on to share the last bits of context needed to take on your role: all guests are gathered here as dear friends of her departed husband, a world-renowned Magician and inventor. You will party one last time in what once was Dieter's private performance space, and honour his memory as you welcome his favourite magicians to your table.

This is of course only the beginning, and what unfolds are two hours of a perfectly paced choreography of comedy, close-up, music, and laughter. A rich, multi-layered narrative will keep you gasping until the very end, allowing for Magic to happen at your table, and on-stage.



The website advertises a rotating cast of about 15 performers, including Harry De Cruz, Laura London, Darren Delaney, Noel Qualter, Andrew Frost, Dee Christopher and many more. Expect to see four or five of them at your table during the night.

The styles are varied, from pure sleight of hand to mime to mentalism to bizarre. When I

was there, I had the pleasure to see among others Richard McDougall, Dee Christopher, Pete Heat, and Maxwell Pritchard. These are perfect conditions to witness the work of masters at the top of their game. The table environments are ideal and help building a strong sense of conviviality between guests (and magicians) during the show.



The details of each set will be for you to discover, let's just say every performer is bringing incredibly strong magic.

Two aspects of the show are for me particularly clever, and successful. First, there is minute attention to detail, big or small, maintaining consistency throughout the entire night. The entire space is believable as a private theatre, every bit of furniture, every handwritten note, every word of the actors and magicians convincing you even more you are indeed part of Dieter's world.

Secondly, this is an immersive show that acknowledges the participants and the magicians for what they are. As a guest, you are encouraged to interact with the cast, encouraged to party (this is a celebration!) but also unconsciously told to behave (you are here to honour someone's memory!!).

For a close-up magician similarly, this is a dream situation: introduced by the host as a dear friend, as a magician, with their own personal space at each table, and to an

assembly who's been told they are friends of all magicians. That the sometimes confrontational aspect of close-up – being accepted at a table – manages to be entirely brushed away by the story is no mean creative feat.

This is one of the best jewel-case theatres for close-up you could ever see. It goes without saying of course that the stellar material and the expert presentational skills of the performers are also massively at play in this success.



At the end of the show, it seems you have known everyone forever. Never breaking character, the actors and magicians stay around as you leave, and thank you for your presence at this last goodbye to Dieter. Uplifted by good spirits (of all kinds), you become aware again of the cold, mysterious December night, but it does not really matter. You fell in love with London, and you have just seen one of the best pieces of live entertainment of the year.

In loving memory of Dieter Roterburg,

STEPHANE VARRAULT

The Magician's Table

In a secret London location (you will receive the address with your ticket)

Playing until February 2025.

<https://www.magicianstablelive.com/>

For better effect, if you plan on going, I recommend that you don't look for too much information on the show, as it is packed with delightful surprises. This article is spoiler-free.



THE MAGICIANS TABLE

CLOSE-UP MAGIC,
COCKTAILS AND CHICANERY

SEPTEMBER – FEBRUARY

*At a secret
London Location*





AGENDA

January 23 [Amsterdam Bar Magic Show](#)
Cafe De Buurvrouw Amsterdam

February 4 [Amsterdam Magic Show I](#)
Boom Chicago Amsterdam

February 10 - [AMSociety Meeting](#),
Mascini Amsterdam

February 12 - [Amsterdam Close-up Magic Show](#) - Boom Chicago, Amsterdam

February 12-16 - [Flasoma](#) in Cali,
Colombia USA

February 14-16 - [Blackpool Convention](#) in
Blackpool, England.

February 17-19 - [Kapital Konvention](#) in
Washington, DC USA

March 1-2 - [NEMCON](#) (New England
Magicians' Conference)

March 7-9 - [Winter Carnival of Magic](#) in
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee USA

March 8 | [Curated Mysteries](#) - Rico
Weeland, Mascini Amsterdam

March 10 | [AMSociety Meeting](#), Mascini
Amsterdam

March 10-12 - [Mystify Magic Festival](#) in
Las Vegas, NV

March 13 - 16 [Magic Gathering 'Golden Cat'](#)
Gabrovo, Bulgaria

March 15-17 - [Poe's Magic Conference](#) in
Baltimore, MD -

March 14 & 15 - [Magic Capital Close-Up Convention](#)
in Colon, Michigan.

April 4 - 6 - [Portland Magic Jam](#) in
Portland, Oregon USA





ЗЛАТНА КОТКА — 2025 —

Magic Gathering 'Golden Cat' 2025

We are thrilled to invite you to the Magic Gathering 'Golden Cat' 2025, the biggest magic festival in Eastern Europe. This year's event takes place from March 13-16, 2025, in Gabrovo, Bulgaria.

Special Guests



David Williamson



David Sousa



Avner the Eccentric

Why Join?

Participate in a FISM qualified competition, offering a unique chance to practice your act in front of a FISM jury just three months before the World Championship in Italy.

Be a part of the most friendly convention in Europe.

Witness a Gala Show with an audience of more than 2000 people.

Enjoy incredible performances and workshops by our esteemed special guests.

Pricing and Discounts

The full package is priced at 199 euros. If you come as a group, we can offer you a special deal.

As a part of the FISM family, we are happy to offer a 10% discount on the FULL or Dealer Packages for every member. When registering on our website, simply add your valid FISM card number in the Discount code box.

Travel Assistance

If you are arriving by airplane, we will gladly assist with organizing travel from Sofia to Gabrovo.

For more details, visit: www.goldencat.eu.

[Register Now](#)



Amsterdam Magic Society

Zeedijk 24

1012 AZ Amsterdam

www.amsterdammagicsociety.com

amsterdammagicsociety@gmail.com

