



THE BUZZ

AMSTERDAM MAGIC SOCIETY



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ISSUE 7

Review Lecture Biz

1/ FRITZ WITH A Z

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2/ LECTURE SEAN TAYLOR BRAM VEENMAN



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6 p.



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8 p.



LECTURE BIZ

MARVIN BÉRÉROS

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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

Summer is just around the corner, and there's a buzz in the air. FISM is coming up fast—if you're heading to Turin, enjoy every moment! Gracing this issue's cover is Biz from Romania. I first met him back in January 2014 during an unforgettable all-night convention in Paris. It was a gathering full of talent—Father Alex (who curated a stunning lineup), Yoann Fontyn, John Guastaferro, Zach Mueller, and many more. Thanks for coming out and supporting the lecture. Biz's lecture was a true delight, especially for card magicians.

Speaking of lectures, Sean Taylor recently visited Amsterdam and delivered a wonderfully varied session. I especially enjoyed the second half—you can read more about it later in this issue.

This is a special edition of the magazine: for the first time ever, we're revealing tricks. Because

of that, this issue is exclusive to Society members and will not be made publicly available.

Michael Vincent shares the first part of one of his routines. If it sparks your interest, you can purchase the full PDF, Three Professional Card Routines, along with Close-Up Card Classics, at a special Society price of £40.

Furthermore, Rico contributes two powerful card effects that I've seen performed many times—they never fail to impress. I'm also including two of my own pieces, originally published in GENII Magazine years ago.

Enjoy the issue—and as always, keep the magic alive.

ENJOY READING

Fritz with a Z

Lecture Sean Taylor

Sean Taylor is a magician from Australia who has been performing professionally for over 40 years. He decided to give some lectures during his 9-week vacation across Europe. I had not heard of Sean before, so I went in with no expectations. I was happily surprised by how much I enjoyed his thinking and presentations!

Sean lives in Sydney, where it is usually very hot. He also has to fly often due to the large distances in Australia. Because of this, it is important for him to have tricks that pack small. The lecture started with a neat tip: put each trick in its own separate bag to make sure you never forget your props.

The lecture was divided into two halves. Each trick was first performed and then explained. Theory about general performance and magic theory was sprinkled all throughout the lecture.

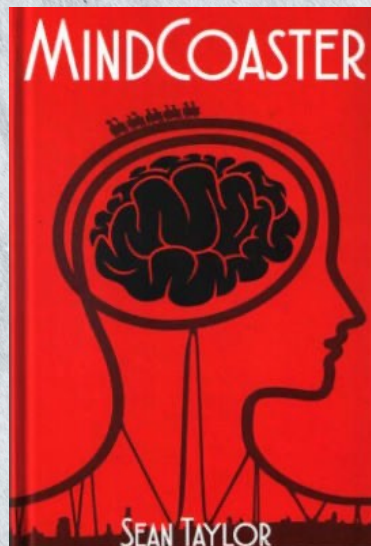
The topic of the first half was card magic, starting with "4gone". Four spectators looked at a card in the deck, then those cards instantly disappeared and reappeared in Sean's pocket. The layering of methods was very clever and Sean has clearly put a lot of thought into how to make this effect as clean as possible.

Next was "The final stop", a version of Al Koran's Five Star Miracle. Sean showed an envelope and announced that it contained one card, which would exactly match the card that a spectator stopped dealing at in a regular deck of 52 cards. Sean never touched the deck and, as promised, the stopped card and the one in the envelope were the exact same.

Again, a clever layering of methods made this effect very clean.

To end the first half, Sean demonstrated a few tricks with his symbology deck, which he originally released over 20 years ago but has remade into a much improved version. It is a deck of 52 cards where each suit is represented by a color and each value is an "ESP" symbol. The deck allows you to do many "normal" card tricks, but with a theme of extra-sensory perception or mind-reading.

The topic of the second half was "DIY": things you can make with simple, common items from a regular office store, such as envelopes, glue, markers and paper.



The first trick, "one", was a card prediction. A spectator took an invisible card, named it, and invisibly put it in an empty envelope. The envelope suddenly contained one card, which was of course precisely the named one.

Sean then went into a confabulation routine where he predicted the exact numbers of the lottery (named by different audience members). This is a routine with many versions and presentations, so it can be

adapted to different situations. Like most routines in the lecture, this is another effect that takes very little setup and works for both small and large audiences.

Next up was the "pro-envelope", a clever idea Sean came up with as a teenager. He used it to play a game with the entire audience. He presented everyone with two choices, and spectators were eliminated from the game if their choice did not match Sean's prediction. The name of the final remaining spectator was predicted in an envelope that had been on the table since the very beginning. Sean shared some fun stories of memorable performances of this effect, which can be done for audiences of hundreds of people.

The final trick was "Pineapple surprise". An unlabeled food can is shown and a deck of cards is introduced with different names of food items written on the backs. A card was chosen by various spectators (one names the color, another the suit, another the value) and that card was taken from the deck. It said "pineapple" on the back, and sure enough, the can contained pineapple! This is a great effect that leaves the spectator with a funny souvenir.

Overall, I was most impressed by how Sean takes simple items and creates effects that can be done for all kinds of audiences. Many of the ideas and tricks he explained can be adapted for other styles and presentations. I also enjoyed how most tricks used a combination of various methods to make them extremely deceptive.

It's obvious that Sean has performed this material many times, as he was very comfortable during his presentations and had lines and jokes ready for every situation. If Sean comes back for another lecture, I will be there! where he predicted the exact numbers of the lottery (named by different audience members). This is a routine with many versions and presentations, so it can be adapted to different situations. Like most routines in the lecture, this is another effect that takes very little setup and works for both small and large audiences.

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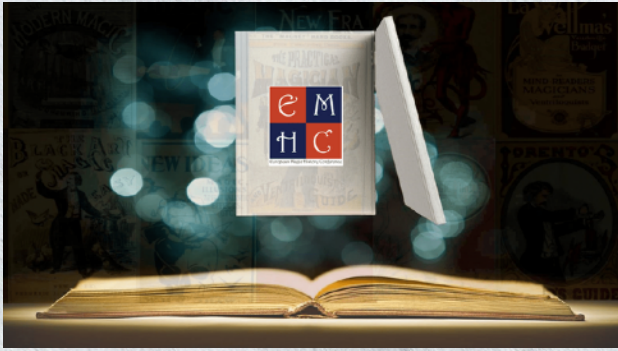


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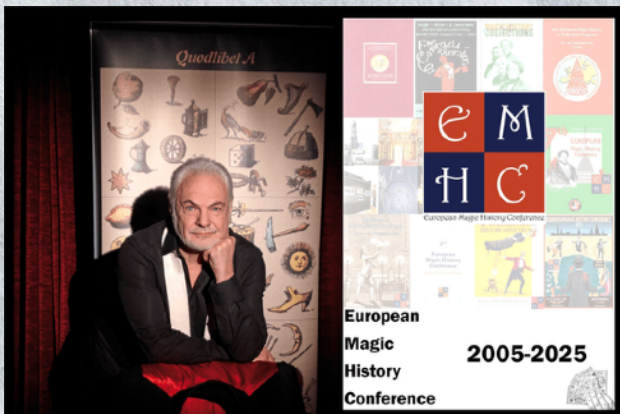
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TEXT: BRAM VEENMAN
PHOTOS: FRANS DE GROOT



As promised, we are back with another article and more important news. The first is about a short but detailed history of the EMHC. As you know, the conference is celebrating 20 years now and a long reportage by Wittus Witt, with historical photos and posters of all editions, will be included in the book/catalogue. Wittus Witt will also hold a conference on the same topic on Sunday 24th: we believe this is the best way to close the 10th edition and, at the same time, open the space for the next 20 years!



The second event we would like to point out is that, also on Sunday 24th, the documentary "3 BOOKS – the Gunther Dammann Story", by Freddie Rutz, will be screened for the first time ever. Berlin based Swiss magician Freddie Rutz is an experienced performer who seamlessly fuses magic, comedy and dance into a truly unique entertainment experience. As one of the magicians of the famous Wintergarten Variety and as the current president of the Magic Circle of Berlin, he stands at the forefront of Germany's magic scene. Also a skilled cameraman and director, Freddie brings cinematic storytelling and

visual artistry to both stage and screen and directs large scale events and circus shows. His documentary film "3 Books – The Gunther Dammann Story" is a moving cinematic homage to the life of Gunther Dammann - an almost-forgotten figure whose legacy is brought back to life in this powerful exploration of memory, identity, and resilience.



Gunther Dammann was a Berlin-based magician, member of the Berlin Magic Circle, and bank clerk who, in addition to numerous articles for *Magie*, authored three valuable books on the history of magic. He was Jewish—and the rest, sadly, is all too easy to guess: deported to Riga, he was murdered by the Nazis on September 8, 1942 in the Bikernieki forest (where today stand a memorial with the names of all the victims). Through the eyes of his cousin, Vernon Mosheim, the film retraces the key stations of Dammann's life and delves into what it meant to live as a Jew in Germany before and during the Nazi regime. It offers a rare personal account of both fleeing and surviving in a time when countless lives - and histories - were violently erased. At its core, the film is also a tribute to the Jewish magicians Dammann documented in his works. Not his books, but nearly all physical traces of his life, were destroyed by the Nazis but his spirit lives on. This documentary honors not only Dammann, but all Jewish magicians across time, exploring how and why so many found success in magic and entertainment, even amid systemic oppression. *3 Books* is a reconstruction of a legacy from ashes - an act of remembrance, a testament

to cultural endurance, and a celebration of the magical spirit that refuses to vanish.

The latest news today is about Johann Jakob Strauss, the most famous Latvian illusionist. The story of Strauss, a skilled illusionist but also a tightrope walker, juggler and expert ventriloquist, has been reconstructed by the Latvian historian Dr. Uģis Niedres, who carefully examined all the documents kept in the Latvian state archive, transcribed all the diaries and translated the frontispieces, posters and newspaper articles, even identifying the house where he died in 1919. Strauss toured the world far and wide between 1865 and 1910, presenting shows and receiving awards from the most important heads of state of the time, such as Napoleon III, the Tsar family, the Shah of Persia, the Emir of Bukhara and many others. With his shows he not only traveled across Europe, from Madrid to London, Paris, Berlin and Warsaw, but also reached Japan, crossing all of Russia, Siberia, the Urals and Yakutia and then returning along the ancient Silk Road through China, India, Mongolia, Afghanistan and so on.



During the visit on Saturday 23rd to the Latvian State Archives it will be possible to admire some original posters and photographs of Strauss; in addition, a detailed article of over 12 pages, extracted from the report of Dr. Niedres, will be published in the book/catalogue.

We are also happy to confirm that Gabe Fajuri, the mastermind behind Potter&Potter, will be attending the August conference!

Gabe will not only discuss modern trends in magical collecting, answering questions on the topic, but he will also be hosting a small auction organized especially for the EMHC. Participating in a magical auction is always fun, but in this case it will also be a special event because all the proceeds will go to the Riga Children's Hospital. What better way to enjoy an auction, knowing that every penny spent goes to a great cause! For this reason we are looking for help: we at Mystero and as organizers of the EMHC will personally contribute with some items,



Gabe has also proven to be very willing to help, however we need to collect at least 7-8 more items (but the more there are, the better the charity work will be): if you have duplicates locked in a drawer or something you are not particularly interested in but that can be a reason for collection for others and you have no problem donating it, let us know, everything can be of help, as long as it is related to illusionism or circus.

All good reasons to register! and if you haven't already, you can do so by following the link below:

[European Magic History Convention](#)

MYSTERO 

ILUZIONISMA TEĀTRIS / MUZEJS

ENRICO PECOLLI

BIZ LECTURE



JUNE 12

On Thursday, June 12th we gathered downstairs at Mascini where Biz from Romania delivered a rich, engaging, entertaining and highly technical lecture dedicated entirely to advanced card magic. The lecture was packed with sleight of hand, original card effects, creative thinking, twists on classical card routines and a wide array of utility moves, revelations and card techniques. Biz opened the lecture, in character, with a great entertaining theatrical piece: several four-of-a-kind productions from a full deck performed in multiple creative ways, showcasing his theatrical skills including mastery over sleights and misdirection. The sequence built up to a stunning kicker ending where, in a surprising visual twist, the entire deck turned blank and all of the four kings that were printed on a bag, magically disappeared! Throughout the lecture, Biz taught a variety of sleights of hand, techniques and controls, emphasizing smooth handling and natural movements, including changes, switches, pop-outs, controls, and palms. Classic routines like

Chicago Opener, Triumph, and Ace Cutting were discussed. His teachings were thorough and provided valuable material with moves that can be adapted to both close-up and parlor performances.

Even for the classic find-a-card effect, Biz had several ideas: the spectator throws an "invisible card" into the deck while the magician is springing the cards, causing the selected card to appear face-up. Or the "Faro Freeze" where during the bridge phase of a shuffle, the chosen card visually freezes and is revealed. Or what about the spectator flicking the deck over with one finger to find the selected card.

Beyond the lecture, Biz emphasized his creative approach to card magic, constantly developing new routines and refining classical techniques. He also talked about how he practices and how he hyperfocuses on one move or trick. His work is documented in his book "Explorations", which is dedicated to card sleights and includes QR codes linking to instructional videos, offering a multimedia learning experience. Biz is very active on Instagram, where he regularly shares new material, performances, and technical tips for magicians. You can see at least 17 different variations on Oil & Water.

All in all, Biz's lecture was great for anyone passionate about advanced card work, filled with fresh ideas and practical material that left us both inspired and motivated to keep practicing and developing sleight of hand card magic!

MARVIN BÉRÉROS



EUROPEAN MAGIC HISTORY CONFERENCE

2025



**10th
Edition**
Riga, Latvia

21-24 AUGUST 2025

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AGENDA

June 12 [Lecture BIZ](#), Amsterdam

June 22 [Magic Circle Convention](#) London

July 7-19 - [Melbourne Magic Festival](#)
Melbourne, Australia

July 9-12 - IBM Convention in Houston,
Texas. www.ibmconvention.com
and www.magician.org

July 23/24 | Lecture Mark Elson (@???)

July 14 [AMSociety Meeting](#), Mascini
Amsterdam

July 14-19 - [FISM/World Championship of
Magic](#) in Turin, Italy

July 27-31 - [FCM International
Convention](#) in Danville, Indiana, USA

July 30 through August 2 - [Abbott's Get
Together](#) in Colon, Michigan - USA

August 3-6 - [MAGIC Live!](#) in Las Vegas
Nevada - USA

August 11 [AMSociety Meeting](#), BBQ or
Mascini Amsterdam

August 12 [Amsterdam Magic Show](#) ft.
Michal Skubida

August 13-16 - [KIDabra](#): Chatanooga,
Tennessee - USA

August 21 - 24 - [European Magic Historic
Conference](#) Riga, Latvia

August 21-24 - [Poe's Magic Conference](#)
in Baltimore, MD - USA

August 29 - September 1- [Texas
Association of Magicians](#) (T.A.O.M.) in
Dallas, Texas - USA

August 29 - September 1 - DC [Festival of
Magic](#) in Washington, D.C. USA





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