

Genii Speaks

Richard Kaufman

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ENCLOSED you'll find our Thanksgiving gift to you: a free DVD, kindly provided by Mark Mason. On it, Mark performs and explains several of his favorite card sleights and routines (including the most sure-fire handling of the Classic Force ever developed), then does an enormous dealer demonstration of his fabulous line of products. Since he's one of the best demonstrators around, it makes a great show (your lay friends can watch it as well). After you watch the DVD, you can purchase Mark's killer line of tricks from your favorite dealer or directly from Mark at www.jbtv.co.uk.

I remember seeing Just Alan perform for the first time. It was a hypnotic, theatrical experience unlike any other ... and he was doing "Sands of the Desert." What could have been a hokey joke was, instead, a mysterious and wonderful playlet. I hope some conventions will book him so you have the opportunity to experience his magic. Writer Brad Henderson, aided by Freddie Lieberman's terrific photos, recreates the performance of several of Just Alan's pieces and initiates us into his mysteries. Along the way you'll learn two stunning routines including his way of performing Spangler's "You-Do-Voodoo" (aka Needle through Arm). Here's a view of Just Alan many people have never seen: An enthusiast 16-year-old trying to train a



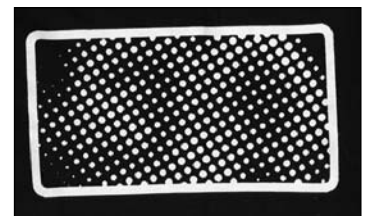
dove through the power of the mind. • Fortunately, I was in Tokyo at the end of September and the folks from the Tenyo company handed me samples of their new 2007 line of tricks—they range from excellent to ... excellent. See what kind of fun I had on p.52. While in Japan, Satoshi Onosaka took me to several magic bars in the Ginza, then I traveled with Ton Onosaka to Osaka and visited even more magic bars. The magic bar scene in Japan has exploded over the past few years and we'll have an interesting story on it soon. • Mac King's Magic in a Minute series has just added 10 new tricks to its line, all individually packaged and available at Toys R Us. Some are startlingly good—p.48 shows you why. • Ah, television. The nightmare that began ... when? 50s? 40s? Try the 1920s—that's when P.T. Selbit invented his stage illusion that "broadcast" a lovely female from one spot to another. Who knew? Steinmeyer—p.46. • Mark Wilson continues his "Inside Story" on his trip behind the Bamboo Curtain; Roberto Giobbi finishes a very long but interesting list; Max Maven finds the mistakes in Roberto's last list; Al Cohen continues to remember his years as one of our favorite dealers; David Acer brings us a "Magicana" full of tricks, including one of

his own where you produce your ringing cell phone from a flattened envelope.

As a kid I often watched old black and white movies on the independent TV channels we had in New York, WNEW and WPIX. Among them were the Mr. Moto series starring Peter Lorre. Superior to most of the other B-grade potboilers that were being churned out, they've recently been made available on DVD in two boxed sets. I was quite shocked to see Peter Lorre perform a very presentable one-at-a-time back palm vanish of five cards in the first film, *Think Fast, Mr. Moto* (1937). It seemed unlikely to me that Lorre did the expert work himself, however I've viewed and reviewed the footage and studied his hands in other parts of the film—if it was someone else doing the work, his hands were dead ringers for Lorre's supple and pudgy digits. I'll give Lorre the credit unless someone tells me otherwise.



I had some fun at the TAOM in Dallas at the beginning of September—they had an incredible line-up of talent. Topping the bill was René Lavand, who received a standing ovation at the end of his show for the 800 conventioners. One of the attendees in the dealer room was wearing a black T-shirt with a patch of odd white dots on the back. He forced the Three of Diamonds on me and asked me to watch his shirt as he walked away: the patch of dots morphed into "3-D" as I watched. Very nice and for \$25 postpaid you can't beat it—the missus was certainly surprised when I did it a few days later. If you're interested, e-mail illusionz101@hotmail.com for purchasing details.



Now Performing

Bill and Milt Larsen received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on September 15. Milt was on hand and, standing in for the late Bill Larsen, Jr., was his widow Irene and all of his children and grandchildren. Rafael Benatar, appearing at The Magic Castle that week, caught the moment.



First row, right to left: Irene Larsen, daughter Erika, daughter Heidi (just behind Erika), granddaughter Libby, son Dante Larsen's wife, Blair. Second row, right to left: Arlene and Milt Larsen, Bill's daughter Wendy, granddaughter Jessica, Dante Larsen

Josh Jay writes: I found an interesting little "impuzzibility" tucked away in your new book *The Vernon Touch*. Vernon reviews an Elmsley lecture at The Castle and passes on a nice "self-worker" he saw Alex perform. He mentions that if you psychologically force someone to deal a shuffled deck into a pile and stop them after either 8, 9, 10, or 11 cards, this trick will work. He goes on to explain that the spectator should look at the top card, spell "Australian Shuffle," transferring one card from top to bottom for each letter. (This "sets" the cards and is brilliant—it's a transfer of exactly 17 cards from top to bottom.) Now you "explain" what the Australian Shuffle is: a down, under deal. You instruct the spectator to deal through the packet in the standard fashion and the spectator is left holding his card. A great trick and, as Elmsley mentions later in one of his books, it will work for a range of 8 to 16 cards, which is much better. Now, instead of a dealing force, I simply instruct the spectator to divide the deck into approximately four equal piles (or, if you have someone who is at all familiar with cards, you can ask them to simply cut off a quarter packet). Well, this larger range brings this within the realm of a fabulous telephone trick. Imagine: take any deck, doesn't have to be complete. Shuffle it, divide it into four packets. Pick up any packet and shuffle it. Look at the top card and remember it. Now talk about a mystic trick from Australia, the continent "down under," and have the spectator spell the name of the deal, "Australian Shuffle." Now have them execute a down-under deal to find their own card.

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THE MAGIC CASTLE

NOVEMBER 6 TO 12

Close-Up Gallery

7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15
Richard Turner
10, 10:45, 11:30, 12:00
Steve Dacri

W. C. Fields Bar
(Friday and Saturday only)
John Star

The Parlour of Prestidigitation

Early 7:30, 8:45, 9:30
Dennis Forel
9:45, 11:15, 12
Gazzo

Palace Of Mystery
8:30, 10, 11:15
Chuck Jones & Co.

NOVEMBER 13 TO 19

Close-Up Gallery

Early: David Minkin
Late: Thom Peterson

W. C. Fields Bar
Glenn Farrington

The Parlour of Prestidigitation

Early: Francis Menotti
Late: Taylor Hughes

Palace Of Mystery
Mark Kalin & Jinger

NOVEMBER 20 TO 26

Close-Up Gallery

Early: Toby Wessel
Late: Steve Mayhew

W. C. Fields Bar
Mike Barger

The Parlour of Prestidigitation

Early: Arthur Trace
Late: Jonathan Levit

Palace Of Mystery
Kerry Ross
Brian Dow
Dan Sperry

NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 3

Close-Up Gallery

Early: Michael Close
Late: Michael Close

W. C. Fields Bar
Derek DelGaudio

The Parlour of Prestidigitation

Early: Matt Marcy
Late: Derek Hughes

Palace Of Mystery
Handsome Jack
Arthur Trace
Amos Levkovitch

Magic Castle Information

Those with guest cards, and those who belong to the IBM and SAM, are admitted to The Magic Castle with dinner reservations. Please call 323-851-3313 for more information. Updates to the performing schedule can be found at www.MagicCastle.com.

LAS VEGAS

Compiled by David Neubauer

Amazing Johnathan

10 pm (Dark Tues.), Sahara

Beacher's Madhouse

Tyas Frantz, Chris Karpiak, & Seth Grabel
10 pm, Hard Rock

Bite (Vampire Strip Revue)

Antonio Restivo
10:30 pm (dark Thurs.),
Stratosphere

David Copperfield

7:30 & 10 pm, 4:30 Sat.
& some Sun., Nov. 9-29,
Dec. 21-31, MGM Grand

Gerry McCambridge, The Mentalist

Stardust Theater
Mon.-Sat., 9 pm. The Stardust
will close forever Nov. 1

Haunted Vegas Tour & Show

Robert Allen, Jac Hayden &
Zamora, 9 pm tour and show
(Dark Fri.), Greek Isle

Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas

2, 4 pm, (Dark Wed.), Stardust

Jason Bird

Main stage, near the "V"
Theater, Thurs.-Mon. Various
times from 1:15- 8:15 pm. Free.
The Shops in Desert Passage,
Aladdin

La Femme

Stephan Vanel, 8 pm, 10:30
pm (Dark Tues.), MGM Grand

Lance Burton, Master Magician

7 pm, 10 pm (Dark Sun., Mon.)
Monte Carlo

Mac King Comedy Magic Show

1 pm, 3 pm, (Dark Sun., Mon.)
Harrah's Clint Holmes Theater

Nathan Burton

Comedy Magic Show
2 pm, (Dark Fri. & Sun.)
V Theater in the Desert
Passage, Aladdin

Penn & Teller

9 pm, (Dark Tues.), Rio

The Ultimate Variety Showcase

8 pm, Midnight every Tuesday.
Free. A different live show
every week. Roxy's Live, Sam's
Town

World's Greatest Magic Show

Kevin James, Kozak, Losander,
Roy Shank, Mike Micheals,
Shimshi. Billy Fergueson (pre-
show). 6 pm Sat.- Thurs., 8:15
Fri., Greek Isle

V, The Ultimate Variety Show

Jeff Hobson, Nathan & Sarah
7 and 9 pm nightly, Aladdin

Xtreme Magic

Starring Dirk Arthur
Tiffany Theatre, Tropicana
2 and 4 pm. (Dark Fri.)

While wandering around the dealer's room at FISM, I ran across Erez Moshe selling his mentalism-based line of products, some of which involved silverware bending. (Is there any silverware left to bend?) One of the odd offshoots of all the silverware bending has been tricks where drawings of silverware bend, which is genuinely strange. Bending a piece of metal is one thing, but causing a drawing of a piece of silverware to bend? Bizarre. Nevertheless, there have been some interesting tricks in this area. One of these is by Tomo Maeda, and involves a drawing of a large spoon which bends even with the spectator's initials on it (ala "Out to Lunch")—this was published in *Genii* a few years ago. (Another appears in Tenyo's 2007 line of effects.) "Bending Choice" by Erez Moshe is also interesting ... and easy. He has printed a deck of cards that

is entirely black and has small drawings of four different pieces of cutlery on one end. The same four different items—fork, teaspoon, knife, and tablespoon—are on the table. The spectator names one of the items, say the fork, and the performer removes the black deck from its box. The end of the deck is riffled and a flip book plays out a scene: the chosen piece of silverware bends while the three others remain straight. Any one of the four items can be chosen, no force, and it's simply a matter of riffling the edge of the deck. Only one deck is used and it can be out on the table from the start. No sleights of any kind. I thought it was fun and you'll be able to find

it for sale at magic shops. • Also in the dealer room, Henry Evans was selling his new "Find the Way," an intriguing trick with a small toy truck (a tad larger than Matchbox or Hotwheels size) that follows some lines drawn with a black marker on paper while ignoring other lines. So, you have a card chosen, then mixed among several other cards. The cards are placed on a large piece of white paper with black marker lines all over it. You put the truck on one line at the other end of the paper and it will drive along, following only the lines that lead it to the chosen card even though the lines repeatedly overlap. Great concept! Included with the truck are some markers and half a dozen different designs on which you can use the truck. Some of the examples provided have multiple starting points, and you can allow the spectator to place the truck on any one—it will still always find the chosen card. Don't know who's carrying it yet, but call your favorite dealer and find out.

Ricky Jay Plays Poker: Ricky Jay combines his talents as a sleight of hand expert, historian of cons and cheats, and lover of poker and poker music in this remarkable CD compilation that celebrates the history, the language and literature, the art and the music of poker. 21 songs

of hustlers, reprobates, blacklegs, scallywags and the passions and pleasures of the game. The deluxe gift box also includes a bonus DVD starring Ricky Jay performing some unbelievable deception at the card table, a 72-page color book with an in-depth essay written by Jay and beautiful reproductions from his incredible collection of art and memorabilia and if all that weren't enough, a custom poker pack from the U.S. Playing Card Company. In stores and online November 21. • Bet you didn't know that Ricky Jay could be found singing on the new CD *Rogue's Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs, and Chanteys*. Produced by Johnny Depp and

Gore Verbinski (director of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies), this CD contains tracks by Sting, Bono, Nick Cave, Bryan Ferry, Van Dyke Parks, Lou Reed, and many others—including Ricky. You can purchase it for only \$15 on amazon.com and listen to samples of all the tracks (and if you'd like to help support *Genii*, enter Amazon through the portals on the *Genii* Forum). • There's always been a lot of discussion about magicians copying effects and, sometimes, entire parts of another magician's act—even his patter and demeanor. You rarely see anything about this in public, but when the *New York Times* covers it you know something's afoot. On September 27 in "Dueling Magicians: Whose Trick is it Anyway?" *Times* writer Campbell Robertson took magician Eric Walton (now performing Off Broadway) to task for copying portions of Ricky Jay's shows with ever-so-sleight variations: "Like Mr. Jay, Mr. Walton uses antique and sizable words—'Brobdingnagian' (Mr. Walton), 'pachydermatous' (Mr. Jay)—wears pinstripe suits and combines his act with professorial asides on magic history. Some tricks overlap too"

Department of Inevitable Corrections: Nate Kranzo writes, "Just wanted to throw a credit your way. 'Cued' by John Hostler is very similar if not identical to David Harkey's 'In Stitches.' The only difference really is that Harkey adds an extra element. He performs it with one of those toothpicks that's sealed in a plastic wrapper. Not only is it just as deceptive but maybe even more impossible. The effect was published in *Apocalypse* Vol. 11, No. 11, Nov., 1988 p.1565."

