



Vol 21 No. 7

September 2023

— RING 92 —

VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

ibmring92.com

the Charles Howard Ring



The Dennis Chan Report

The Vancouver Magic Circle's annual picnic took place on Saturday, August 26 at King George Park in Richmond, B.C. Many thanks to **Rod Boss** and **Graham Kita** for setting up the date and place for the picnic. Arriving early at the park to set up for the afternoon's activities were **Graham Kita** and **Roy Hopwood**.

The club provided the bottled water and snacks. Everyone else brought their own food. Some people brought extra treats for the afternoon. **Cameron Minty** brought dates, **Ken Cowie** brought some home made cookies. Thanks everyone.

During the afternoon several magicians were showing each other their favourite Professor's Nightmare techniques.

Vincent Lee and **Blake Aleong** performed their fifteen minute programme for their Wand Holder's Degree. Well done guys.

The picnic games included the usual card tossing contest and the water balloon tossing game. The winner of the card tossing game was **Simon Cassegrain**. He won an Infinity XT 500 lumen flashlight with a built phone charger. This year's water balloon tossing game was fast, furious and exciting as it narrowed down to the teams of **Shawn Farquhar** and **Gabriella Lester** against **Simon Cassegrain** and **Shannon Linning**. **Simon** and **Shannon** were the winners. They won a set of Nerf laser guns. All prizes were donated by **Graham Kita**. Thanks **Graham**.

Yoosik Oum mc'd the public show. The performers were **Robert Teszka**, **Roy Hopwood**, **Mike Vetterli** and **Vincent Lee** with each performer presenting their own style of magic. Well done everyone.

Roy Hopwood, **Simon Cassegrain** and **Graham Kita** took photos of the afternoon's events. Although the attendance was low, it was still another fun and magical afternoon for everyone. Thanks to everyone for coming out to help make this a successful event.

Many thanks to **Lori** and **Shawn Farquhar** for giving me a ride to the picnic, they also treated me for lunch. Thanks to **Graham Kita** for giving me a ride home.

There were 19 members and 7 guests in attendance.

The Presidents Report

Hello, VMC.

It was a nice hot summer, but it looks like it's slowly winding down to fall, but at least we have the memories, like our annual picnic just recently.

We were treated to two excellent magic wand performances by **Blake Aleong** and **Vincent Lee**, and then some of us did our annual tradition of hosting a public show at King George Park and that's always a fun experience.

A big shout out and thanks to **Rod Boss** and **Simon Cassegrain** for working hard to get the online auction going and at our September meeting, you will have a chance to pick up and pay for what you bought and / or get paid for what you sold.

I'm looking forward to some great events to wrap up the year, including our annual Halloween competition in October, as well as our banquet in November which will be followed by the Stage competition.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September and have a magical day.

Yoosik Ethan Oum

President, Vancouver Magic Circle

<https://www.koreancanuckmentalists.com>

The Editors Desk

I thought for several days I wasn't going to get this Newsletter Out, following a major computer issue, which amongst other things meaning I was unable to use my 'normal' program - MS Publisher and left me scrambling to try and learn another program. However, son Jeremy came to my rescue and around 6 hours later, crisis over.

What a fun filled day at the Picnic on August 26, with the card tossing and water balloon catching. This was followed by **Blake Aleong** and **Vincent Lee** performing a 15 minute act to gain their Wand Degree. Then it was public show time with **Yoosik Oum** as MC we had 4 members perform for the public, these were **Rob Teszka**, **Roy Hopwood**, **Mike Vetterli** and **Vincent Lee**.

Congratulations **Gabriella Lester** on making the Cover of **Vanish**.

Gabriella can be seen along with **Rod Boss** and **Billy Hsueh** in **Cabaret of Wonders** on September 27.

Rob Teszka is presenting his show **Magic Dropout** at the Vancouver Fringe between September 8 and 17

The annual VMC auction will be held online between September 8 and 20.

Thank you to all of the contributors to this issue of **The Magical Minutes**: **Yoosik Oum**; **Dennis Chan**; **Rob Teszka**; **John Stenning** and **Simon Cassegrain**.

I must also give a shout out to my son **Jeremy** for coming to the rescue of my computer, and a **huge** thank you to **John Stenning**, who along with his regular contributions, does the proofreading of TMM. He has also been checking on my health and giving me support and encouragement.

While we are at it thanks to those who have given positive reports on TMM, as well as those who have said that they like my magic.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the September 28 meeting at the hall. Bring some of your magic along to show me and the other members.

'Keep magic alive and live'



I saw an ad in a shop window that said "Television for Sale - £1- Volume Stuck On Full". I thought: "I can't turn that down".

Stop the Presses Stop the Presses Stop the Presses

*** Jack Schwartz is now a part of the Cabaret of Wonders on September 27, 2023 ***

Breaking News

I'm sure some of you have already heard, however I thought it was definitely news worthy to let you all know that **Gabriella Lester** is on the cover of the September (#110) issue of **Vanish** magazine.



Congratulations Gaby!
J.Stenning
A.K.A. Melrick the Magician
Sept 3, 2023

I asked Bing Chat with GPT-4 to write a 200 word piece on the public's perception of magic. Here is what It came up with:

"Magic is a fascinating and mysterious phenomenon that has captivated humans for centuries. It is often defined as the manipulation of natural forces or reality by supernatural means, such as spells, rituals, or objects. However, different cultures and traditions have different views and interpretations of what magic is and how it works.

Some people believe that magic is a real and powerful force that can be used for good or evil purposes. They may practice magic themselves or seek the help of magicians, witches, wizards, or other practitioners. They may also fear or respect the magic of others, depending on their beliefs and values. For example, some people in Africa and Asia believe in the existence of witchcraft and sorcery, and may accuse or persecute those who are suspected of using it.

Other people view magic as a form of entertainment or art that involves illusions, tricks, or sleight of hand. They may enjoy watching magic shows or performing magic themselves as a hobby or profession. They may also appreciate the creativity and skill of magicians, who use various techniques and tools to create amazing effects. For example, some people in Europe and America are fans of famous magicians like Harry Houdini, David Copperfield, or Dynamo.

In conclusion, magic is a complex and diverse concept that has different meanings and implications for different people. It can be seen as a source of wonder, curiosity, fear, or admiration, depending on one's perspective and experience. Magic is a part of human culture and history that reflects our imagination and desire to explore the unknown."

I Recall...

By

Roy Hopwood

Changing Magic Styles

At the **Vancouver Magic Circle (VMC)** annual picnic on Saturday August 26, 2023, I was jamming with several of the young guns, demonstrating various moves and ‘packet’ type effects. These ‘young’ performers commented how they enjoyed my ‘old’ style of performing. Saying I spun stories around my ‘moves’ and used psychology to assist in getting the desired response not just ‘if I do this, this happens, then this.

Now these guys are technically way more advanced than I am, but my ‘stuff’ still resonated with them, to the point that one of them took a photo of the cards I had made up for the old ‘**Joe Stuthard¹ – Win a Drink**’ trick.



My contribution to this effect is to print them on Poker sized blank faced bicycle stock; arrange them face down with the ‘force’ card in a known position (to me) and use a little psychology in having a card chosen.

Their comments pleased me but also started me thinking. I don’t think my style is better than theirs, just different. It may have a lot to do with the marketing of magic these days.

I recall when I was starting out, there was no internet; no YouTube; no ‘on line’ shopping, you either bought it direct from a dealer in a brick-and-mortar shop or reading it in a book (Remember those?). This resulted in being influenced by the style of the dealer or the writer. In other cases, it was up to you to create your own style of performing.

I don’t know for sure, more research required, (maybe the subject of a future article) but I suspect that many younger performers concentrate on the technical aspects of a trick rather than the presentation.

Following comparing rope handling techniques for the professor’s nightmare and watching me perform it at the picnic, one of my magic colleagues, not one of the young guns, made the following comment:

“Thanks for sharing your tips with entertaining kids, you are a real Pro Roy”



It would appear, to me, that the style of magic performed by young magicians is different from that of older magicians, like me, partly due to changes in the social norms² which are the shared standards of acceptable behavior by groups of the time. Styles of magic are continually changing and evolving, and this is good for our art. It must also be remembered that *‘change is the only constant.’ - Heraclitus³*

The “old” magicians had a style that fit the societies social norms of the time, while the newer generation has a different style that is acceptable to today’s society. Older magic, whilst it still had the technical skills required, it also had a lot of storytelling; mystery; bits of business and comedy etc., while the newer generation has a fascination with technology.

This means that young magicians are incorporating new elements into their performances, such as highly technical ‘moves’; variations and flourishes, to keep up with the changing times and appeal to modern audiences.

However, it is important to note that many young magicians still look up to and learn from older magicians, who have laid the foundation for the art of magic. Conversely, older magicians can also learn much from the younger magicians.

The VMC is large club with a membership of around 90, we have a mix of older and younger members with others who are no longer young but not yet old.

Continued on page 3 ...

... Continued from page 2

One of the VMC's junior members is **Blake Aleong**, who completed his 15-minute wand holders degree performance at the picnic. He has a surety and confidence way beyond his years. He combines advanced card techniques and audience interaction and management with the consummate ease of a long time professional.



Another of the VMC's junior members, **Jack Schwartz** is a budding philanthropist as well as a magician. **Jack** was recently featured in the PLUGGED IN⁴ YouTube Channel for doing an amazing Magic Show that raised over \$2600 for the **Kidney Foundation of Canada**⁵!



These young members and other members of the VMC, along with many more around the world continue to move magic forward in a style and way many of us 'old-timers' may find challenging, however, these performers are the future of magic.

Robert-Houdin⁶ said:

"All styles in magic are good except that which is boresome."

This **Robert-Houdin** quote is probably an adaptation of the **Voltaire**⁷ quote from many years prior, in which he said:

"All styles are good except the tiresome kind."

¹https://geniimagazine.com/wiki/index.php?title=Joe_Stuthard

²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_norm

³<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclitus>

⁴<https://www.youtube.com/@KidneyPLUGGEDIN/videos>

⁵<https://kidney.ca/>

⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Eug%C3%A8ne_Robert-Houdin

⁷<https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Voltaire>

On page 63 of his book 'Crash Course on kidshows' (2003) **David Ginn** wrote:

"Years ago I wrote a formula for success in Children's magic. I published it in several books and magazine articles. It went like this:

MAGIC + COMEDY = ENTERTAINMENT

But magician **Caleb Heppner** corrected me in a *Laugh Makers* magazine article he wrote. He added to my formula something I had left out in print. I simply assumed you knew it. Maybe I was wrong. Here is what he wrote, and he was right:

MAGIC + COMEDY + PERSONALITY= ENTERTAINMENT

That is the real formula. You must add **personality** to the mix.

"What is personality?" You might well ask.

In a nutshell, personality is **You**. It is who you are, who you want to be, where you went to school, how you grew up, what movies you saw, what music you heard and hear now, it's your mom and dad and sisters and brothers and friends, it's what you think is important, it's your sense of humor and creativity and your vast imagination.

Personality is YOU

Rob Teszka

Magic Dropout at Vancouver Fringe Festival

Making magic out of failure

After a decade researching the cognitive psychology of magic, Rob Teszka burnt out and dropped out, leaving academia to pursue magic full-time. Have Rob's accolades in magic — earning Associate status in London's prestigious Inner Magic Circle, producing the Parlour Magic Show in Vancouver, and winning multiple magic competitions — eased the pain?

Impossible magic collides with the world of psychology in this irreverent autobiographical magic show!

"an emotional mixture of magic and memoir from a world built on illusions"

- Sarah Rose, Capilano Courier

"audience participation absolutely makes the show and all participants walk away with their very own badge of honour or shame, depending on how you'd like to see it."

- Rachel Levine, Montreal Rampage

"Somehow the magic tricks may look random at first glance, but Teszka wonderfully – and logically – ties it all up in the end."

- Stuart Nulman's Grapevine

"In England, while researching the psychology of magic, I became a member of the prestigious Magic Circle. As toxic academia tried to crush my spirit, I found joy in performing magic, and themes of psychology bled into my performance. This show is about my disillusionment with my academic career and my re-illusionment with magic."

- Rob Teszka

Tickets are available on the Vancouver Fringe website at vancouverfringe.com, and the direct link to my ticketing page is dropoutVan

Making magic out of failure



Written & Performed by Rob Teszka, almost-PhD of Magic

Rob Teszka
MAGIC DROPOUT

Sept 8-17

CAROUSEL THEATRE
1411 CARTWRIGHT ST
GRANVILLE ISLAND

TICKETS \$18
bit.ly/dropoutVan

VANCOUVER
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

MIRRORS by D.J.T.



Mirrors by Diamond Jim Tyler is a DVD that comes with 20 “mirrors” that you can use to gimmick your/some cards in order to perform the effects taught. There is also a section on the DVD that talks about and explains various methods for using the mirrors for other tricks like coin work for example; some of them are quite interesting and very visual. There is also a section of the DVD teaching you about mirror lore through the ages.

On this DVD you can watch performances and learn:

- MYTHOS: A wild card routine with mirrored cards, one of the best on the DVD.
- SOUL REFLECTION: A card reading effect that reads the spectators mind (very sneaky).
- BROKEN: One of the mirrors shatters before your eyes.

And more!

I haven't seen a lot of card work or tricks using gimmicks like these and found it very interesting, especially the effects you can do with coins and other small objects; there is definitely lot's of room for creativity so you can make up your own routines.

J.Stenning
August 31, 2023
A.K.A. Melrick the magician
jrsbbf@icloud.com

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

Quick tips (for magicians)

I want to share something with you that several members and I discussed at one of our meetings earlier this year; electronic devices, specifically, leaving old batteries in them for a long time. I urge you to check any devices (magical or otherwise) you have that take batteries, why? Because if left alone for an extended period of time, the batteries can and often do leak, causing possible damage to the device and almost always corrosion. I have even seen this “battery juice” leak out of a friends radio years ago and stain the carpet it was on as well as damaging the radio. Also, needless to say, this liquid is acidic, corrosive and not something you want...well, anywhere really.

So please, do NOT leave batteries in any of your electronic devices that are not being used. And if you do have dead disposable batteries, please recycle them. Most London drugs take them.

J.Stenning
A.K.A. Melrick the Magician.
Sept 2, 2023

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

John's 'On Deck!' Review

Mandolin Back (Poker 809)



I recently got a few new decks of Bicycle card and yes, you guessed it, I got some Mandolin backs. If you've never seen them before, they are very similar to the regular angel or cherub rider backs, however, under close examination, one should easily be able to tell the difference. (NOTE: Look at the two backs, the Mandolin is on the left, hence, of course, the angel holding....you guessed it, a Mandolin.

Other than telling you that my Mandolin cards came with a double blank, there's not much more to tell, except I thought I would spice things up a bit with a question and a prize for the correct answer.

A magician (who will remain unnamed for obvious reasons) used a deck of mandolin cards in one of his signature tricks on his DVD and or download (that could mean the whole deck, or any number, or the box....I think you get the picture) in a very clever way to do something that many card magicians do all the time.

I hope the answer isn't too obvious, but hey, if it is, someone gets an easy deck of cards (determined by random from my collection of "too much stuff").

Think you know what I'm talking about? Then email me at: jrsbbf@icloud.com First correct answer gets a nice, new deck of cards.

J.Stenning

Sept 4, 2023

A.K.A. Melrick the Magician

Questions and comments at: jrsbbf@icloud.com.

This happened 50 years ago

In Ballarat, Victoria, Australia in 1973 **Barry Govan** and **Ian Baxter** organised and ran the first of many Close-up Mini Conventions. This is when I won my first magic competition with my linking pins routine. **Will Alma** wrote:

"A pocket trick collected the main prize for King Island's own magician Roy Hopkins (sic) with his nifty safety-pin routine, performed in an entertaining manner and with audience participation that made it look like real magic".

I was another 48 years before I won my second one. I have to date won 4.

It is interesting to note that **Barry** has organised a **BALLARAT MAGIC CONVENTION 50TH ANNIVERSARY** (OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2023)



A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS



VMC Picnic August 26, 2023

VMC Annual Auction

Online between September 8 - 20, 2023



Make sure you register as a bidder and or seller

How exciting! September is here and it's time to go through all your magic to see what you might want to put in the auction.

If you would like to participate in the auction or just want to place a bid or two you must [Register Here.](#)

Once you have registered, you are able to browse through all the magic and amazing deals, and even put in some bids once the auction opens.

To simply view the site [CLICK HERE - VMC Auction Web Site](#)

If you would like to put something in the auction, please:

1. Take a photo of your item you want to put in the auction.
2. You must then write:
 - a. Title
 - b. Description (explain the effect)
 - c. Price. (You could set a starting bid and a reserve bid. You could also choose the bid increments or a reserve bid.)
 - d. Once you have all this, please send it to auction@ibmring92.com.



Do not delay!!.

The auction opens up on September 8th. and There is a lot of manual labour to upload all of this information.

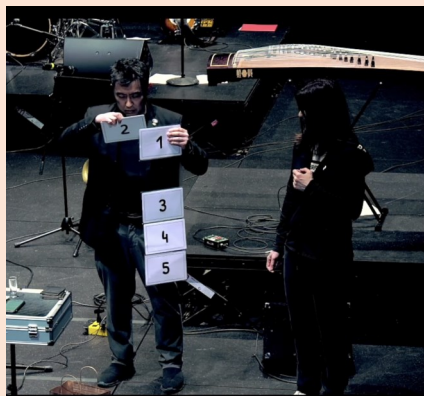
Please be advised that no **knock offs will be accepted for the auction.**

After the Auction

If you are a seller, be sure to bring the Items you sold to the September 28 meeting to give to the buyer and receive your payment, then pay the treasurer your commission - VMC Member 10% Non-VMC Member 15%

If you were a bidder and bought items be at the September 28 meeting and pick up your items and pay the sellers

Yoosik Oum performing at the Chinatown Nights a Neon Dream on April 15, 2023



Photos courtesy of Photos Yoosik Oum

Roy's 5 question quiz

Answers in the next issue

- 1 Which magician, in 1982 became the first non-North American recipient of the coveted "Magician of the Year" Award by the Academy of Magical Arts since its inception in 1968?
- 2 Following the TV transmission of "Street Magic" in 1997, about who did Penn Jillette enthuse, "he really, really does break new ground," adding that the show is "the biggest breakthrough in television magic done in our lifetime"?
- 3 The TV character Jonathan Creek was based on this amazing silent magician from the '60s and '70s who was born William Wallace and often performed under the name The Shriek of Araby. Who was this magical genius?
- 4 Who began his tenure at the Monte Carlo Resort in Las Vegas when "Tha Crossroads" by Bone Thugs-N-Harmony was Billboard number one and ended it when "Love The Way You Lie" by Eminem and Rihanna held the top slot?
- 5 Harry Corbett was a well known magician from the 1950s through to his death in 1989, but perhaps not as well known as his glove puppet, magician, bear with whom he delighted kids through the years. Who was this magic performing bear?

[Why not let me know how you go and I'll list the top 5 responses](#)

Did you see this?



Shin Lim wows with a performance inspired by Canadian magician Shawn Farquhar | AGT 2023

Cabaret of Wonders

Next show September 27, 2023

Cabaret of Wonders

Featured Performers



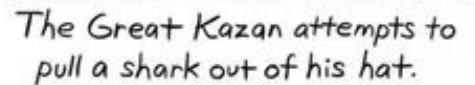
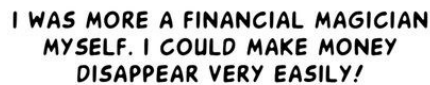
Hidden Wonders



Having fun at

Hidden Wonders





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Diary Dates*

Vancouver Magic Circle

lbmring92.com

Generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the Month—January; February; March; April; May; June ; September; October: November; Plus August—Picnic on date tba.

VMC Executive Meeting:

TBA via Zoom

September 2023:

Online auction—September 8—20, 2023

September 28, 2023—Venue—Hall

Shows (as a courtesy)

Hidden Wonders

<https://hiddenwonders.ca>

Shows are generally on Thursday 7 PM, Fri & Sat 7 & 9:30 and Sunday 3 & 7

TBA—check web site for dates and times

The Parlour Magic Show

[The Parlour Magic Show](#)

Monthly on the third Wednesday

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Other Clubs (as a courtesy)

Society of American Magicians #95

[SAM#95](#)

Meetings of the SAM #95 are held the **first Tuesday of the month** at members homes.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Fraser Valley Magic Circle

[FVMC](#)

Regular monthly meetings take place on the second Friday of most months, at a private home in Mission, BC.

TBA—check web site for dates and times

Quotable Quotes

"For those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe, no explanation will suffice." ~ Joseph Dunninger

"Unlike a mere deception or a simple secret, which gives the impression that something's been taken away, a great magician makes you feel like something's been given to you." ~ Jim Steinmeyer

"A Magician is not a Magician because he knows tricks, but because he knows Magic - the principles, the fundamentals." ~ Harlan Tarbell

"You don't get into magic. Magic gets into you." ~David Blaine

"Magicians are the most honest people in the world; they tell you they're gonna fool you, and then they do it." ~ James Randi

VMC Library

The Vancouver Magic Circle Library Catalogue is online!

Remember: if you want a new trick, look in an old book! Our hope is that whenever our members see a trick they really want, or are trying to learn a difficult piece of theory, or are interested in buying a book— they will first check the library. This is one way we can improve our magic, and this [searchable online catalogue](#) is the first step towards taking full advantage of this incredible resource.

This is the eleventh issue of the revived 'The Magical Minutes', I hope it has and continuous to meet with your approval. I would, however, welcome contributions from the membership. So if **you** have any articles; ideas; anecdotes; show / book / video reviews; photographs; cartoons; jokes; or anything else that you feel would be suitable for 'The Magical Minutes' please submit them to:

Roy Hopwood via hopwood.vmc@gmail.com or 1 604 219 0897.

** Do NOT rely upon this newsletter for critical dates and times of meetings; events or shows. Always check the official source of the information.*