



Southend Sorcerers Society

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SOUTHEND SORCERERS NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

2021 MEETINGS

5th Dec Xmas Fun Night

2022 MEETINGS

2nd Jan	Lecture - Paul Gordon	3rd Jul	TBC
6th Feb	Lecture – Mark Traversoni & Mark Infiniti	2nd Aug	Club Night
6th Mar	Club Night	4th Sep	Close Up Competition
3rd Apr	Annual General Meeting	2nd Oct	Lecture - TBC
1st May	Annual stage competition	6th Nov	Props Auction
5th Jun	Lecture - TBC	4th Dec	Xmas Fun Night

CLUB SHOWS

26th Feb 22 Wentworth School, Maldon
19th Mar 22 Stambridge Primary School
w/c 15th Aug 22 As If By Magic – Dixon Studio

CLUB WEBSITE

www.southendsorcerers.com
Members' area password - jimmy

ONLINE NOW.....

All our lockdown lecture series is now available in the members' section of the website, including the latest events from Nikolas Mavresis and Vinny Sagoo!

<https://www.southendsorcerers.com/zoom-recordings>

CONTACTS

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LAST MEETING – 7th NOVEMBER – CLUB NIGHT



Our last meeting was held on 7th November and it was designed to be a simple club night allowing members a welcome opportunity to mix and mingle with other club colleagues.

At the meeting we welcomed Matt Pax and Alan ‘Alprendo’ Taylor to the club with the formal presentation of their membership regalia. Welcome aboard chaps! It’s lovely to have you with us and we hope you enjoy your membership to the full. It was super to see both Matt and Al performing at the Canvey club show on 11th November but more on that later.

Sadly, only 8 members in total were present for the evening which therefore ended early. Thanks to those who did manage to come along - we hope you had an opportunity to learn something on the night.

NEXT MEETING – 5th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS FUN NIGHT

Our next meeting is back at the Ekco Club on 5th December at 7.30. As usual for this time of year, we hold a very informal festive get together and although we won't be staging a full Christmas fun night as in previous years, there will be music and some table quizzes and activities for you to have a go at. Friends and family are welcome to join us too so please bring them along for a bit of festive fun and socialising.



Do bring your own nibbles as well, but as the Ekco club has a bar we're not allowed to bring our own drinks - seems fair enough!

Hope to see you at our annual festive get together for what should be a lovely evening together.

CLUB SHOWS

If you'd like to perform at any of our future shows, either with close-up magic or as a stage act, then please contact Richard Graham on 01268 783202. Rick will also provide details of venue addresses, times and directions as required.



LAST SHOW

11th November 2021, WI, Smallgains Hall, Canvey Island

We staged our first club show for some time at Smallgains Hall with the WI on 11th November - and what a super evening it was. The curtain was a little late going up through no fault of our own, but once we got started it all went brilliantly.

The first half of the evening was, as usual, handed over to our close up performers - and thanks go to all our members who came along to entertain the audience. Matt Pax, Alprendo Taylor, Doug Roden, Alan Chapman, Simon O'Neil, Oliver Tabor, Dave Taylor, Adrian Fox, Don Simpson, Chris Campos and Thomas Edwin all visited 4 tables each and went down brilliantly as usual.

Then, after the obligatory raffle (!), it was on with the stage show part of the evening. Adrian compered the show performing 'No Tear newspaper' and a Blendo Bag effect in the process; and he introduced Alprendo first. He wowed the audience and got load of laughs with his act which centred around his 'box of Twix' running gag. Excellent Al!

Dave Taylor was up next with his take on Shawn Farquhar's brilliant Sheer Luck book test amongst other effects. And finally, to close the show, Oliver Tabor presented his lovely dancing hank routine before finishing with a snowstorm effect.

It was truly a show we can all be proud of - well done to all our performers for a fabulous evening of the best magic.

Our Dream Team were also at the show of course - thanks go to Carol, Audrey, Gill and Barbara for co-ordinating things so well. We made a pretty good profit from sales of magic effects too which is a super bonus!

At the end of the evening, the booker mentioned that several of her guests had commented that it had been the best evening's entertainment they'd had for ages.

Mission accomplished!

If you've never performed at one of our shows, do consider it seriously. It's brilliant fun, and there's no better way to practice and improve your magic than with a proper audience.

NEXT SHOW BOOKINGS

Here are the current details of our next club shows:

26th February 2022, Wentworth School in Maldon

We have another show in the diary, a carryover from pre-Covid, which will be on 26th Feb 2022 at Wentworth school in Maldon – we have performed for Wentworth before and it should be a great night all being well!

19th March 2022, Stambridge Primary School

Another show booking has also come in recently – this one is for Stambridge Primary School on 19th March next year. We've performed here before too and they'd like us back in the New Year so please note this one in your diary too.

Please do let Rick know about your availability ASAP – it's great that we're starting to get show requests again but we need to know if you're keen to come along and help out!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Subs 2021/22



Now that we're back at the Ekco Club and therefore having to pay for the room, we're asking for a 6 month subscription for the second half of the year from October as planned.

Could you therefore please pay your subs now so that we can continue to enjoy our meetings and lectures going forward?

The amount due is just £10 for individuals and £12.50 for juniors and family membership which, given the amount of work we've put in to keep the club running during lockdown, we hope you'll agree is more than fair.

After all, our guest ticket price for a single lecture is £10 on its own and we have two lectures booked for January and February!

As usual you can pay via BACS if you prefer – here are the bank details:

Sort Code: 30-65-22 Account no: 79204460

Please make sure that you include a reference consisting of your name and ‘Subs21’ when you make the payment. That way we’ll know that you’ve paid. And of course, cash and cheques are still very welcome payment methods at our next meeting too.

For new members who have never paid a subscription before, please remember that there is an additional one-off £10 joining fee as well.

Quite a few have already paid (many thanks!), but there are a large number who haven’t as yet and we do rely on your subs to keep the club going financially, so please do let us have your renewal as soon as possible.

2022 DIXON STUDIO SHOWS – AS IF BY MAGIC

As it’s our tenth anniversary show, this is going to be huge!

As announced last month, we now have confirmed dates for our Dixon Studio shows in 2022! We’ll be back in the theatre during the week of 15th August next year, which means that our shows will run from Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th August - so now we need to start planning for them and making some decisions about what acts will be featured.

I asked for anyone interested in performing to drop me a short line so that I can at least get an early look at who might want to be involved. Sadly I received no replies at all!



So - **if you would like to take part in the shows please let me know now** so that I can begin putting things together. With 10 months to prepare I’m hoping that those of you that were involved last time will be keen to put an act together for the new show.

For stage, you ideally need two 10 minute acts – the content is entirely up to you so be as creative as you can. And of course our close uppers will get an opportunity as well – we run close up magic in the theatre foyer for an hour each night before the main show starts.

At this stage, I just need to try and get an idea of numbers, especially for the stage shows. So if you’d like to take part in the show please just drop me a line to let me know – content can be confirmed later.

We try to stage a different show every night and in the past a lot of our members have performed so I’m hoping that we can repeat the successes of the past. This will be our tenth anniversary of running the show, so let’s try and make it the best yet!

Thanks for your help with this project – it’s the biggest event in the club calendar so please do get involved if you can.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Tracy Wise - 'Crime Scene Illusion' & 'Krampus Tales from the Shadows'



Tracy has two shows running at the Royal Hotel in Southend this Christmas.

'**Crime Scene Illusion**' is a look at how forensic science is used to solve crimes, but all mixed in with magic and storytelling to make for a fascinating and entertaining evening. The show runs on Thursday 9th December and includes a two course meal and an arrival drink in the Royal's atmospheric ballroom for a ticket price of £32. So, what secrets

does your handwriting hold? How reliable is your memory? How can you tell if someone is lying? How can blood patterns help to solve a mystery? All these topics and more will be explored in Crime Scene Illusion!

'**Tales from the Shadows - Krampus**' is an alternative look at Christmas traditions and stories. Have yourself a very merry Hauntmas with this unique show which brings you a very special resurrection of the Victorian tradition of telling chilling Christmas ghost stories. With limited availability now, this show is always popular. Running on 22nd December, the ticket price of £25 includes the show and a delicious mini platter.

For tickets and more information about both of these shows, visit the Royal Hotel website here:
<https://www.royalhotelsouthend.com/general-5>

Oliver Tabor - Christmas Magic at the Barn

Oliver and his team are back with Christmas Magic at the Barn on 20th and 21st December, all staged in a delightful, cosy 17th Century red brick barn theatre.

It's a Family friendly and festive magic show, Covid-safe and secure for Christmas. The event will boast a combination of sleight-of-hand close-up magic, mind reading and mystery, comedy and stage illusion, all held within the warm, intimate and enchanting atmosphere of a 17th century barn theatre. It's the perfect treat for Christmas.



Every ticket includes a free ring on arrival and further refreshments will be available to purchase during the show.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-magic-at-the-barn-tickets-206701227937>

OTHER SHOWS

David Williamson in 'Circus 1903' - Royal Festival Hall, London 16th Dec - 2nd Jan



Circus 1903 returns to the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank for Christmas.

Expect acrobats, contortionists, trapeze artists, a death-defying high-wire act and sensational life-sized elephants created by the puppeteers behind War Horse, brought together by ringmaster magician David Williamson.

All this entertainment is packaged into a show with a gorgeous vintage feel, inspired by the classic circuses of the turn of the century era. And there's great news if you're lucky enough to have experienced the thrill of

Circus 1903 before: there are new acts included for this season.

16th December 2021 to 2nd January 2022. Royal Festival Hall, London.

See www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Gimmicks

SWITCH-A-TWO by Mark Mason

A devastating split second, invisible switch. Switch cards right before your spectator's eyes.

Over the last year Chris Payne, Ian Frazer and Mark Mason have worked to bring you the all new SWITCH-A-TWO. This is A FULL VIEW switch. Switch cards in or out in a split second. It looks so fair. It's undetectable!



There is nothing to adapt or make, simply drop your Switch-A-Two into your jacket or shirt pocket. Magnetically lock it in place and start performing incredible moments of magic.

Openly switch single cards or multiple cards in the blink of an eye. Seamlessly switch in gimmicked cards. Clean up any packet trick. Visually change double-faced cards or double-backed cards. Make signatures change places. Visually print blank cards.

Comes with tuition for 6 great routines:

Mark performs and teaches 3 of his favourite effects:

Jacks & Jokers. Two Jacks and 2 Jokers magically change places, then they change into the 4 Aces.

All the same to me. A comedy prediction combined with a knockout punch.

Signed Transposition. Two cards change places and so does the spectator's signature.

Chris Payne performs and teaches 2 routines:

Signed Cards Across. A brilliant take on the classic cards across plot. (Highly recommended)

Open prediction. A simple, direct approach to the open prediction effect, with a unique twist!

Derek Ostovani performs and teaches:

Imagination. 4 blank cards magically print, then the entire blank deck prints.

Plus lots of tips and bonus ideas.

Switch-a-Two is available on pre-order from Alakazam at a price of £44.75

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/switch-a-two-with-gimmicks-and-online-instructions-by-mark-mason.html>

Cards

TROJAN DECK by Josh Jay



Straight from Joshua Jay's smash-hit, off-broadway show *Six Impossible Things* to your working set, "The Trojan Deck" from Vanishing Inc. is about as close as you can get to the "holy grail" of card magic.

At its core, it offers the perfect combination of being beautifully direct while also stunningly powerful. So much so, it almost seems too good to be true. Two different decks are shuffled. They shuffle one. You shuffle the other. In the end, the running order of both decks match 100%.

"Trojan Deck" is so much more than just another magic trick though. It's an ingenious and versatile gimmick that has been carefully designed so you can perform a variety of parlour and close-up miracles.

Magicians will also love to hear that "Trojan Deck" is surprisingly easy to perform. There's no sleight of hand required and it's essentially foolproof. There's no deck switch either. The decks never even need to "touch" to do any sneaky moves. They are separate the entire time.

To Joshua, the best part of "Trojan Deck" is the limitless presentation possibilities it offers. While Joshua performs a touching story about how his parents met, you can perform "Trojan Deck" any way you want.

Each set comes with a special gimmick and two decks of cards so you can get performing right away. It takes only a few minutes to get the gimmick ready. Joshua offers complete instructions and tons of extra ideas in the online tutorial.

The "Trojan Deck" is extremely durable and will last you countless performances. Due to the complicated nature of manufacturing this effect though, supplies are very limited.

You can see an uncut performance and buy the effect at Alakazam where the price is £65.

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/trojan-deck-by-joshua-jay.html>

Mentalism

ECLIPSE by Dee Christopher

Every mentalist needs ESP cards in their toolkit and now you can own one of the greatest ESP decks ever devised.

Eclipse is a secretly marked deck of 25 ESP cards (+ gaffs) meaning that YOU know which card your spectator is holding at any time by secretly glimpsing the marks on the back. But these marks are like NO other.



What use are marked cards if you can't see the marks?!

This is a very real problem with the typical alternatives; Nothing looks more suspicious than a performer leaning in and closely squinting at the back of a selected card to figure out what it is. Eclipse is the answer; the marks are so bold, you can literally identify a card a spectator is holding from the other side of the room!

Bold, yes. Obvious? Hell no. The marks may be bold to you but remain invisible to the uninitiated. Spectators can freely handle the cards and even under close inspection will struggle to find the secret.

People will be convinced you're psychic!

The cards are printed on plastic stock to avoid degradation, so if they get grubby, simply wipe them clean. No more ordering a new pack for every gig you're booked for!

When you purchase an Eclipse ESP deck, you will be granted exclusive access to an in-depth online video masterclass with the creator, Dee Christopher. The video will not only entrust you with the secrets to decode the markings, you'll be taught SIX impressive, hard-hitting effects that can be performed with your new-found knowledge.

What's more, the effects taught can be performed individually or strung together to create a full 25 minute mentalism act, ideal for both close up performances and larger parlour settings. Some of the effects utilise the secret marks, but many don't, equipping you with a multitude of methods to help make backtracking impossible for your audiences.

Eclipse is available from most dealers - Alakazam have it for £39

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/eclipse-gimmicks-and-online-instructions-by-dee-christopher-and-the-1914-trick-eclipsedee.html>

Mentalism

MIND DEVICE by Julio Montoro



Do you want to know the deepest thoughts of your spectator?

Created by Julio Montoro years ago, Mind Device is a small black envelope that allows you to peek at anything your spectator has written on a business card. You will get a full view of the word or drawing, so you will only need to worry about the presentation.

Julio Montoro has covered everything in the tutorial; from how to customise it, to multiple routines using different handlings explained.

It is so thin that you can carry it with you in your back pocket without worrying about anything. Forget about the old classic peek wallet. With a Mind Device you will have one of the best peek devices ever created right in your pocket.

What does Mind Device include?

- Specially designed envelope made in the UK (Normal envelope).
- Specially fully gimmicked envelope made in Spain by Dante.
- Rubber band for one of the handlings explained.
- Paper clip for one of the handlings explained.
- Extra "something" to make the trick work.

Mind Device is available from Saturn Magic at a price of £34.74

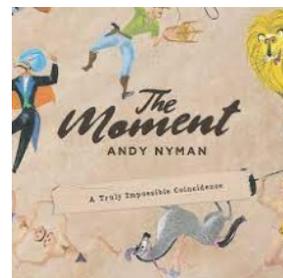
<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/mind-device--smallest-peek-device-ever--by-julio-montoro-by-julio-montoro--trick.html>

Mentalism

THE MOMENT by Andy Nyman

One of magic's most beloved performers and creators presents the opportunity to create an unforgettable experience between you and your spectator that will stick with them for a lifetime.

On the surface, "The Moment" from Andy Nyman is a stunning matching effect and mind-boggling display of influence that could easily find its way into any magician's repertoire. However, once you peel back the layers of this routine, you really start to realise how impactful and personal it can be. In fact, the next time you're asked "why did you become a magician", there's no better trick than "The Moment" to answer that question.



You start by introducing two packets of enchanting antique-style circus cards. One has red backs, and the other has blue backs. Additionally, you bring out a separate "magician card." This is the one card you've always been enamoured with since you were a child.

The spectator is invited to choose a packet, and the other packet is set aside. You show how all the designs are different before giving the cards a mix. The spectator even then helps you further randomise the cards. Everything feels very fair. You then reintroduce the other packet. Impossibly, the order of the designs on both packets matches perfectly. As a kicker ending, the "magician card" is turned over to reveal that you knew which packet they would choose from the start.

"The Moment" comes with everything you need to perform. It's a remarkable trick with even more stunning props. The included antique circus cards truly look like a cherished collectable from years past.

You'll learn important performance tips and subtleties that will not only make this effect better, but will ultimately improve all of your magic. Andy also teaches a BONUS MENTALISM TRICK called "Circus in your Hand" using the same cards. The spectator thinks of one of the designs and you're able to correctly divine it. It feels like a very direct bit of mind reading and is incredibly fooling.

Here's the best part, everything is super easy to do. "The Moment" is essentially self-working. It's a beautiful piece of magic and one of the easiest ways to create a true connection with your audience.

Check it out at Vanishing Inc where the price is £26.40

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/close-up-magic/the-moment/>

That's about it for this month everyone – stay safe and send any articles for next month's newsletter to Adrian for publishing.