



Southend Sorcerers Society

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SOUTHEND SORCERERS FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

2021 MEETINGS – SOME TBC

7 th Mar	Club Night – speed dating
5 th Apr	AGM - TBC
2 nd May	Lecture – Mark Shortland
6 th Jun	Lecture
4 th Jul	TBC
1 st Aug	Club Night
5 th Sep	Close Up Competition
3 rd Oct	Lecture - TBC
7 th Nov	Props Auction
5 th Dec	Xmas Fun Night

2021 CLUB SHOWS

w/c 16th Aug As If By Magic – Dixon Studio (TBC)

CLUB WEBSITE

www.southendsorcerers.com

Members' area password - jimmy

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LAST MEETING – 7th FEBRUARY – STEVE VALENTINE DROP IN



What a pleasure it was to welcome Steve Valentine back to Southend Sorcerers for his drop-in evening with us. Steve was one of the early junior members of the club and has gone on to become a well known face in TV and feature film productions, especially in the USA. His love of magic continues too though, and he still performs regularly, having toured his one man show and appeared as one of the names in The Illusionists show. He also continues to create new magic, and his online teaching academy, called 'Magic on the Go', is a popular resource for all magicians wishing to learn from some of the best past masters.

Steve began the evening by explaining how he started in the Sorcerers, finally taking the plunge to travel to the USA in an effort to obtain work as a professional magician. He ended up as a resident magician in the famous Magic Castle for around ten years and as a result met and worked with a lot of the famous names of the day. He remembers with great fondness how members of the Sorcerers bought his props (even though they didn't really need them) when he was trying to fund his ticket to the States.

So it as on to the magic, and Steve started by vanishing 2 full shot glasses of whisky. It was a brilliant piece of illusion which involved the use of glasses filled with coloured resin to simulate whisky, with the addition of a small amount of water on top to sell the illusion. These are apparently available from fake food suppliers – but they seem to be difficult to source in the UK so Chris Campos is looking at making his own - if anyone is interested, do give Chris a ring.



Next it was on to Steve's work on the classic egg bag routine – he's researched several versions and come up with his own brilliant take on the effect which uses a change bag instead of a traditional egg bag, along with latex props to make the appearance and disappearance of the items much more convincing. Culminating in the production of a lemon or an orange, his take on the routine is lovely to watch.

On to some close up magic with cards next and it's clear that Steve is a very accomplished sleight of hand worker. He began by sharing his work on the side steal which he has adapted from a move by Walt Lees – then he went on to perform and explain a lovely four ace routine using the move. A new take on the famous McDonald's Aces routine came next, involving some new moves and ideas on bringing the double faced cards into play. His version was very deceptive and brilliant to watch and learn.

Steve put out a three card monte routine some time ago, simply called 'Three', so he showed us this as well. Some brilliant use of gimmicks which are switched in and out effortlessly make the routine a joy to watch.



If anyone is interested in learning from Steve (he's a brilliant teacher and a genuinely nice guy) you could do worse than take a look at his Magic on the Go website. It's a subscription channel, but it currently contains in excess of 500 videos where Steve teaches and discusses a huge number of classic routines and effects.

The lecture has been recorded and will be available in the members' section of our website shortly. If you couldn't make the meeting, it's very much worth the time needed to watch it and comes highly recommended. A lot of members who were there have agreed that this was one the best sessions we've had as a club for some time!

EXTRA MEETING – 21ST FEBRUARY – ACE MAGIC STUDIO DEALER DEM



On 21st February, we held an additional meeting on Zoom – this time it was a dealer demo from Stevo Watson at Ace Magic Studio. Set up by Gary Sumpter, Ace is based locally on Canvey Island and puts out a range of effects that are exclusive to them. A lot of mentalist routines are included in the catalogue and Stevo showed us a good selection from their online shop.

He started by telling us about his magical journey – how he got started in magic and how his father's death had spurred him on to grow his skills.

After a few stories about his experiences with a magician in a Vegas magic shop, it was on with the magic!

First up were a number of gimmicks that used a similar principle – a flap system to bring about astonishing visual changes. 'Animal Magic' transformed a chosen card into a wrapped chocolate bar; 'Magic Club' turned a card into two club biscuits; 'Black Jacks' used a similar method to turn a card into a tube of black jack sweets. Stevo makes all these items himself by hand and offers a follow up service should anything go wrong.

Next was one of the best effects of the evening for me. 'Spread' consists of a pack of cards that are actually photos of holiday destinations. The spectator chooses one at random, then the magician can read their mind and reveal the card they've selected. But the clever part of the routine is the four way out back design on the cards. Ribbon spread in one direction, the backs of the deck reveal a picture of Big Ben; spread in the opposite direction and you get a picture of the Statue of Liberty; spread a different way gives you the Leaning Tower of Pisa; and spread the fourth way reveals the Eiffel Tower. Very clever design work here, and opportunities to combine the effect with things like DFB make it an interesting offer.



'Vegas Choice' gives you a printed travel guide covering 52 weeks in Vegas and a selection of postcards. With different outcomes for every date of the year, the spectator selects four postcards at random which are placed into an envelope. You then reveal a date - and when the postcards are removed from the envelope, they exactly match the events listed at that date in the travel guide.

Several other effects were covered including some suitable for children, and some definitely not! There was an ESP prediction card routine ('Paranormal'); a zig-zag queen card effect ('Royal Surgery') which used black art; an animated wine glass card where the glass drawn on the back of the card visibly fills with wine ('Vino'); and 'Gift Box', a small wrapped gift box which transforms into pack of Bicycle cards.

TEACAN is an 'any card at any number' effect using a stacked deck and a special card which can be placed anywhere into the deck by the spectator. This card uses the cards either side of it in the deck to determine the value and suit of a chosen card, and the number printed on its reverse predicts where in the pack the chosen card will be. The routine works really well – you just have to stack your deck in a particular way.



Finally, Stevo presented the 'Screen Play' book test, a beautifully printed booklet of movie posters and information which you can reveal from any two page spread in the book. Not a cheap item, but the production quality is beautiful and for mentalists, well worth consideration.



A super evening in the end and thanks go to Stevo for spending some time with us. If you would like to order anything from the Ace site (www.acemagicstudio.com) you can use the discount code southend10 to get a 10% discount for any purchases. There are also bundle deals available.

NEXT MEETING – 7th MARCH – CLUB NIGHT - SPEED DATING

Our next meeting is set for Sunday 7th March and it will be another of our popular speed dating nights. For those who aren't familiar with the whole speed dating concept in magic, basically, a number of our members will have 20 minutes each to share their ideas and/or routines with the rest of the group. In this way, we get to see a number of people give a variety of mini-lectures in one session and it usually makes for an entertaining evening.



If anyone would like to offer one of their favourite routines to show and explain, or to talk to the group about any aspect of magic that might be useful and interesting, then please let Adrian know. There are plenty of openings at present and it would be great to see some of our members sharing their effects and ideas.

The meeting will start at 7.30 on Zoom and you can join the meeting by using the following dial in details as usual:

Topic: Sorcerers speed dating night
Time: Mar 7, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8254968023?pwd=MFRZVVZZclozNVBnUFNlNmmtaHphdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 496 8023
Passcode: sorcerers

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.

CURRENT SHOW BOOKINGS

As you know, we have no new shows in the diary at present due to the difficult Covid situation. We did however have a show booked for February 2021 at the Wentworth School in Maldon. Due to the ongoing restrictions, this date has obviously now been moved and the new provisional date is:

Sat 8th May, Wentworth School in Maldon

Please do note this date in your diary and let's all hope that we can get our performing shoes on and get out to show them some of our best magic!

It's probable that this date will also change but we'll let you know as soon as possible.

LATEST NEWS ABOUT 'AS IF BY MAGIC' 2021



As you know, we have a provisional date of w/c 16th August for our As If By Magic shows at the Dixon Studio this year. The committee have been discussing this very seriously and we believe that, even though some restrictions may have been lifted, it will be very difficult to stage the show this year. We have no idea if theatres will have to open at reduced capacity, but if they do, it simply won't be financially viable for us to run the show. Additional to that, we simply don't know yet how people will feel about packing into theatres when they do re-open.

As a result, we now believe that the only realistic solution is to sadly postpone the shows for another year. We're waiting to hear from HQ Theatres about their view on all of this but a lot of other shows have already moved to 2022 and we think we need to follow suit.

This is sad news for all of us, but rest assured we will do everything we can to ensure that our 10th anniversary shows still go ahead next year.

As mentioned before, we're still really looking forward to getting this incredible project back on track after having to miss the shows for two years – and when it does return to full strength I know it'll be an amazing week for all of us. I'll keep you up to date with developments.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Subscriptions

In view of the terrible year everyone has had due to the Covid situation, and the fact that as a club we feel we need to support our members in any way that we can, the committee has been discussing options and we've come to the following conclusion which we hope you will be pleased about.

Although we've done our best to keep the club active and thriving, there's no doubt that things simply aren't the same when we can't meet in person. We haven't been able to get together as we'd like for some time now, and we don't believe it's fair to ask for a subscription renewal in view of the way things have been.

So we plan to **allow your membership to simply continue without a new subscription** until October 2021 at the earliest. This effectively gives you 6 months membership free of charge. We hope that in this way, you'll feel that we're doing right by our membership and encouraging you to stay with us until we can get back to some sort of normality.

AGM

A lot of organisations like magic societies have decided to postpone their AGMs and committee re-elections until such time as things can get back to some sort of normality – the British Ring of IBM is one example of this approach. As a result, the committee have decided to recommend to the membership that we follow suit for the coming year and to simply continue with our current committee until normal activity can resume. All of the committee members are happy to stay in post for now and this will effectively give the club some continuity going forward. We plan to prepare financial accounts for the past year, but committee reports other than that would seem to be fairly redundant given the situation we've been in for the last 12 months.

Although this is the committee's recommendation, of course this is a constitutional matter so we will need to ask the membership for a vote on the recommendation. Would you therefore please let Adrian know your thoughts about this proposal as soon as possible so that we can consider any objections etc. Thanks for your input.

MAGIC NEWS

Don't Everybody Leave - A talk show with Mac King and his friends.



Tune in, hang out and laugh with (or at) this hilarious group of friends.

Each week Mac King (often called the no 1 comedy magician in the world) and his pals (in alphabetical order, so no one gets too offended) Nick Diffatte (young comedy magician--and yo-yo savant--seen on The Late Late Show), Jason England (world renowned magic and gambling sleight-of-hand expert, and golden retriever and goldfish rescuer), Michael Goudeau (Emmy nominated comedy writer and Las Vegas's longest running juggler), Vinny Grosso (two time Penn & Teller fooler and past President of The Society of American Magicians), and Jacob Jax (Comedic sleight of hand guy, and our authority on Motown in general and The Temptations in particular), are joined by a guest to ostensibly talk about magic, showbiz, each other and a whole host of other stuff that they love.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-eXHjdgTLofZB9WPIO3rvw/>

Farnham Maltings present 'Magical Bones: A Kind of Magic' via Zoom.

From the organisers: A live and interactive virtual magic experience. Just because you're stuck at home doesn't mean you don't deserve a bit of magic! Your sofa is the best seat in the house for this very special live and interactive magic experience. Join your host, internationally acclaimed magician and Britain's Got Talent finalist Magical Bones, as he invites you to not just watch, but to take part, in this truly unique show, live via Zoom. 7pm on Friday 12th March (45 minutes). Price £18.00. See www.farnhammaltings.com.



Little Nightmares II - Nightmares Explained with Derren Brown.



How powerful are bad dreams? Are they simply tricks of the mind, or is something more sinister at play? Who better to teach us about them than master mind manipulator, Derren Brown? *Little Nightmares II* on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC, and Nintendo Switch, and also on PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X|S later in the year. For all platforms see www.en.bandainamcoent.eu.

Watch the trailer with Derren Brown:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5SjzseAhI>

FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Cards/Mentalism

POISON by Nikolas Mavresis

POISON is without doubt Nikolas's finest creation to date. The reveals in POISON build and build to highlight an awesome kicker ending they will never see coming!

The POISON deck has been beautifully design and printed to look just like something you would buy in a quirky gift shop. Poison may be performed on 1-4 spectators and is perfect for close up, parlour or even Zoom. POISON is super simple to perform and also comes with the custom cards for a bunch of additional effects including a great wild card effect called Happy Hour, A fun Monte style effect with a kicker ending and a special card for PATEO style effects.



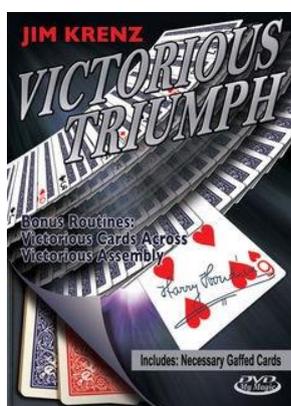
POISON is much more than just an effect, it's a magic set! Each Pack Includes:
Custom printed Pick A Drink Box
All the cards to perform the Poison routine
4 X Blank faced predictions cards (to write your own prediction in your own language)
Cards for Happy Hour
Cards for Drink Monte
Bonus PATEO card
Full Video Instructions

You can see a full performance of the routine at Alakazam, where the price is £28 (or £35 for the bigger Pro sized cards)

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/poison-by-nikolas-mavresis-poker-size.html>

Cards

VICTORIOUS TRIUMPH by Jim Krenz



Jim Krenz has created what is likely the cleanest and most magical Triumph routine you will ever do. Thanks to some gimmicked cards and an ingenious handling this self-working routine is a work of art.

The same can be said about his Cards Across routine that has already become a favourite for both beginner and professional magicians worldwide.

These are routines you will be able to learn and perform immediately.

Victorious Triumph: A self-working version of a classic routine where a freely selected card is lost in the deck. The cards are repeatedly shuffled face-up and face-down and their mixed condition is shown after each shuffle. In an instant, the deck is spread to reveal all the cards face down, except for the selection, which could have been signed. Can be done with multiple selections and you can even let the spectators do the shuffling!

Victorious Cards Across (All Expense Paid Trip): A self-working cards across routine that many of the leading magicians are already using. A hands-off routine where the spectators handle all the cards and you are still able to make two cards invisibly jump from one packet to the other. This includes a second phase that is just as clean, easy and impossible.

Victorious Assembly: A new and easy handling for the classic McDonald's Aces assembly using different types of gimmicks where four aces are placed on the table with three cards on top of each. One at a time three of the aces vanish and eventually arrive to join the leader ace.

Along with the one-hour instructional DVD you are supplied with all the necessary gimmicked cards for the three routines. Use your own Bicycle Poker-size deck. The gimmicks are available in red or blue.

Keep in mind that these routines do not use any kind of rough and smooth, sticky stuff, marked cards, strings, mirrors, magnets, flaps, memory, electronics, or any kind of difficult sleight of hand.

You can see Victorious Triumph at Alakazam where the price is £25

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/victorious-triumph-blue-by-jim-krenz.html>

Bizarre Magic

LETTER V by Handy Altan

The magician takes out a bag with a voodoo kit inside - a voodoo doll and needles. A letter is also inside the bag, and this is left untouched.



Then the magician asks the spectator to freely choose how many needles he/she wants to use, and then to freely stab them at the voodoo doll at any spots he/she desires.

After that, the magician takes the untouched bag that contains just the old letter, and reveals that inside the letter is contained a picture of the voodoo doll with marks in the same places as the spectator freely chose to stab.

Includes:

Handcrafted voodoo doll

Handcrafted pouch

Needles

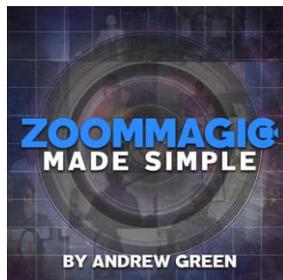
A prediction letter

An extra customizable letter to write a prediction with your language

If you're into bizarre magic this may be one for you to take a look at. The price at Alakazam is £37. <https://www.alakazam.co.uk/letter-v-by-handy-altan-trick-letterv.html>

Performance Tips

ZOOM MAGIC MADE SIMPLE by Andy Green



With so many magicians considering getting into performing over Zoom, this product could be just what you're looking for to get you started. From basic set up and equipment to easy to use software and settings, learn how to create an amazing virtual show from the comfort of your own home.

In this 2 hour tutorial Andrew Green teaches his tried and tested techniques for performing close up parlour magic and family shows to people across the globe. Having performed over 150 virtual shows during the course of 2020, Andrew has developed his existing professional

repertoire into easy workable interactive zoom presentations.

You will be taken through the whole zoom show process from set up to in-show controls along with a whole load of amazing virtual magic.

This engaging style of virtual magic is guaranteed to take your online shows to the next level. If you are new to virtual magic shows then Andrew will take you through an easy set up and in show system to enable you and your audiences to enjoy the whole experience. Having experienced every problem possible during virtual shows Andrew will show you how to avoid the pitfalls.

He also teaches you how to present on camera and keep your virtual audience members engaged throughout. Also included:

Performance Techniques

Family Show Ideas & Tips

Marketing Ideas and Booking Shows

Live E-Ticket Event Resources and Advice

In Show Recordings & Security advice

You Also Will Learn

4 Amazing EASY TO DO Effects Direct From Andrew's Corporate Close Up Show:

Gypsy Thread

Virtually Invisible

Shopping Online (Virtual Confabulation)

Virtually Ambitious

Along with Children's Show Props & Routines.

Zoom Magic Made Simple is a 2 hour instant download and you can see it at your favourite dealer. Alakazam have it priced at £25.

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/zoom-magic-made-simple-with-andrew-green-.html>

Cards/Mentalism AROUND THE WORLD MIND READING DECK by Magic Makers

Show your spectator a deck of playing cards with different backs, each with a flag from different countries around the world. Ask your spectator to think of any card, remove it from the deck, and remember the flag on the back. You then amaze and astonish as you reveal your correct prediction.



The routine is based on an effect originally published in Tarbell and is a brand new take on an old idea. You'll know what card they chose every time. This deck is a must have for every magician, every skill level.

Easy to learn for powerful performances.

Print Instructions & Online Learning Included. The deck is poker size.

You can see the full routine at Saturn Magic - and the price is just £15

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/around-the-world-mind-reading-deck.html>

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