



ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

www.srilankamagic.org

*The Official Guardian of Magic*

January 2012

Edited by Devsiri Fernando 7 Francisco Place, Moratuwa Tel: 2645927

# The **5** Biggest Mistakes Made by Beginning Magicians

## By Wayne Kawamoto

Why do so many in the general public say that they hate magic? It's probably because they've seen poor magic or an arrogant, boorish magician, or both at the same time.

Here then, are the five biggest mistakes made by beginning magicians. And unfortunately, some of these traits are seen in the work of a handful of pros. If you're a beginning magician, watch out for these pitfalls.

### 1. Arrogance and Acting Smarter Than the Audience

No one likes a performer, or even a person, who thinks he or she is smarter than everybody else and tries to demonstrate it. Magic is not an opportunity for a magician to show off or demonstrate how clever or intelligent he or she is.

When magic is performed in a manner that says "ha ha, I know the secret and you don't," it's been turned into a puzzle and the audience is only encouraged to try and discover the secret. Also, many magicians don't understand that what works for Amazing Johnathan is not necessarily what they should be copying and doing in their shows.

### 2. Humiliating or Embarrassing Volunteers

When audience members come up to assist, they are going out of their way to help the magician. It's imperative to treat volunteers with respect and not go for the easy jokes that get laughs and belittles and embarrasses volunteers.

Sure, there are lots of bald, fat, ethnic, gender and more jokes that one can utter, but for entertainment of a higher level, these can be left behind.

### 3. Inadequate Preparation

Magic is not simply a matter of visiting a magic shop, purchasing a trick or two, taking them out of the package, reading the instructions and then performing them. Entertaining and baffling magic takes time to develop and practice, and routines need to be engaging, dramatic or funny, whatever works best for a magician's personality or character.

### 4. Not Properly Structuring a Show

Tricks in sequence should be varied. One card trick where a spectator selects a card and the magician finds it may be entertaining, but five such tricks in a row are probably too much. Mix up the effects.

### 5. Wearing a Character Costume

Many beginning magicians may feel or know that their magic is inadequate and will consider wearing a costume - a clown suit, wizard outfit or more - to seemingly make up for this. After all, the logic seems to go, if one doesn't feel that they are optimal at magic, at least they're dressed up as a character.

However, this is completely wrong. And unfortunately, entertainers in costume are too often a sign of awful magic.

A costume should only be worn to reinforce the character that an entertainer is portraying, which, in turn, supports the theme of the magic effects. If an entertainer is dressed as a wizard, for example, what's he doing with a deck of cards? Shouldn't he be casting spells or causing things to float and such?

Bottom line, the path to good magic is to build solid magic and presentation skills and perform in an entertaining manner. Save the money and forget the cheap costume. Work on the magic instead and in the long run, become a far better entertainer.

## **NEXT MEMBERS DAY** **29TH JANUARY 2012**

8.30 to 9.30 am - Members Arrival  
(Library will be open at this time)

Welcome Address & Announcements

Members Performances

Training Session

Fellowship

Those interested in Magic Contests during  
2012 should be present for TIPS on contesting

# WANTED

We need the following items to improve the facilities available at SLMC. Members who are able to are kindly requested to make a donation.

Items needed are

**Wall Mirror for toilet.**

**Toilet commode seat cover (Square type)**

**Wall fans 02 nos.**

**CD player with speakers**

**Water proofing cement**

*Thank you for your generosity!! Please inform VP Rohan Jayasekara who is in charge of the premises.*

## Deepest Sympathies

The Board & Members of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle convey "Deepest Sympathies" to Mr.S.K.Dharamapala on the tragic & untimely death of his beloved spouse.

The following members represented the SLMC at the funeral of 27 year old Mrs.S.K. Dharamapala who had an untimely death after childbirth on 30th December & the funeral was held on 2nd December @ Niyadagala, Kottawa. Messers Ronald De Alwis,Devsiri Fernando,Rohan Jayasekera, Shelton Jayasekera,Sanjeewa Hewapathirane,Suranjith de Soysa,Ranjith Salpitikorale Clarence Heendeniya,A.Wijesinghe, C.Gamage,M.K. Wimalasena, Franklyn Hewavitharane, Joy De Silva, Noel Wickremasinghe, Ajith Fernando & Naminda Warakagoda. C.Gamage gave a funeral oration on behalf of the SLMC. Many others had condoled over the telephone.

## Notice to Members

### LIBRARY BOOKS

Members who have taken Library Books should return same at the Members Day on 29th January to avoid a Fine.

### ANNUAL SERVICE FEE ~ Rs.500/=

All members who have still not paid the current fee & those with arrears for previous years should settle the outstandings. It is regretted that the the Treasurer's Reminder had not been responded by several members.

### WADDUWA TICKET SALES ~ November

A few members have to settle & please contact Treasurer at the earliest. Final settlement is on 29th January 2011. As a result of this delay a P & L cannot be computed.

## PRINCESS TENKO INVITED TO THE FUNERAL OF KIM JONG IL



We have a story, sent by VP Rohan, where a magician received a special recognition even more than Heads of state.

The former President of North Korea Kim Jong Il's favorite magician, a Japanese woman who goes by the stage name Princess Tenko, had been invited to attend his funeral in North Korea even though Pyongyang had announced that no foreign dignitaries will be allowed to come and pay respects.

Princess Tenko (also known as Tenko Hikita), 51, performed magic shows in North Korea in 1998 and 2000, and attended numerous private dinners hosted by Kim, who died recently. She is renowned for her elaborate costumes and doll make-up.

## India's Thriving Magician Colony to be Bulldozed for a Mall

There is a colony named Kathputli on the outskirts of Dehli where the country's best magicians, puppeteers, jugglers and street performers live. It's a slum colony, the residents have no legal right to the land, but the collective hive mind of talent has gained a sterling reputation from those who care as the best in the region.

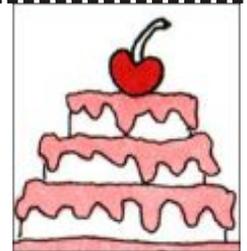
And it will all soon be gone, as developers chase them away so they can bulldoze the property and build a mall.

The colony, which was built in what was then a jungle in the 1950s has now been consumed by Dehli's expansive growth. "The land has gotten really expensive all around it, and there's no solution for it because India can't let a prized piece of land go to what are essentially squatters," Goldblum said.

The slums are not looked on well either. Amid India's growing economy, they are seen as black spots on their global image.

*Thats the price of development.....isn't it sad?*

Happy Birthday  
to all members  
celebrating their birthdays  
in the month of January



### January

5th Gehan Somanader  
7th Ms. Ranjani Gunasekara  
8th Elrea Pereira & Oshan Fernando  
10th Haleem Ghouse  
16th Ms. Thusitha Jayasekara  
29th Sachin Silva & Aviska Perera