



For private circulation only

# THE GUARD

ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

The Official Guardian of Magic

May 2019

## Masterclass with Sunday

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Next meeting is on Sunday May 26th

# Ten Greatest Magicians

***Starting from this issue of the Wand, we hope to feature ten of the greatest magicians who have ever performed. Initially we are having the following two magicians in this Wand.***

***This series will be published in Sinhala too in the future issues.***

Magic has been around since as far back as 2700 BC, though at the time, it was mostly conjuring tricks. As the art form progressed over centuries, and the audience along with it, most magic acts now are diverse and universal, covering everything from conjuring to levitation, balancing acts, illusions, disappearing tricks, escape artistry, mental tricks and forms of hypnosis. In many cases, the tricks have been revealed, but it in no way undercuts the sheer astonishing nature of each feat performed.

These 10 magicians are proof of that and have significantly influenced the development of magic over the last few centuries and even today.



1. Harry August Jansen, A.K.A Dante

Harry August Jansen was originally from Denmark, but traveled the globe as Dante the Magician. His act, which also graced the stages of Broadway multiple times, was called “Sim Sala Bim” which were also the “magic words” used by him during his act.

Dante was at his highest peak of performing in early and mid 20th century during what was termed as the Golden Age of Magic. His specialty was illusions, and he was one of the few artists at that time to perform the “Saw the Woman in Half” trick, which was first created by Horace Goldin.

The acts of this magician are timeless. Some of his other tricks include “The Magician's Rehearsal”, “Black and White” and “The Un-Sevilled Barber”. He was often thought of as the King of Magicians.

Before all the great magicians we know, came Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin, renowned as the father of Modern Magic. This French Magician performed tricks of illusion, using electrical instruments and innovations, and even elements of mentalism. For ten years in the mid-19th century, he ran a successful magical theater. He also used his magic to help to end a revolution: he was hired by the French Government to address the aggression growing in Algeria, which was at the time a colony in France.

Our next great magician, whom I'm sure you'll all know, was greatly inspired by this incredible performer.

***To be continued.....***



2. Jean Eugene Robert Houdin



## Belated Birthday wishes to the following members who celebrated their birthdays in April

- 9th Rohith Jude Silva  
 9th A. N. Kumara  
 11th Amarasiri Wijesinghe  
 17th Trajan Tissera  
 19th R.M.Piyatileke  
 21st Yasasiri Gunaratne  
 29th W. S. Botheju



SLMC will be having a membership drive from mid-June to mid-July. A leaflet is being prepared and will be distributed as a newspaper insert in the Mount Lavinia, Dehiwela, Ratmalana and Bellanwila areas. Our premises will be kept open on every Sunday during this period, so that visitors can come, find out details and obtain membership.

If you are able to help this initiative of President Rohith, please contact him. Just coming and staying with us on the days the office is opened will also be a great help.

## SHRAMADANA

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Under the guidance of our 5S Guru Premalal, we are in the process of rationalizing our movable assets. As you all know, sometime back our then VP Assets Wilhem Perera meticulously went through each and every item in our premises and coded them. Now that the items have been clearly identified, we are using basic 5S to rationalize what should be kept and what should be disposed of.

After the monthly get together on Sunday, members who are able to stay back are kindly requested to do so and participate in a Shramadana to clear our premises of all unwanted items. Please lend us a helping hand!



The Countdown has now started for the  
 Centenary of the  
 Sri Lanka Magic Circle  
**JUST 33 MONTHS MORE**

### *Magic gimmicks in polls cheating*

HDN has come across this picture while going down the Facebook. As someone interested in Magic, his first impression was that they were Thumb Tips & 6th fingers. But the caption says that they are fake finger covers made by political under-world in India to use during Lok Saba elections this month.



You may find them here as well in our upcoming elections.



We welcome Nihal Radella, a stalwart in the field of finance and civil engineering who joined the Circle last month. A man of many facets Nihal is a qualified lawyer, accountant and HR professional.

He will be taking his oaths at the May get together.

## Happy Birthday to all members celebrating their birthdays in May

- 2nd Joy De Silva  
 3rd Gayan Wickramage  
 13th Chandrasena Gamage  
 14th Dinesh Thangavel  
 17th G. S. Rodrigo  
 17th Anuradha Perera  
 20th Merrill Weckasinghe  
 21st M. B. Ranjith Silva  
 24th Mago Tony  
 28th Chenul Perera



## No Get-together

As informed over email and Whatsapp, there was no get-together for the month of April on the last Sunday which fell on the 28th of April. This was due to the disturbing circumstances which engulfed the entire country.

Shown below are pics of members performances from the get together held on 31st March

*Wilhelm*



*Gamage*



*Priyantha*



*Dineth*



*Rohan and Dr.*

## Training, Training, Training

One of the main objectives of the SLMC is promoting the art of magic. One way we achieve this objective is providing training and creating proficient magicians. Under the guidance of President Rohith, a system of having Master classes in magic training has begun. The first Master class was conducted by Rohan and Sumangala and it was absolutely excellent.

This month the Master class was conducted by Sumangala and participants were exposed to the secrets of many magic tricks including the perennial favourite "Cups and Balls". Tricks which have been explained would be explained once again and the members encouraged to perform and get their errors corrected in their next training session.

Our second Sunday training is free of charge. Please make use of it. Make sure to be there at the next session on 9th June.

Pics below are from the May training session



Terrorists **divide** communities.



Magicians **unite** communities

