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THE GUARD

ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

The Official Guardian of Magic

November 2017

Beginners Certificate Course in Magic

The SLMC Beginners Certificate Course in Magic Phase 1 was successfully concluded on 5th November. Shown below is the group picture taken after the certification ceremony. More pictures inside.



NEXT MEMBERS DAY SUNDAY 26th October මෙහි රැස්වීම 26 වන ඉරිදා

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

10 tips to improve your practice

1) **Choose just one trick at a time**

Most magic shops would love you to constantly buy each new trick they market. But unless you are already at an intermediate or advanced skill level, this may not be the wisest move. Choose just one trick, and work on nothing else until it's mastered. Only then, should you move onto your next trick to master.

2) **Practice** Every day, in small quick sessions. Many experts recommend the drill principle: running through the moves 20 times in the morning and 20 times at night for 20 days. If you can't do that, just try to do 10 minutes practice every day. Short regular sessions are best.

3) **Don't practice in silence** Make sure you talk as you practice. Do you find you tend to 'freeze' when you perform a move in front of people? Saying the words provides cues for the moves and really helps prevent this.

4) **Rehearse** Don't just run through the moves quickly. Perform the whole magic trick from start to finish, imagining it's a real performance. Do this just as much as you practice the mechanics of the trick.

5) **Slow it all down** Slow is far better than fast. Sudden quick moves raise suspicion. Chances are the speed you feel naturally comfortable at is still too fast.

6) **Check to see if it looks real** When considering learning a new sleight, make sure it looks natural. Do the action for real, then adjust the sleight to match your real gesture or movement as much as possible. For example: really turn a playing card over, then make sure it looks the same when you just pretend to do so. Avoid obscure moves that look pretty but nothing like real-life actions.

7) **Check to see if it looks effortless** Work on looking relaxed and happy when you execute a move. Make sure you don't hesitate, close your eyes or look guilty as you perform it. Videoing your performance is a great way to spot this.

8) **Make sure it's clear and visible** Look at your hand positions. Are you covering up the action with your fingers or the backs of your hands? Work on a light touch, showing as much as possible to all around you.

9) **Reduce all unnecessary movements** Go over your routine removing pauses that don't add to the trick. Cut out any gestures or movements that may be totally innocent, but actually make the spectator think something suspicious may have happened.

10) **Actually perform it live** Seriously, you will develop your technique way beyond anything you can learn in private, once you start showing people your magic live. Don't fall into the trap of performing only on YouTube. That will stop you getting real feedback from your audience's reactions. Instead, show your family and friends your work once it's ready and you will improve it way beyond what you thought was possible.



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ශ්‍රී ලංකා කලා ක්‍රමයේ පෝෂණය සඳහා සිය දායකත්වය ලබා දෙන කලාකරුවන් සඳහා ශ්‍රී ලංකා සමාජ ආරක්‍ෂණ මණ්ඩලයක්, සංස්කෘතික කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවක් එක්ව මෙම යෝජනා ක්‍රමය ආරම්භ කර ඇත. 2016 අයවැය යෝජනා අනුව රජය විසින් රු.50,000 ක දායකවෙයක් දරණ අතර දායකයා විසින් ඉතිරි මුදල දැරිය යුතුයි.

අවශ්‍ය සුදුසුකම්

1. ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුරවැසියකු විය යුතුය.
2. වයස අවු : 23 ත් 55ත් අතර විය යුතුයි. වයස අවු: 60 ඉක්මවූ පසු මෙහි ප්‍රතිලාභීන් බවට පත්වේ
3. කලා ශිල්පියකු වන සංස්කෘතික නිලධාරීන් වනම්, ප්‍රදේශ ලේකම් සහ තමා නියෝජනය කරන කලා ක්‍රමයේ ලේකම් නිර්දේශ කළ යුතුයි.
4. වසර 5 ක් තුළ කලාවට සක්‍රීයව දායක විය යුතුයි.
5. රාජ්‍ය අංශයේ හෝ පෞද්ගලික අංශයේ විශ්‍රාම වැටුප්ක් නොලැබීම, අර්ථ සාධක අරමුදල් සාමාජිකත්ව දරාත්නන්ට මෙයට අයදුම් කළ නොහැක

මසකට රු 3000/ක්, මසකට රු : 5000/ - ක් මසකට රු: 10,000 /- වශයෙන් විශ්‍රාම වැටුප් ක්‍රම 3ක් ඇති කලා ක්‍රමයේ සිටි සැම කලාවට අයත්, ඉහත සඳහන් සුදුසුකම් ඇති ඕනෑම කලා ශිල්පියෙකුට මේ සඳහා දායකවිය හැක

වැඩි විස්තර සඳහා පෙර දැනුම් දීමකින් පසුව ප්‍රදිගලිකව මා හමුවීමෙන් හෝ ශ්‍රී ලංකා මැරික් කවයට පැමිණීමෙන් විස්තර කර දිය හැක.



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මැරික් ශිල්පී

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting 2018 is scheduled for Sunday 28th January 2018. Please keep the date free. Official notice agenda etc will be sent

Resolutions

Resolutions to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting 2018 should reach the Secretary General by 8th January 2018. They may be sent by post or email.

මැජික් බඩු අලෙවිය

අපගේ මාතර සිටින සාමාජිකයා වන ඒ.එන් කුමාරගේ ලබා 26 වන ඉටිදා මැජික් බඩු කිපයක් අලෙවිය සඳහා ගෙනෙනවා ඇත. ඒ භාණ්ඩ බැලීමට සහ ගැනීමට ලැස්ති වී පැමිණෙන්න”

Magic Items for sale

Our member from Matara, A N Kumaraage, will be bringing about 12 magic items for sale at the 26th get together. Please come ready to buy. The SLMC will receive a percentage of the sales. More you buy, more you help the Circle. Call him on 071-812551 for details.

Thumb Tip History



Guide to Thumb Tip Magic

Acts performed in magic shows are usually chosen as per various factors like occasion, age group and composition of audience so that the ensuing entertainment is appropriate enough to trigger ohs', aahs', claps

and squeals. To this effect, magic tricks are segregated accordingly as per the same parameters and there are very few tricks that are universal enough to appeal to all age-groups and suit all occasions. Thumb tip belongs to this cadre and simple though it is, hardly an occasion goes by without it being performed. In fact it is one of those tricks that have endured through the decades without have undergone any cataclysmic changes but do you know exactly when and how it came into being?

Credit for having invented the very first thumb tip goes to Professor Herwin of Bristol who loved to tinker with various paraphernalia in a bid to add a creative touch to as many objects as possible. Born as **William Humpage in Birmingham on 31st October 1861, Professor Herwin's first peek into the world of magic occurred when he was fourteen years old.** Having shifted to Bristol, he was scourging the streets for work when he was mesmerized by the acts performed by a man on the street who later on turned out to be both intelligent and well versed in the field. With his demonstration of making the penny disappear when placed in a glass of water, the man succeeded in inspiring the young boy sufficiently to prompt him to follow the field avidly for many long years to come. One of the reasons that rendered Professor Herwin a distinct advantage was his inherent skill as a mechanic.

This gave him the ability to design many new effects and innovate on the existing props such that not only was the effect amazing but it also laid the ground-work for a new genre of magic tricks. Thumb tip was just one example in a long list of gadgets, some of the well known names being Havit Coin Trick and Siberian Handcuff Trick not to mention redesigning all the tables of Hartz in the trick 'Devil of a Hat'. After having purchased this trick from C.O. Williams who hailed from Cardiff, Professor Herwin re-invented the trick and presented it to the audience many times over as a new trick because it had no semblance to the original.

To say that he was solely connected to magic would be a misguided claim because in addition to being deeply involved with all the greats during his time like Carl Stackman, Dobler and Verveck he was equally incensed with spiritualism. In pursuit of this subject he often opposed the spiritualists and earned the title of being anti-spiritual for himself. His impact was left indelibly on the later generations of magicians too since the likes of late Harry Houdini, Chung Ling Soo and Penstone depended on him for their contraptions. There are magicians who earn popularity to the point of being inducted into the Hall of Fame and there are others who fade into oblivion even though they may be more dedicated and illustrious. It was some time during the 1880s' that Professor Herwin, who belonged to the latter category, invented the thumb tip by attaching a scrap of silk to a false finger. Being the first it was also the most convincing replica of a human digit ever made and is regarded by many as being better than the one exhibited at the museum of Magic Circle today.

At the time of his death, Professor Herwin was survived by his son Charles who performed magic and was even attached to Charles Morritt. Although this great inventor of magic machines died in Sheffield his corpse was taken to Bristol for burial and laid to rest with all the respect, gratitude and admiration that was well-deserved by a man of his caliber.

(Article sent in by one of our new members Sumittha Kuruppu who is a TV Producer by profession.)

Curtain comes down on the 3 day Magic Training Course



After each trick was explained the Trainees were broken in to separate groups and then they worked under a Group Leader. Picture shows Groups at work.

Besides the seniors two of our young members Vihan and Chenul helped very much in these exercises.



Our man from Kandy, HDN made a presentation to the trainees about his recent publication "Secular Magic". At the end of his lecture all trainees were gifted a book each by him free of charge.



Card Magic dominated day 3. Here VP Shelton teaching one of the tricks

Happy Birthday to all members celebrating their birthdays in Nov.



- November 4 Ms. Lilani De Mel
- November 5 Alex Perera
- November 10 U. Abhayakumara
- November 25 Asanka Pathirana
- November 28 Roshini Jayasekera
- November 28 Rajeeva Pieris



A very useful lecture on "Misdirection" was given by President Rohan



with HDN.....History of Magic XV මග කලාවේ ඉතිහාසය XV

'The Greatest Show on Earth' and the 'Barnum Effect'
The above article will be published in the next issue of the WAND

Some of the participants receiving their certificates which were presented by Treasurer Wijesinghe, VP Asanka, VP Shelton and President Rohan



THE WAND

If undelivered please return to
Devsiri Fernando
No. 7, Francisco Place,
Moratuwa.