

KID SHOW MAGIC

When one becomes a magician, inevitably they will end up performing at a children's party. Kid shows are the staple of most magicians. There will always be children. There will always be birthday parties, company picnics, scouts and family get togethers.

Kid shows are not easy. The average child has a very short attention span so a professional children's entertainer has special "tricks" to keep the audience attentive and entertained. Here are some things to keep in mind when performing for kids:

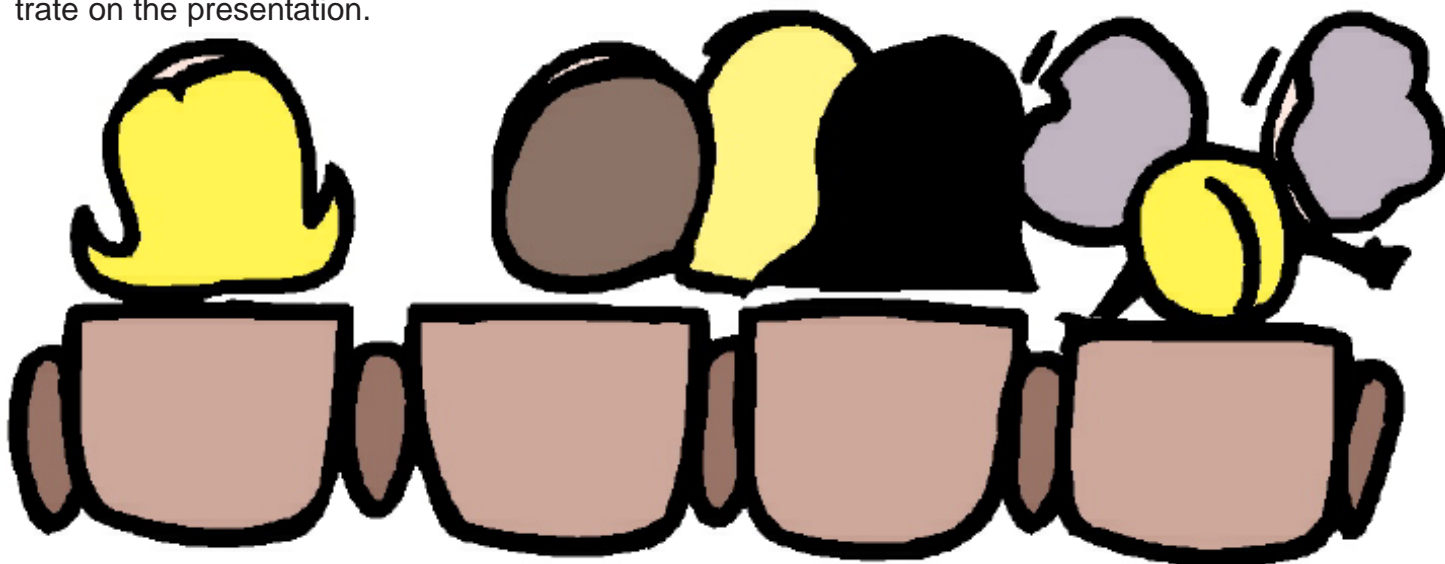
- Know your magic trick so well that you don't have to think about the method and can concentrate on the presentation.

- Don't do anything onstage to a volunteer that you would not want done to you.

- Never have the attitude that you are better than your audience. Rather than "I can do something that you can't" project the feeling "I discovered something really neat and I want to share it with you."

- Ask the audience lots of questions to keep their attention. Also find something in your act that they have to watch out for. By doing so, they will concentrate on your performance.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



The Great Apple Vanish

Magician brags about his most famous trick THE GREAT APPLE VANISH. He explains to the audience that he only performs the trick if the audience really wants him to. After a while, the magician agrees to show this famous illusion to them. An apple is brought out and held in the magician's palm. A cardboard tube is placed over the apple and some magic words are spoken. The tube is lifted but the apple is still there. The magician repeats the moves with different magic words but it still doesn't work. In frustration the magician asks the audience for some magic words and when the tube is lifted, the apple is gone and in its place is a can of apple juice. The magician promised to make the apple disappear so the can is opened and the magician drinks the juice making the apple disappear!

Needed:

A cardboard tube with a small hole cut out of the back. The tube has to be tall enough and wide enough to hold the apple and the can of juice.

An apple small enough to fit inside the tube.

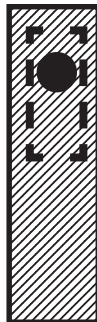
Small can or bottle of apple juice small enough to fit inside the tube.

Procedure:

Make a tube as shown. The can of juice is held at the top of the tube by placing your thumb through the hole in tube and pressing on the can.

Perform the moves as described in the description. When you are ready to transform the apple into the can, Place the tube on your palm and allow the can to drop onto your hand. This time drop the apple into the top of the tube. Your thumb will now hold the apple inside the tube. Lift and show the can of juice as you get rid of the tube.

This trick could be a running gag in your show by trying to make the apple disappear and at the end of your show, you succeed!



Sponge Ball Challenge Winner

Here's the winning entry by Robert Jenista

Effect: The magician has a small red sponge ball resting on his fist. He pushes the ball through his fist to show the audience nothing "fishy" is going on. The magician replaces the sponge ball on his fist and pushes through again. However, this time a large sponge cube is produced from the bottom of his fist.

Setup: First, place the sponge ball on the face of the cube opposite the hole. Then turn the cube inside out so that the sponge ball is inside. Now, hold the open ends of the cube with your left thumb and first finger so that it appears that a sponge ball is resting on your fist.

Procedure:

1. Push the cube down into your hand so that the cube turns right-side out and the sponge ball is released.
2. Your other hand pulls the ball out from the bottom of your fist and you then replace the sponge ball back on the top.
3. You explain to your audience there was nothing particularly amazing about the action, however, you will now show them what a little magic can do.
4. Wave your wand over the ball and say some magic words. Again, push the sponge ball down into your fist, but this time push it into the hole of the cube.
5. Your right hand now pulls the cube from the bottom of your fist. Keeping your fingers over the hole, show the audience that the ball has turned into a cube. You can now show your fist to be empty!

As the winner of the contest, Robert will be receiving the Sponge Ball Book by Frank Garcia compliments of Show Biz Services, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Bruce Kalver, Editor
Arlene Kalver, Staff Assistant

Articles are by the Editor unless otherwise noted.

Editorial Offices

The Magic SYMBol

PO Box 10421

Cranston, RI 02910

(401) 467-8749

FAX: (401) 781 - 6729

e-mail: samtalkbruce@cox.net

S.Y.M. National Director

Jann Wherry Goodsell

329 West 1750 North

Orem Utah 84057

(801) 724-9758

FAX: (801) 802 - 8925

e-mail: bravesjann@aol.com

New Assembly Inquiries

8323 Thoroughbred Court

Indianapolis IN 46278-1400

chatheril@aol.com

Dues Payments
Change of Address
New Memberships

Richard Blowers

PO Box 510260

St. Louis MO 63151-0260

RMBlowers@aol.com

November 2004

Coming Next Month:
May the Force Be With You

SYMBOL REPORTERS NEEDED!

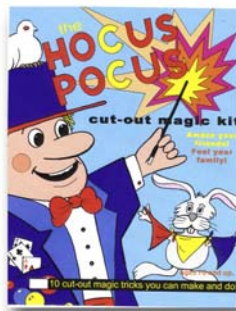
If you are part of an Assembly:

Talk to your Leader about becoming a SYMBol reporter to send in photos and stories about your Assembly's activities.

If you are not part of an Assembly:

Send us magic related photos and stories about what you are doing. Performing some of the tricks from the SYMBol? Take a picture and send it to us! Have a routine or magic effect you would like to share? Send it in!

Bruce Kalver, Editor
The Magic SYMBol
PO Box 10421
Cranston, RI 02910



IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

From now until December 2004, when you renew your membership you will receive a FREE limited edition Hocus Pocus Cut-out Magic Kit! Don't forget to send in your renewal!

Speaking of Magic

“Indubitably, magic is one of the subtlest and most difficult of the sciences and arts. There is more opportunity for errors of comprehension, judgment and practice than in any other branch of physics.”

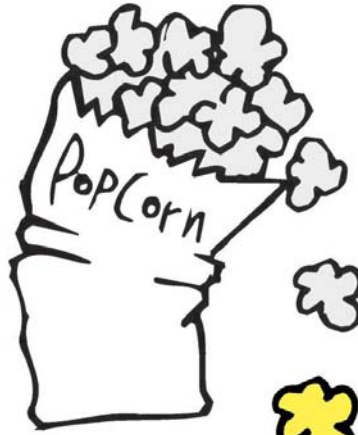
- Aleister Crowley (English poet, author, philosopher, 1875-1947)



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USER NAME: jay • PASSWORD: vegas

PRESTO POPCORN



Don't you hate unpopped popcorn kernels? I love popcorn but hate it when I can't eat every single piece. Well being a magician, I can remedy that! The magician shows a pot empty and pours the remaining kernels from a bag into the pot. Holding the pot over a child with red hair (to warm up the kernels) the magician says the magic words and when the lid is lifted, the pot is filled with popped popcorn!

Needed:

- A large bag of popcorn. I like Smartfood Popcorn because the bag looks a little magical.
- Some unpopped kernels.
- A big pot with a lid.
- Scotch double sided removable tape
- A small sandwich bag

Set-up:

Carefully open the top and bottom of the bag and remove all the popcorn. Don't eat it as you will need it to perform the trick.

Tape the sandwich bag inside the Smartfood bag about 3 inches down from the top. Place the unpopped kernels inside the sandwich bag.

Place some double sided tape along the inside bottom of the Smartfood bag.

The tape holds the bag closed. If you push your hand through the bag, the bottom will open up. Touching the bottom sides will reseal it together again.



With the bottom sealed, pour half a bag of popcorn back into the Smartfood bag. Place the bag in the pot to begin. Keep the lid on the side.

Performance:

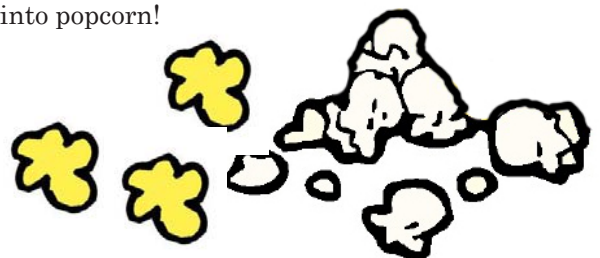
Bring out the pot with the bag and remove the bag to show the pot empty. Place the bag back into the pot and explain that you want to show them a trick with the unpopped kernels.



Push your hand into the bag and push against the popcorn. The bottom of the bag will break open and the popcorn will empty into the pot. As you lift your hand to remove it from the bag, grab some unpopped kernels.

Show the kernels and drop them into the pot. (Be sure to hit the sides of the pot so your audience will hear them in the pot.). Now lift the bag out of the pot and secretly press the bottom of the bag together so when you remove it, the audience will see a closed bag.

Place the lid on the pot and magically transform the kernels into popcorn!



Have you ever had a knot in your shoelace that you couldn't get out? Well I'm going to show you what I do when I have that problem.

knot possible

Two long pieces of rope are shown. One is coiled up and placed inside a lunch bag. This rope represents your friend's shoelace.

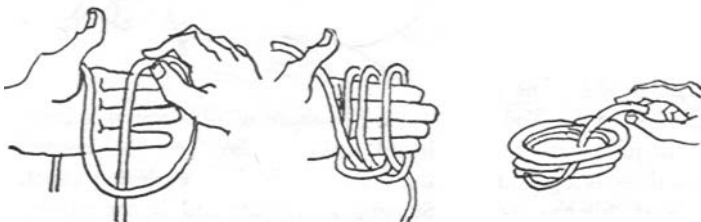
A second piece of rope, representing your shoelace is shown to have three knots along its length. This rope is placed inside a second bag.

A magical pass is made over the bags and when you lift the ropes out of the bag, the knots have disappeared from your rope and now appears on your friend's rope.

Method:

Two techniques are involved. One to secretly tie knots and the other to secretly remove knots.

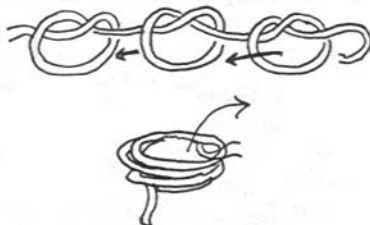
TO SECRETLY ADD KNOTS TO A ROPE:



Hold the rope as shown above and coil the rope onto your hand using a reverse twist. Make three twists. The end under your thumb is now placed in the center of the coils as you place the rope inside the bag. The end going through the center is now placed over the top of the bag so it is seen. When you pull up on this rope, knots will appear.

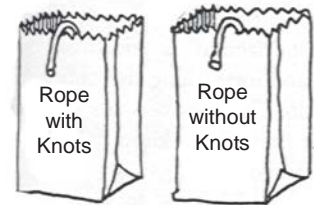
TO SECRETLY MAKE KNOTS DISAPPEAR:

Take the knots and place them on your thumb. Your thumb pulls the end through the coils to undo the knots. Think the reverse of adding the knots.



Place the coils inside the other bag with the end hanging over the top.

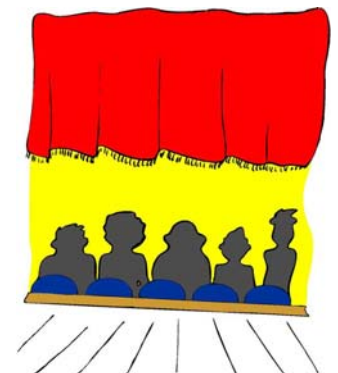
When you take the ropes out of the bags, shake them slightly. This will help make the knots disappear and re-appear.



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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

- Try to have the parents watch the show with their kids. By doing so, if a child is not behaving properly, you can turn to the the parents to help control their child.
- Try to create an act that fits in one case. As you perform, put the tricks away so at the end of the show you are ready to leave. You really don't want to have to pack while the kids are running around.
- For birthday party shows, be sure to have a special trick for the birthday child to help with.
- Telling stories while performing a trick works very well for kids. It allows you to stretch the time for the effect and if you have a good story, the kids will be interested.
- Be sure to have plenty of business cards to give out to the kids. If you have a successful show, they will all want you for their parties.
- Have at least two different shows available so if you do a repeat party, they will see something different and not be screaming "I've seen that trick before." Some performers even have three different shows!



This Just In!

News from the S.Y.M. Assemblies



WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Send us photos of your Assembly show. Write up a report about the lecturer you saw at your S.Y. M. meeting. Encourage your leaders to also take pictures. We want to hear from you! Become our field reporters and keep other SYMers in touch with SYM Assembly activities. If you don't write in, then we don't know about it! Photos should be in focus and as clean as possible. Stories are best sent in an e-mail or in Microsoft Word. Send your stories and photos to: SAMtalkBruce@cox.net or to: The Magic SYMbol, PO Box 10421, Cranston, RI 02910

Aaron Schwartz, a charter member of the Society of Young Magicians of Los Angeles California SYM Assembly Y-125, was chosen to perform stage magic and a barrel escape at a FOR THE COMMUNITY presentation at the Encino Tarzana Library on Wednesday October 13, 2004. Aaron's performance was outstanding, with many audience members shouting "How did he do that?"



Columbia, MD SYM Assembly 106 members Vaibhav with Tanner entertain at a recent meeting.

THE LATEST NEWS

From S.Y.M. Director
Jann Wherry Goodsell



Pax TV's show *AMERICA'S MOST TALENTED KIDS* has discovered that we have lots of talented kids in the SYM. Watch for SYMers including Brad Foley and Krystyn Lambert displaying their magic talents. The show airs Sunday nights on your local PAX cable channel.



If you need some jumbo decks of cards we found a great bargain. Target stores sells a Big Deck made by Fundex Games. These nice quality cards come in a protective metal tin. At around \$6 this is a real bargain. The company also makes some neat mini decks called Thumb Decks. You can check them out at www.fundexgames.com.



The Shy Genie



For those of you who already know this trick, do not underestimate how good this routine is for kids.

Needed:

- An Orangina bottle. These bottles are the perfect shape for this trick. Drink the beverage, wash out the bottle and then allow it to dry. Pour some paint (I like gold) into the bottle being sure that all the sides are covered with paint. Pour out the excess paint and allow the bottle to dry. Occasionally rotate the bottle to make sure the paint sticks to the sides and everything is covered. You may have to pour a second coat. You will now have a gold painted opaque bottle.



- A hard rubber ball small enough to fit inside the bottle. If you can't find the right size, buy the smallest ball you see and have your parents carve it down to fit inside the bottle.

- Two foot piece of rope. The softer the rope, the better.

The Workings:

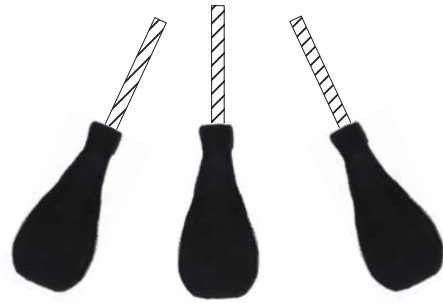
Pre-set the ball inside the bottle.



Push one end of the rope into the bottle so the end touches the bottom. Holding the rope in place, turn the bottle over so the rubber ball jams between the rope and the bottle neck.



Let go of the rope and it will stay in the bottle as if someone inside the bottle is holding the end. You can now hold the end of the rope and swing the bottle back and forth.



If you hold the neck of the bottle in your left hand and pull out the rope with your right, the ball will come out and drop unnoticed into your left hand.



Hand the bottle to a spectator to examine. Take the bottle back and hand them the rope to examine. While they are looking at the rope, sneak the rubber ball back into the bottle. You can now repeat the trick.

The Story:

Have you ever heard of Aladdin? We have a lot in common. We are both handsome and friendly and we both have a genie! Yes, a real genie. Let me show you the bottle that my genie lives in. (Looking inside the bottle) Hello Genie! How are you this fine day? Would you like to come out and meet the boys and girls? No? Oh come on, they would love to meet you. (To the audience) Perhaps we can coax him out by tickling him. (Push the rope into the bottle) Come out... Let go of the rope....Come on...let go...(Turn the bottle over and show the rope hanging on) Now he's mad and he won't let go! Maybe we can make him dizzy (Swing the bottle around.) That should do it!. (Pull the rope out.) Well, I guess he's a little shy. I still have one more wish from him so I wish that our birthday boy has a great time at his party today!

NOTE:

Bruce Kalver's lecture on SYMBol magic will include another method to perform this trick that will fool the kids who think they know the secret. Catch the lecture in Boston at this year's S.A.M. convention!



OUT OF MY HAT

FUN • PUZZLES • BRAINTEASERS • INTERESTING FACTS



Did You Know?

The Cut and Restored Rope Trick is a very old trick. How old? The trick was described in the first magic book ever written, The Discoverie of Witchcraft by Reginald Scot published in 1584.

In the 1800s The Great Wizard of the North, John Henry Anderson performed with sold silver apparatus!



Can you circle exactly four of these numbers such that the total is twelve? (Answer next month.)

1 6 1
6 1 6
1 6 1
6 1 6



It's Like Magic!



20Q is an electronic game manufactured by Radica Games that absolutely baffles anyone who tries it. I'm going to warn you that this electronic gizmo is addicting! It reads your mind. Well, not really, but it seems like it does. Think of something...anything and then answer the questions that this mystical orb asks you. At the end of the questioning, it will tell you what you were thinking of. REALLY! I've played it over 100 times and it missed only two times. How does it work? Robin Burgener, from Ontario

Canada began an experiment in 1988 and had thousands of people play the Twenty Questions game. Now on the 20Q website, 12,000 games are played daily. All of this data was placed inside this hand held game. According to their website, the artificial intelligence behind the game is a neural-network, similar to a human brain. A brain, or neural-network, is built from neurons connected by synaptic connections. A human brain has about one hundred trillion synaptic connections. The 20Q.net online version has about ten

million (10,000,000), and the pocket version has about two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000). The game uses the neural-network to choose the next question as well as deciding what to guess. Available for around \$10, you can find it at Wal-Mart, Toys-R-Us and Target. Can you think of a way to use it in a routine as a magic trick? Send us your ideas. The best suggestion will get a 20Q game!