



Southend Sorcerers Society
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SOUTHEND SORCERERS AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

2019 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

22nd Aug	EXTRA – Joshua Jay Lecture	19th Oct	Annual Awards Dinner
1st Sep	Close Up Competition	3rd Nov	Props Auction
6th Oct	Lecture – Paul Voodini	1st Dec	Xmas Fun Night

2019 CLUB SHOWS

W/C 26th Aug As If By Magic 2019, Dixon Studio

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**Apologies for the slightly shorter newsletter this month.
With all the preparations for the Dixon shows underway, my time is pretty much
devoted towards getting things ready for that.**

Back to normal next month!

LAST MEETING – 4th AUGUST – CLUB NIGHT



Our August meeting was an open club night where everyone had a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other members to share ideas and effects.

It was also an opportunity to practice and rehearse for the upcoming Dixon shows, and Richard Graham took the chance to run his revived 'Bert Postlethwaite' act from some years ago. This is being brought back especially for the Dixon and, with his assistant Solitaire, we had a chance to see the act ahead of it running at the theatre. It was super to see a classic magic routine brought back to life and I'm sure it'll get rave reviews in the show.

Also at the meeting, Adrian and Tracy led (we hope!) a really interesting and useful discussion about how to approach tables, how to engage with a close up audience and how to deal with hecklers etc. Tommy, Barbara and Simon acted as a close up audience at a table for the purposes of demonstration and a lot of people joined in with the discussion. Special thanks must go to Finlay for bravely volunteering to act as a guinea pig and for opening himself up to some constructive advice. Of course there's so much that could be covered with a subject like this, so perhaps another session in the future could take things even further. For now we hope the session was helpful – there was a request for something similar to do with stage performance and we'll work on bringing that to you soon.



NEXT MEETING – 1st SEPTEMBER – CLOSE UP COMPETITION



Our September meeting will be the annual close-up magic contest where we hope to be able to hold a junior and senior competition for the Wilf Dent and Robert Ferro trophies respectively.

As always, we do need advance warning if you intend to enter the competition, so **please let Adrian know if you're planning to take part** – full contact details are on the front page of this newsletter. I'm hoping that the close-up contest will be keenly fought out, but we still need to know how many people intend to enter, so please don't just turn up on the night expecting to take part as this may not be possible if we have a lot of entries. As always, it's a case of first come, first served. Competitors need to present their close-up act at three tables, and the time restriction is set at no more than ten minutes, otherwise points will be deducted for over-running.

It should be a great night with a lot of guests coming along to watch the magic – and don't forget that even if you're not taking part, your family and friends are very welcome to attend and help to create an audience. Admission is free. Look forward to seeing you there!

For the sake of completeness the full rules for the competition are attached for information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Could last year's winners (Alfie Hawes and Oliver Ward) please remember to bring the (cleaned!) trophies with them so that we can present them to this year's winners.

NEXT MENTORING SESSION – OCTOBER - TORN AND RESTORED



With the close up competition running in September, and all the organisation that takes, we're planning to take a month off from our mentoring sessions, but they'll return in October.

So our next session at the October meeting will be about a couple of torn and restored effects. Adrian will teach his

favourite T&R card routine (a version by JC Wagner), along with a look at the 'No Tear' newspaper restoration and how it works. If there's time we'll also have a look at Roy Walton's Cardwarp, a classic of magic that's not too difficult to master and is really baffling for the spectator. Bring a few cards with you that you don't mind tearing up so that you can follow along!

As always, the session will start at 7.00 so we hope to see you there.



22nd AUGUST - JOSHUA JAY LECTURE – EXTRA MEETING



As you know we have Josh Jay lecturing for us this month – it's an additional meeting mid week and promises to be an incredible highlight of the year for us. Josh is only doing 9 lectures on his UK tour and we've been lucky enough to get one of them here in Southend.

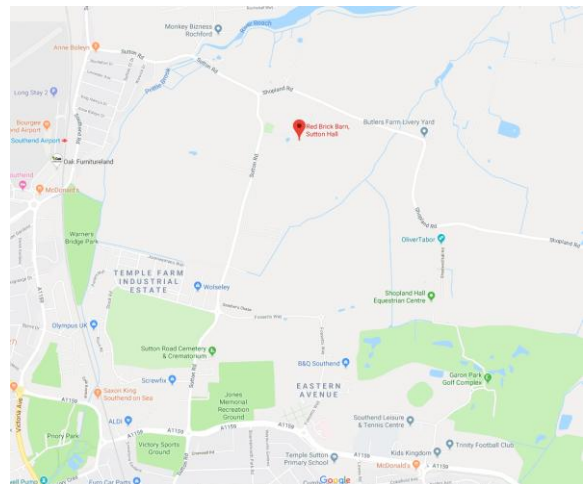
It's on this **THURSDAY 22nd AUGUST at 7.30. We'll be hosting the lecture at Oliver Tabor's Red Brick Barn.**

The full address is: **Shopland Rd, Rochford SS4 1LH** – here's a map.

'Joshua Jay is coming! From his home in New York, New York, where he is on break from his one-man Off-Broadway show *Six Impossible Things*, Joshua Jay will be delivering a new lecture for us featuring close-up and parlour magic using cards, coins, books, wrist-watches, and more.

With only NINE UK tour dates, this is a rare chance to see this American award-winning magician astound with his original brand of magic.

Whether you've seen Joshua before or it's your first time, he is widely respected as one of the finest performers--and teachers--in magic.'



It'll be an amazing night so mark the date in your diary now – this will be one you definitely don't want to miss! Make sure you get there early as we're expecting a number of guests and the best seats will get snapped up quickly!

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.



Apart from the Royals shopping centre and the Dixon shows coming up in August, we have no more club shows in the diary, a rarity for us. If you know of organisations that would enjoy a night of magic and an opportunity to raise funds, please put them in touch with me. We charge just £200 all inclusive to put on a whole evening of both close up and stage magic.

LAST SHOW

3rd August – Royals Shopping Centre

On 3rd August we turned up in force at the Royals shopping centre to promote the Dixon shows. It was really brilliant to see so many of our members during the day, either helping out with performing mix and mingle close up or handing out leaflets. This was our first time trying a Saturday - in the past we've always run these sessions on a Sunday. But the Saturday was far better and there seemed to be more people in the centre for us to engage with.

Thanks so much to everyone who came along and got involved – I can't thank you enough for your time and energy and I hope you found the day interesting and useful. It's always great to perform for strangers as it really helps to build confidence and performance skills. I genuinely hope that you enjoyed the day.

Thanks again – and here's to next year!

DIXON STUDIO SHOWS 2019



So here we go again! The Dixon shows are here for 2019 and next week promises to be another exciting week of magic and fun.

Ticket sales are going OK thankfully, but for the last week before the shows, there's a '2 for the price of 1' special offer in place at the box office so that we can fill the theatre for each show. Please let your family and friends know about the special offer! Once we know the final sales situation, there may be an opportunity for some complimentary tickets for members, but I'll email you separately to let you know when and if that happens.

Our stage acts are all in place now and the planned schedule for the week looks like this:

Wed 8.00:

Compere: Adrian Fox

Act 1: Don Simpson, Adrian Fox, Ollie Ward

Act 2: Don Simpson, Adrian Fox, Ollie Ward

Thurs 8.00:

Compere: Richard Graham/Adrian Fox

Act 1: Robbie Wood, Thomas Edwin, Matty Turner

Act 2: Bert Postlethwaite, Robbie Wood, Matty Turner

Fri 8.00:

Compere: Adrian Fox

Act 1: Chris Campos/Ryan Young, Tracy Wise, Richard Graham

Act 2: Bert Postlethwaite, Chris Campos/Ryan Young, Tracy Wise

Sat Matinee 2.30:

Compere: Adrian Fox

Act 1: Robbie Wood, Richard Graham

Act 2: Bert Postlethwaite, Adrian Fox

Sat Evening 8.00:

Compere: Adrian Fox

Act 1: Ollie Ward, Finlay Southgate, Oliver Tabor

Act 2: Bert Postlethwaite, Ollie Ward, Oliver Tabor

I've had a lot of interest from members about the close up opportunities in the foyer too, and it will be excellent to see as many of you there as possible for any of the shows. I'll drop everyone who has expressed their interest a separate email with final details shortly.

If you're performing on stage and need music for your act, please send me your MP3 music files ASAP - I need to let the technician at the theatre have all the files ahead of the shows and it takes time to compile everything, so do let me have your music urgently.

Good luck everyone! Let's hope we have a superb week ahead of us!

Please do encourage your family and friends to come along and see one of the shows. You can buy them online here:

<https://southendtheatres.org.uk/online/tickets-as-if-by-magic-southend-2019>

ANNUAL DINNER 2019

Our 2019 annual dinner and awards evening is confirmed for 19th October at the Thorpe Hall Golf Club as per last year. Do please note the date in your diary and try to join us on the night if you can.



Here's the menu:

DINNER MENU

Cream of pumpkin soup, pesto oil & rustic croutons

Cornets of smoked salmon & prawns with marie rose sauce, pickled cucumber & brown bread

Melon & Serrano ham salad, mixed leaves & balsamic glaze

Black pepper & herb crusted beef with Yorkshire puddings & red wine jus, roast potatoes

Lemon & thyme marinated chicken supreme with a port & leek sauce, roast potatoes

Grilled seabass fillet with a white wine & chive cream sauce, new potatoes

Spinach, sun dried tomato & boursin roulade, Provencal sauce, roast potatoes

Main courses accompanied by seasonal vegetable selection

Baileys & dark chocolate torte with crushed amaretti

Caramelised bread & butter pudding with custard

Selection of continental cheese & biscuits with grapes & celery

Filter coffee & mint chocolates

The ticket price has been kept to £30 per head as per last year and with such a fabulous meal, a cabaret and raffle etc, we hope you'll agree that it represents amazing value for money. Of course it's also a lovely opportunity for all of us to simply get together for a social night out with family and friends; and it's the evening where all our competition and other award winners are formally recognised and congratulated. Some awards aren't actually announced until the evening itself, so you never know, you might be one of the winners!

So do join us if you can. Let Tracy know how many seats you'd like and let her have a £10 per head deposit as soon as you can please.

That's about it for this month – thanks for reading and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

If you have submissions, ideas or articles for the newsletter, please pass them on to Adrian for publishing.

SOUTHEND SORCERERS - CLOSE UP COMPETITION RULES

Entry into the Competition is open to fully paid-up members of the society, but there can be no more than 10 competitors in total, in order to fit in to the evening's time schedule. Competitors must register with the competition secretary **in advance** and entrants will be received on a first come, first served basis. Late entries may be accepted at the Committee's discretion.

Both Junior and Senior competitions will run on the same evening. Entrants for the junior competition must be aged under 16 at the time of the competition. Seniors must be aged 16 or over at the time of the competition. Junior members will compete for the Wilf Dent Cup. Senior members will compete for the Robert Ferro cup. The winners will receive and retain the cup for one year and will also receive commemorative plaques to keep, presented at the club's annual dinner in October.

Under normal circumstances, there should be a minimum of 2 entrants for each section of the competition in order for it to run. However in the event of only one junior or senior wishing to participate, they may do so but must attain a minimum score (determined by the committee) to be awarded the trophy.

The order of performances will be decided by the drawing of cards before the competition begins. Each competitor will then perform their act at 3 separate tables. Each competitor will present a close-up routine, of more than two effects, in no more than ten minutes. The timekeeper will monitor the period allowed for each presentation precisely, and will signal an audible '2 minutes to go' warning after eight minutes have elapsed. Another signal will be sounded at ten minutes. After that signal the timekeeper will deduct points for competitors running over the allotted time. For each minute (or part thereof) over time, 5 points will be deducted from the competitor's total score.

The effects used by each competitor must be such that they can be carried on the person of the competitor. The same routine will be performed three times, once at each table. Competitors may not alter or vary their routines in any way once the competition has begun.

There will be a short "change over" period between sessions, to allow marks to be registered and for competitors to reset as necessary.

There will be three judges in total – 2 lay people and one magician. Judges will be identified to participants and should not be selected as volunteers by any of the performers. There will be one judge sitting at each of the three performance tables.

Score sheets will be made up with the competitor's name and copies given to the judges, compere and timekeeper.

The magical judge will score on magical content, presentation and entertainment. The lay judges will score on entertainment value only. The magical judge's score sheet will include an optional box to record any feedback for the competitors.

Each judge can award a maximum of twenty points in each category for each competitor. Thus, a maximum of 100 points may be awarded for each competitor.

Deductions for time penalties will be made and then each competitor's score will be independently verified; and the Committee's decision as to the winner is final. In the event of a tie, joint winners will be announced and each winner will retain the trophy for a six month period.