



*Southend Sorcerers Society*

*Tel: 01702 297983*

## **SOUTHEND SORCERERS AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **2020 MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	Close Up Competition - cancelled	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Nov</b>	Props Auction
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Lecture – Tom Elderfield lecture	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Xmas Fun Night

### **2021 CLUB SHOWS**

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb**                      Wentworth School, Maldon

### **CLUB WEBSITE**

[www.southendsorcerers.com](http://www.southendsorcerers.com)

Members' area password - jimmy

### **CONTACTS**

President - Adrian Fox  
01702 297983 / 07711 982890  
[adrianfox@compuserve.com](mailto:adrianfox@compuserve.com)

Club Shows Secretary – Richard Graham  
07951 441333  
[richard@richardgraham-magic.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardgraham-magic.co.uk)

Treasurer – Tracy Wise  
01702 597002  
[tracywise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tracywise@hotmail.co.uk)

Secretary, Membership & Librarian – Ryan Young  
07854 634592  
[ryangyoung@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ryangyoung@hotmail.co.uk)

## LAST MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST – CLUB NIGHT



Our August meeting was the first time we've actually been able to get together in person for some time, and it was great to see some of our members take the opportunity to meet up for a club night session. Some had let us know that they still didn't feel comfortable enough to attend meetings and of course that's totally understandable.

As the Ekco club is still not open on a Sunday evening, we held the meeting at Oliver Tabor's Red Brick Barn instead and we're really grateful to Oliver for giving us access to such a wonderful space. In the end, around 15 members came along for what turned out to be a lovely informal gathering. After Adrian had gone through a few updates, we all sat round in a circle for the first part of the evening, and some members stepped into the centre to show us their latest effects and routines. After that, we all split into small groups and shared ideas and thoughts for the rest of the evening.

Although the meeting was deliberately unstructured, as a first attempt at bringing people back together it worked really well and it was lovely to see some of our members able to meet in person for the first time in months. Thanks to everyone who came along and I hope you enjoyed the chance to get together.

Also at the meeting, Dave Taylor was (finally!) formally welcomed to the Sorcerers and presented with his membership regalia. Welcome aboard Dave – it's brilliant to have you with us!

## ADDITIONAL MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – VIRTUAL DAVID JONATHAN LECTURE

At short notice we were offered an online lecture from American magician David Jonathan, who is known for a number of marketed (largely card based) effects and routines. David was all set to dial in from his home in New York on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August, but as it turned out he suffered a power cut and had no other option but to re-schedule.



As an apology David sent us through free access to an effect called 'Wrong Turn' which we forwarded on to the membership – it's a nice and fairly simple card routine. You can see the instructional video here: <https://vimeo.com/242509020>

The password to access the video is: turnover

The lecture itself was re-planned for the evening of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August and it was well attended with several members dialling in. With a total of 7 effects included in the lecture, David also presented an interesting session about creativity and how to come up with your own ideas for magic routines. The routines included in the lecture were:

'With the Band' – which involves a rubber band penetrating the card box and deck to find a selected and signed card.

'Fortuity' – a prediction effect using dice to select a random face and back design from a rainbow deck.

'Fourtunate' – a prediction drawn in Sharpie on the card case matches a free spectator selection.

'Sovereign Sandwich' – a signed selection ends up sandwiched between two kings.

'You Know' – a prediction effect using Uno game cards to match number and colour values.

‘Precise Premonition’ – a card selected from a red deck is lost and turns up in a blue deck where the rest of the cards are completely blank.

‘Snaps’ – perhaps my favourite routine of the lecture. ‘Snaps’ consists of a set of two special photo decks that can be used for a variety of effects and mentalism routines. David showed us a book test where some of the photos are placed randomly into the pages of a book as bookmarks, then removed one at a time by the spectators until only one remains. The page at that bookmark is inspected and the theme of the writing matches the photo perfectly. More than that, the discarded photos are then placed down face up, and each photo can be interpreted as a letter of the alphabet – together they spell out the word associated with the page and bookmark.

The lecture was really interesting and David offered us a number of great bundle pricing deals – most of the effects demonstrated are available from his website here:

<https://www.davidjonathanmagic.com/>

If you couldn’t dial in for the lecture, or if you’d like to watch it again, the good news is that David gave us permission to record it and it has now been uploaded to the club website here:

<https://www.southendsorcerers.com/zoom-recordings>

(The password for the ‘members only’ section of the website is: jimmy)

Thanks go to David for such an interesting and inspiring evening.

### **NEXT MEETING – 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – CLOSE UP COMPETITION – CANCELLED BUT MEETING GOING AHEAD**



As you know, the whole Covid situation has pretty much ruined a lot of our planned activities for 2020, and given that some of our members still feel uncomfortable being in a group of people, we feel that we have little alternative but to cancel the close up competition for this year.

It’s not a decision that we’ve taken lightly and I know that some members were keen for it to go ahead. But to be fair to everyone that might have wanted to participate, we think it’s best to wait until things are a little more settled before going ahead. Apart from anything else, we’d need an audience for a competition - and that might have been a little difficult to organise in

these strange times!

However, after our successful meeting last month, it doesn’t stop us from meeting up, so we still plan to get together on 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 as usual. The Ekco Club is still closed on Sunday evenings, but Oliver Tabor has once again kindly offered us the use of the Red Brick Barn for our meeting this month.

We’ll have a discussion and some ideas for you about magic that doesn’t involve the spectators having to touch anything, so if you have any suggested routines or thoughts you’d like to share please do bring them along. We’ll make it a fun evening and it would be great to see some of your magic performed there. We even have a brilliant stage to use if you’d like to take advantage of the ‘no risk’ practice opportunity!

So we genuinely hope to see you there at the Red Brick Barn for a chance to meet up with your club friends and colleagues - we’ll aim to start at 7.30 as usual.

It’s a real shame that we can’t go ahead with the competition, but we hope you understand the reasons why and will bear us until we can start getting things back to normal.

As usual, it goes without saying of course that if you or any of your 'bubble' group are showing any Covid symptoms, or are waiting for test results, then you should not attend. Face coverings are optional in this setting apparently but feel free to bring one with you if it helps to make you feel comfortable. Hand gel will be available on the night. As there isn't a bar at the barn, please also bring your own drinks with you.

Hope to see you there. The address is:

**The Red Brick Barn**

Sutton Hall,  
Shopland road,  
Rochford,  
Essex  
SS4 1LH

**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.

**CURRENT SHOW BOOKINGS**

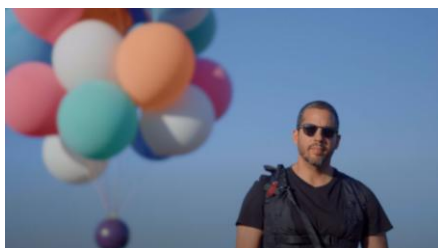
As you might expect, all our planned shows for 2020 have been postponed due to ongoing lockdown situation. Some customers have indicated that they'd like to book for next year plans instead, but at present we have no idea of when that might be. Watch this space for further updates.



We do however have a show booked for **27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the Wentworth School** in Maldon. This is a repeat booking and is currently still scheduled to go ahead as far as we know so please book the date in your diary if you'd be keen to help out.

**MAGIC NEWS**

**David Blaine – Ascension**



In his new project, Ascension, the illusionist and endurance performer David Blaine recently took to the skies suspended under a cluster of helium balloons.

Depending on your age, he was either doing a sort of tribute act to *Mary Poppins* or maybe to Pixar's *Up*. He floated over the barren plains of Arizona strapped underneath a bunch of 52 large helium balloons at approximately 25,000 feet on 2<sup>nd</sup>

September. Having undertaken extensive skydiving training, he then let go of the balloons to parachute safely back to earth. Blaine had said that he hoped to reach the height of Mount Everest, which is 29,029 feet high, so he was slightly short of that target.

Originally planned to be set in New York over the Hudson River, the whole thing had to be moved to Arizona (a lot less air traffic there!) and the stunt was broadcast live (and recorded) on YouTube. In case you'd like to have a look at what he got 'up' to (sorry for the pun!), here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwzvNAAqH3g>

Mad, or what?! Made me sweat just watching it!

## FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

### Mentalism

### LOVE AND WAR by Jamie Daws

Love and War is unlike anything you will have performed before! A timeless, emotive performance piece designed to touch hearts and create a long lasting impression on your audience.



Whilst telling the heart wrenching story of how childhood sweethearts James and Elizabeth were separated due to the Second World War, a photo of the couple transforms from them as a younger couple, to them in their older years. A simple, startling effect designed to illustrate the story beautifully.

You receive a printed booklet with the original story and the basic handling. Inside the booklet there is a link to a video tutorial with extra handlings and idea's including a never before seen single photo version. Discussions on ageing props and making additional items for your routine are also discussed. You will also receive photo files for all of the original handlings as well as brand new combinations of the photos to allow you to cater the handling to your own performance style. You will also receive 30 professionally printed photos to get you started!

Finally, you receive items needed to produce your own Polaroid for the new single image handling!

Love and War is available from your favourite dealer – Alakazam have it for £19.99

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/love-and-war-by-jamie-daws.html>

### Phone Magic

### iDROP by Tim Ellis



iDrop is both an incredibly funny gag item and a stage performer's dream. You place a borrowed phone into a see-through mesh bag and zip it up to protect it. While being held by a spectator, the cell phone "accidentally" falls from the bag and breaks into pieces on the ground. You have secret control of the borrowed phone and can reveal it anywhere you like.

If you play it like a gag, you can simply remove the phone from your pocket and give it back. iDrop never fails to elicit screams when the spectator believes she has dropped and destroyed her own phone. But you can also reveal the phone in an impossible place: wrapped in a present, in a Nest of Boxes, or sealed in a jar. The place you reveal the borrowed phone is limited by only your imagination.

iDrop is a secret bag that switches a borrowed phone for a decoy. The decoy is modelled in size, weight, and appearance to an iPhone or similar cell phone design. When it hits the ground, it convincingly "breaks" into several pieces, but is easily reassembled and reset for each use. When you ditch the bag in iDrop, you can use this opportunity to secretly load the borrowed phone wherever you like, or sneak it into your back pocket to give back to the spectator.

iDrop costs around £45 – you can see it at Alakazam here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/idrop-with-gimmick-and-online-instructions-by-tim-ellis.html>



## Covid Friendly Magic

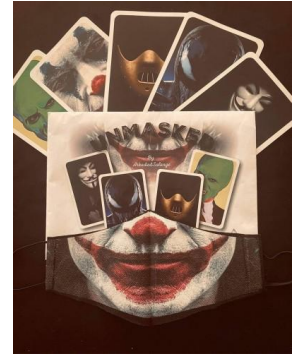
## UNMASKED by Arkadio Jose

Unmasked is an amazing double change face mask that has to be seen to be believed. It's easy to do and reset and is perfect for socially distanced magic (what's not to like?) This awesome double change mask goes from plain to playing card; and then to joker in the blink of an eye - and is visual eye-popping magic at its very best. Everything you need is included to perform.

Unmasked is expensive at £55 but works perfectly in these days of face masks being needed everywhere.

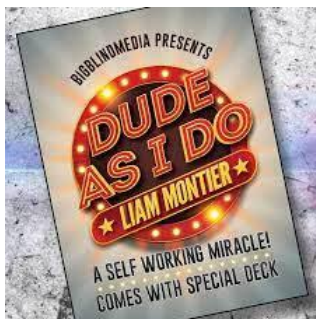
See it with a video trailer at Alakazam here:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/unmasked-by-arkadio-jose.html>



## Cards

## DUDE AS I DO by Liam Montier



Liam Montier's 'Dude as I Do' is an impossible full deck coincidence routine that will cause your spectators a lifetime of sleepless nights. The more they think about it, the more inexplicable it seems.

You take 26 cards from one deck of cards, and your spectator gets 26 from a different deck. You BOTH shuffle your packet. With your cards behind your back you both pass a random card to each other, and slip it into your half deck.

When the packets are then spread face down it is clear that there is indeed one (and only one) odd backed card in each packet. When you flip them over you discover that they match. Both of you selected the Ten of Hearts.

'Hang on', your suspicious spec proclaims, 'Maybe all the cards are the same!' 'Oh, they are!' you agree. And then you flip all the cards over (yours and theirs) to reveal that all the remaining pasteboards are duplicates of the Six of Clubs. You both picked the only Ten of Hearts in the other person's packet!

- \* No rough and smooth
- \* No short cards
- \* No sticky stuff
- \* No sleight of hand - totally self-working
- \* No forces
- \* Everything can be examined by your spectator

Liam's ingenious handling makes this routine simple to do and squeaky, squeaky clean to perform. You get the deck set up and ready to go and download video instructions.

This is a real reputation maker and total fooler! You might even find you burn your magician buddies with this too. Speaking of which - check out this video of Liam performing Dude As I Do to Jack Tighe. His reaction is 100% genuine... and it's HILARIOUS!

Dude as I Do costs around £18 and Saturn Magic have it here:

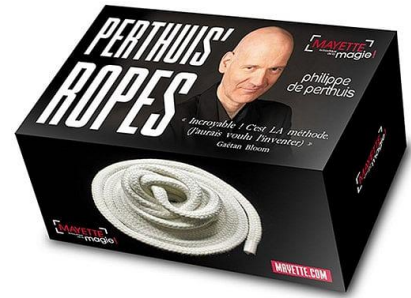
<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/dude-as-i-do-10-of-hearts--gimmicks-and-online-instructions--by-liam-montier--trick.html>

## Rope Magic

## PERTHUIS ROPES by Philippe de Perthuis

A beautifully modernized version of the classic "Rings and Ropes Mystery" brought to you by Philippe de Perthuis in collaboration with Dominique Duvivier.

Perthuis' Ropes is a hilarious and engaging professional-quality routine that offers 10 to 15 minutes of superb entertainment and audience involvement.



A variety of borrowed objects such as bracelets, watches and finger rings are threaded on two ropes which are then fed through the sleeves of a borrowed jacket and held on the ends by two spectators. Despite these extremely fair conditions, you're still able to free each of the objects (including the jacket) one by one.

Using an innovative gimmick, everything can be examined both before and after the routine.

Super easy to use

No angle restrictions

Can be performed completely surrounded

Fully examinable

Tons of audience participation

Each Perthuis' Ropes set comes with the gimmick, ropes and online instructions (English/French).

Perthuis Ropes costs around £20 and you can find it here:

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/stage-and-parlor-magic/perthuis-ropes/>

**That's about it for this month everyone – stay safe and send any articles for next month's newsletter to Adrian for publishing.**