

THE JUNX

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BULLET CATCH

T. ANNEMONEY

Having received much publicity from this stunt, I can safely say that there is nothing like it for getting press. Been pestered for the “real work” behind it for a long time now, and I think I'm ready to tip my mitt. First, of course, wizard must down a quart of scotch. If no scotch available or if wizard is teetotaler, then repeated beatings until wizard is barely conscious.

Shooter is instructed to aim directly at wizard's mouth. This is essential to keep wizard from inadvertently shouting “I'VE BEEN SHOT!!” Once wizard has been shot, he is pulled beneath the curtain by **his identical twin**, who then replaces him as the curtain opens. There, as the audience supposes, stands the wizard with the bullet in his mouth, he having dug the bullet from his unfortunate brother with a penknife. That is to say, he uses the penknife, not his deceased brother.

The only problem with this neat trick is that it may only be performed once, unless the wizard is fortunate enough to have been born a triplet or even among quadruplets. Advances in the science of cloning may make this routine a standard in the near future.

WALTER GIBSON DIDN'T WRITE THIS

Any time you are within shouting distance of a calendar, it will be possible to present an offhand feat to upset good mathematicians. The assistant takes a monthly sheet; you turn your back. He is told to mark off one day in each week. You now ask, “How many Sundays are checked?” “How many Mondays?” etc. Immediately after this, you name a number. The calendar man adds up the dates he has crossed and finds that you have correctly called the total.

By George, I'm still trying to figure out how you do that one!

Plucking a Thought from a Volunteer

JEAN HUGHARLOW

Adding new use for the wizard's all-purpose tool, drill a small hole in the very tip of your thumb tip. Remove the suction cup portion from the device eloquently euphemised as a “plumber's friend.” Force this large cup through the small hole in the tip of your thumb tip (making certain the cup is facing outward).

You now have a device which can surreptitiously be placed over a spectator's left ear. As to making this an invisible move, the secret is the same as with the Classic Pass (see *The Yellow Brick Road to Card Magic*): **Do it when no one is looking!** I have always found that shouting “Isn't that Wayne Newton with his shorts on fire?!” produces all the misdirection I need.

While your audience turns to look (And remember – if you say it with authority, many of them will later remember having seen Wayne with his shorts ablaze, thus enhancing your reputation somehow.) push your thumb (wearing the gimmicked thumb tip) into your volunteer's left ear. It must be the left ear, because after shouting “Isn't that Wayne Newton with his shorts on fire?!” his right ear is deaf, so this is the only ear left.

This naturally causes the suction cup to pull out the volunteer's actual thought from their head. Wiping the earwax from it, you'll see this thought is actually in the shape of a billet. (A 2x3 inch billet, folded into thirds.) Keep it hidden behind your choice of finger(s), and read it behind your palm while your audience (the fools!) stare blankly at your hand, never dreaming that you are actually boldly reading this right in front of them. You are then ready to reveal your volunteer's secret thought in any manner you choose, unless the secret is so juicy that you might make a buck or two from it.

READING THEIR MINDS WITH CRAZY MAN'S HANDCUFFS

MICHAEL HAMMER

After performing the initial demonstration that the rubber bands cannot penetrate through each other, as they are solid matter and solid matter cannot penetrate etc. etc., you stop and close one eye. Stare fixedly at the closest audience member with the other eye. Glare at them, and let them know you are offended by their skepticism. Nay, you are outraged! You take the rubber bands and begin flipping them into the aforementioned audience member's eyes, nose, et al.

At this point, you stop dramatically, point theatrically at the man, and insist you now can read his thoughts. “You are thinking 'THIS HURTS' are you not, sir?” If the spectator disagrees, begin flipping him with the rubber bands again. This can proceed for a good twenty minutes and provide plenty laughs for your audience, you bet.

~~~editlibel~~~

Jeff McGroom is recovering nicely after his accident. He removed one mask too many – one more than what he was actually wearing. The plastic surgeon says Jeff will be up and performing within the next month.

Fred Rothenburger's Rue Morgue effect is all the talk these days in the night clubs. Fred dresses up like an orangutang and murders two random ladies in the audience. He's book through New Year's Eve at the Denny's in New Orleans.

Magic stores are reporting excellent pre-Christmas sales of the new Tickle-Me Banachek.

Annabillet will open her second season on CBS with an effect from her Powwow sequel, Pow 2, in which a spirit guide will suck her soul from her body. Crisp Anglo will expose this trick the following night during his show on A&P.

Casting calls are open for anyone who can demonstrate looks of shock, surprise, and “I didn't see that coming” as well as repeat, with a straight face, the line “I wouldn't have believed it if I saw it on TV, but I was right here.” Send resumes and a photo to the aforementioned Crisp Anglo at “Mindweeb, A&P Notwork, OutOfTouch, CA.”

Magic Week is the last week of October again, when we celebrate the fact that Houdini is still dead. At last count, more than 7000 magicians will be insisting that “if Houdini were alive today, he'd be doing what I'm doing.”

There is an ugly rumour going around that some of our fellow wizards are actually exposing magic's secrets to an uncaring and unnoticing community. This writer remains outraged at this, especially since he's not making a buck from it.

As we enter into the season of spook houses and trick-or-treating, let us remember how magic played an important part in the “safe-making” of this holiday, despite innumerable Jason movies. We have reports of many of our brother and sister magicians celebrating Halloween and Magic Week by performing free shows for schools and day cares. Mrs Romper's Sweetness and Light Daycare will be hosting Tony Shiels in his “back from the dead” appearance and his amusing and frolicing “Sacrifice of a Small Child.”

And we hear of a fiesty group of mentalists who've formed a sanctum of sorts and are actually trying something called “common courtesy” and “respect.” There are always radicals who will never fit into the magic community.....

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