

January 2015

# Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37 NEWSLETTER



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## Martin Cox to Lecture January 29th!



From England

### Martin Cox

Presents his New Lecture

#### 'Four'



- One: Look at the Comedy
- Two: Is the beginning
- Three: Making a Trick Yours
- Four: Is Knowing

Will Martin Entertain us? **YES**

Will we go home with something we can do? **YES**

Is it good value? **YES**

Martin Cox has been an established Professional Magician and Entertainer since 1989. He has performed his Comedy Magic act, to critical acclaim, all over the world from "The Winter Gardens" in Blackpool to the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California. Awards won by Martin Cox are many and include: The Rove Trophy and Alistair Wand from the I.B.M., Edgar Crook Cup for close-up magic, the Norman Green for Technical Merit, and the Billy Macomb trophy. In 2003 he won the British Magical Championship of Comedy with his act 'Cosmic'. He has worked for Queens Moat House-P&O Cruises-The BBC- Fred Olson, Disney Cruises, The Magic Circle London and The London Palladium. Martin Cox truly is a master of his craft. You can view his show reel on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4XsKwPRAeY&feature=player\\_detailpage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4XsKwPRAeY&feature=player_detailpage)

### THE LECTURE

Martin Cox covers a wide range of Magic and Performances, from simple but impressive Card Tricks to the more advanced Magic. He will cover cards, rope and standard props and he will explain how to work with other Magicians and performing Close-up and Stage. This Lecture was designed for close-up, cabaret and family performers. As a lecturer, he has spoken to Magic Clubs all over the U.K. and the U.S.A.

### TESTIMONIAL

"If you ever get a chance to see a Martin Cox lecture, then don't even think about it. Just go. I guarantee you won't regret it. Martin is another performer that just oozes personality. His lecture showed how important it is to build up a good rapport with any audience. Martin Cox's lecture was again more about performance than it was showing the "how to" of magic tricks, and in fact for me I found this lecture to be the best of the day.

"I really enjoyed it, was surprised at its depth, and was especially pleased that it offered a lot more than just tricks and explanations." – **Gene Anderson**

More info on Martin Cox at: <http://comedyofmagic.moonfruit.com/>



Join the Nashville Magic Club at our first lecture for 2015. Martin Cox covers a wide range of magic and performances. He will share simple, but impressive card tricks as well as more advanced magic. He will cover cards, rope, and standard props. He will also explain how to work with other

magicians and in different performing settings, like close-up and stage. This lecture is designed for close-up, cabaret, and family performers. As a lecturer, Martin has spoken to Magic Clubs all over the U.K. and the U.S.A.

## Bargatze's Musings – Trust



*I will often give someone my deck, even when it's in a stack, and say, "Look at these."*

Why do people not trust magicians? Why is it that after I have performed a simple card trick someone always says, "Hey! We better watch our wallets!" Why do some people say, "I hate magic?"

Could all of these questions be related? I think so.

Personally, I know that I come on too strong at first. I don't really take the time to let the audience understand and get used to me.

The word magician means different things to different people. To the guy on the street who was taken by the three shell game magicians are thieves. The same holds true if you've ever met Kevin King! (I know that was hurtful Kevin, but it was funny, too!)

To a guy who has seen a magician make fun of all his audience members (or who has seen me perform) might hate magic! (That should make Kevin happy!)

Some people just want to be funny by grabbing their wallets. And I say good for them. The smart magician will always have a funny line after the audience member tries to be funny. For instance, it gives you the chance to say the line, "Now I know where you keep your wallet! or "Now

everybody knows where you keep your wallet!"

The longer I perform, the less I experience this type of attitude. Here are a few things that I do to defuse any trouble-makers. After they introduce me I often say, "Wow you people seem great, I wish my show was better!"

In schools when they start to clap after my introduction I say, "No stop. I'm not that good."

Last Monday night, I was booked to do walk around magic at the Country Music Hall of Fame. At every table I walked up to I told them that I am getting paid to be here but I'm not that good yet. And it takes longer to talk me out of it instead of just watching a couple of stupid tricks.

Rick Merrill tells his audience that this is a regular deck of cards. He then says, "they make trick decks but I just had a kid and those

decks are way too expensive." I love that.

I believe that if people see that you don't take yourself too seriously and that you might be willing to even let them handle the deck, then maybe you can be trusted.

Often, I will give someone my deck, even when they are in a stack, and say "look at these". When they start to spread the deck in their hands I take back the stacked part, about 13 cards or so and say, "no look at the faces and the backs" while I use the cards I took back to show them. I will then hand my stack back to them and say, "Have you ever seen a trick deck before? No? Then you're wasting everyone's time!" All of this is just to appear to be fair and up front. When doing walk around magic I even carry the Cardtoon deck around in a white case that I have

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## Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

**Barry Mitchell Lecture at Middle TN Magic Club** – Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:02 pm at the Florence Church of Christ, 6732 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN. \$5 for IBM members and \$10 for non-members.

**Nashville Magic Club, January Meeting** – Thursday, December 22nd, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Andrew Price United Methodist Church, 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Eric Tyree will be In Concert and Tim Grant will have a mini lecture for us!

**The Magic All Stars at The Magic Lounge** – January 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 pm until ??? at Bongo After Hours Theatre, 2007 Belmont Avenue, Nashville, TN.

The Magic All Stars floor show will begin at 8 pm and the theatre will transform into The Magic Lounge where performers will share interactive close-

up magic with guests immediately following the show at approximately 9:30 pm.

The January show will be brand new for the New Year and will feature some of your favorite mystery entertainers.

[www.facebook.com/magicalstars](http://www.facebook.com/magicalstars)

[www.bongoafterhours.com](http://www.bongoafterhours.com) for tickets.

**Martin Cox Lecture at Nashville Magic Club** – Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7 pm at Andrew Price UMC (the same place we meet every month).

Martin Cox covers a wide range of Magic and Performances, from simple but impressive Card Tricks to the more advanced Magic. He will cover cards, rope and standard props and he will explain how to work with other Magicians.



## January's Meeting Theme is...What's New This Year?

Whatever is new (to you), bring it and show us what you: 1) got for Christmas (magic-wise; or 2) are working on that is your latest and greatest.

In-Concert: Eric Tyree

Mini Lecture: Tim Grant – Restaurant Magic

## Help Us Reach More Magic Enthusiasts

If you are receiving this newsletter, you qualify as a magic enthusiast. I know I certainly am.

I want this newsletter to get out to as many people who enjoy the art and craft of magic as possible.

We need your help! Make sure we have your correct email address, mailing address, etc. Right now, the newsletter is strictly electronic, but who knows, maybe one day we'll even send out a hard copy newsletter as well.

You can also help the cause by forwarding these newsletters to anyone you know that might be interested in magic. That's right, anyone!

We all have to get started somehow. It's my hope that these little newsletters may help spark the interest, then fan the flame of this great art that we enjoy sharing with each other.

Don't hesitate! Forward this newsletter to some of your friends, then make

sure you invite them out to the next club meeting.

We want to make as many new friends as possible and spread the fun!

-JM

## Classified Ads Tricks for Sale

Hospitality Trick (as performed by Lance Burton)

Rabbit Ringer Deluxe

Blades Through Arm

Twisting Arm Illusion

Abbott's Sword Basket

Kaboom Box

Flying Carpet Illusion

For more information about these magic tricks for sale, contact Wayne Clemons at [magicwayne40@gmail.com](mailto:magicwayne40@gmail.com).

## From the East by Tom Vorjohan



It never fails with me...December 31 when that ball falls in NY at the stroke of midnight, and I get rather introspective, retrospective, and challenging of my own perspectives. Add to this that I received Neil Patrick Harris' autobiography on CD for a Christmas present, and I am a thinking machine.

First, NPH mentions his love for magic throughout the book...he even teaches a few tricks! But each time he brings up the magic, it's as though he thinks others are making fun of him because he's a magician. It's like the magic is a mangy-looking house cat that he can't get rid of or put down. This was a bit of a shock to me; I grew up when David Copperfield was making magic look ultra-cool and even sexy. So this begs the question that we must ask ourselves: how do you make magic come across to the public? Can you help change the perception by your performance? Magic should not be the house cat that no one wants to pet.

Second, Harris also mentions how he came to be the president of the Magic Castle. He seems complimented about the position; however, the way he discussed his non-committal appointment to the Board and to vice-president came across with an "as-long-as-I-don't-have-to-do-anything" attitude. Really? Neil Patrick Harris was asked to help the prestigious Magic Castle, and not until he's president does he start taking it seriously. So I ask you: are you committed to do

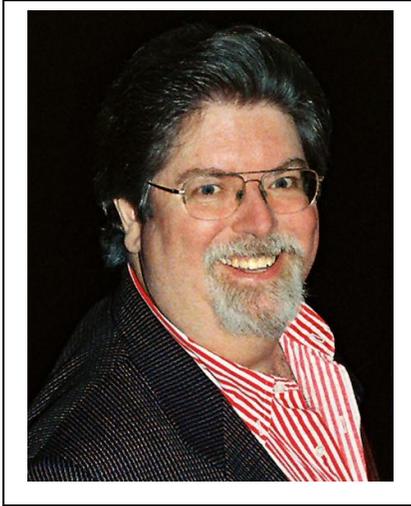
something to make your club stronger? Do you get involved? Do you participate? Do you help? The club will be better if more people get involved.

Finally, I am challenging my own paradigm. I've always believed that "any press is good press" and accordingly any magic that people are doing for the public is good for magic. But I'm not so sure. In our area, we have a member who overzealously took on the project of putting together a large stage show for an organization he is a part of. He has never done anything like this, and it is beginning to look like an ocean liner heading for an iceberg. It is open to the public with tickets selling for \$15 for adults and \$10 for any kid over the age of two. Rather than ask for help, he's doing the exact opposite and shutting out the members of the club who would like to help. From what I can gather, I believe families could very well be leaving early and demanding a refund. This will not be good for magic. I will let you know how it turns out; I wish there was more we could do.

So, as I stare at the New Year, I don't want you to make resolutions as much as I want you to take a moment to think about how you can help magic, help your club, and finally help yourself.

Having just been to the Smoky Mountain Opry to see the Christmas show a few days after Christmas, I loved the variety.

## Down in the Boro - by Alan Fisher



Over the holidays I had a chance to reflect on Ring 252's last show, "*The Fall Festival of MAGIC 2014*". I got a lot of comments about my new act that I debuted in that production (for those that didn't see it, it was much more dramatic than what I usually do). Most were positive comments, several were very helpful critiques, and some were just out there. That's how comments go. You have to decide for yourself what you're going to do with that information and how (or if) it's going to affect you. The one comment that came up a lot was "Why?" Why do something that is so against type for me? Why not just do another comedy act? Why put together a serious act of mentalism-type effects? I guess the best answer is . . . because.

I've been doing comedic antics since my junior high school days back in the late 1800's. It's what comes natural. Along the way I started serious acting, doing Shakespeare and the like. But it's been a while since I created a dramatic character for a play. That was one of the reasons I was so excited to put together that *In Concert* show I did with David Williams for your Ring last May. It's also why I created several vignettes with my daughter Claire involving illusions for our Ring's shows the last two years. This time, it was all about the challenge of me doing a "legit" act. I changed my music, my costuming, my table covering . . . everything. And

the grand experiment seems to have worked. The audiences appeared to enjoy the material. I got good responses in all the right places. It felt weird not walking out to "The Banana Splits" theme song and not having Hanna-Barbera cartoon soundtrack music playing under me. And I can't tell you the last time I performed and didn't wear pink high-tops or suspenders. But none of that would have been right for this character.

Now that it's over and I've added more to it I've got 30 minutes of solid new material and a new character to build on even farther. I can now offer clients two completely different kinds of shows. I'll always have the zaniest of the comedy character and that full show. But I'll also now have a more reserved, traditional magic show to appeal to a different demographic. And that's how you can keep the magic fresh after 45 years of performing.

We hope to see you in the 'boro soon for one of our meetings (first Tuesday of each month – the February meeting will be on 1/3), any of our shows, or any of our other events (like our Barry Mitchell lecture on January 13<sup>th</sup> - check out our web site at [www.IBMring252.com](http://www.IBMring252.com)). We love visitors. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

## **BARGATZE, continued.**

labeled, "Trick Deck, Watch Out!" And yes, I will tell them they can't touch that deck as I hand them the real deck to look at.

That is also one of the reasons I like using Bicycle cards. I think most people are familiar with those decks and might even have one at home.

Another thing I like to do is to give them an explanation of what I'm doing that makes them believe that I am letting them in on a big secret. I will often show kids the muscle pass with coins to explain my "Three Fly" trick. I show them that I use the muscle of my thumb to pop the coins from hand to hand. I then do it visibly so they can see the coin fly. I tell them that I'll do it again, but this time I use another sleight and fool them while they are looking for the muscle pass.

The point is that the students believe I am a nice guy because I just explained what I was doing during the coin trick. You know that I'm not being a nice guy, but they don't know that. The mean thing that I do is to tell them to start practicing with a quarter and work their way up (no one can do the trick with a quarter without some pain!) The students see me as a guy who does magic but not some magician who thinks he is better than everyone else.

Penn and Teller have made a career doing this. The audience believes they are

exposing magic. Then they fool the audience badly because of how they set them up. As an audience member, you believe that P&T are such nice guys who hate hack magic. If you've seen their show remember Penn's line, "It's a trick with a ball and some thread."

If you are running into people not trusting you and what you say, just become believable and watch them melt in your hands. It also goes without saying to make your patter believable too. If you are a teenager and you start a trick by saying, "I did this at a poker table in Vegas," no one is going to believe that. Some of us adults can't even get away with that kind of patter. Sometimes comedy can change that. If you are saying something tongue in cheek and the audience knows it then say whatever you want. "I met this alien and he showed me this great trick with a coin from his planet."

Rules are made to be broken for sure, just make sure the audience is on board with you before you take them on that trip.

I think it all goes back to the idea of making the audience like you. If they like you they will like what you do. They'll even be willing to watch you without their hands over their wallets.

We end this article the way all articles should end...make the audience like you, and they will like what you are doing.

P.S. – And never trust Kevin, ever.