



# SAMLETTER 181



The next **Assembly 181** meeting is **Thursday, June 7, 2018**, with a workshop by **Magic Mike Dziubas** on "Mistakes, Misfires and Backup Plans".

Mike Dziubas aka Magic Mike started as a prodigy of fellow Assembly 181 member, Dennis James, and has been performing magic on his own for over 14 years.

Following the workshop, we will open the stage to others to perform in our "No Judgment Zone", so bring something to share.

Society of American Magicians Assembly 181 of Hightstown meets the first Thursday of every month, September thru June at the **First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520**. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meetings start at 7:30 PM



The KIDabra chapter's next meeting is on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church in Hightstown. Have a great summer!

KIDabra is an organization for Kid Show and Family entertainers. If you are a Children's Entertainer or are interested in performing for children this is the place to be.

## From the President

Another year in the books as they say. This month will mark the last official SAM 181 meeting until September (except for our annual buffet dinner). Once again we can say we hit some milestones. Our membership has grown and our monthly attendance hovers around thirty members. This year our member workshops have reached an apex in quality. Each and every workshop was well planned and thought out but also presented in the most professional manner, I am duly impressed. Thank you to all who contributed.



As we grow it is apparent that each new member has brought with them some new insight, creativity and talent which expands our clubs' image. It makes me wonder how much more can we do? The attendance is growing, the magic is great, and the camaraderie is creating a solid base for the club to continue. So the question is, are we there yet? I don't think so, there is so much more we can do. We are always looking for more ways to make SAM 181 "THE" club to belong to and any suggestions would seriously be considered. I have come up with a few myself and over the course of the following year maybe we can implement one or two of these and maybe one of yours. Here are a few possible ways we can make SAM 181 more valuable to its members.

- Junkets to various places to watch and learn magic
- A solid "club" show to bring on the road
- A group of magicians willing to visit local hospitals
- A monthly Podcast featuring our members and the magic they like to perform

- Assistance from members to recruit from local schools
- Creating an associated SYM with a defined curriculum
- Contacting members who haven't shown up in a while and bring them back to the fold

I realize that it will take a long time to develop all of the above, however I'm sure with all the talent we have, one or two of the ideas can be developed. As always, I would like to end the year thanking everyone for their contributions. Perhaps you gave a workshop, or maybe you perform at open mike time, or you pitched in and cleaned up, organized the performances, brought brownies (thanks Reba) or just attended and joined in the fun. Whatever you did to make SAM 181 what it is today, I want to say THANKS.



SAM 181 President

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AMERICAN  
MAGICIANS  
NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**ORLANDO  
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July 21 - July 23, 2018

**REGISTER:** \$349 for magician registration; \$50 discount for S.A.M. members (\$299); \$239 for SYM/Youth Magicians; \$100 for non-magician family members. Register early for better seating options.

Register at [www.samconvention.com](http://www.samconvention.com) or by calling Anne Weidhaas at (719) 338-8169 or email at [registrar@SAMconvention.com](mailto:registrar@SAMconvention.com).

**HOTEL:** Wyndham Orlando Resort International Drive. Single/Double is \$125/night; Suite is \$168/night.

Make reservations at [www.SAMConvention.com/Hotel](http://www.SAMConvention.com/Hotel).

## JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING



Jimmy Brown

I asked Jimmy Brown, what topics would he like to cover in his upcoming workshop, he answered my lectures cover “everything”. When, like Jimmy Brown you have over 50 years experience and have performed everywhere from cruise ships to corporate events, schools and birthdays, even three command performances for the King of Morocco, you can just about cover everything.

How does an old pro open a show, how about with a balloon to appearing cane, a handling I have never seen before. A coin pail without gimmicks and a mouth coil routine using a roll of toilet paper as the delivery system.

Jimmy has his own handlings on some classic utility devices, like the tiny plunger, thumb tip and a can of snakes. As a homage to Rachel Colombini, Jimmy performed her beautiful cup and ball routine.

After each workshop, we open the stage to those who would like to perform. Mitch Geier opened the performances with a little comedy and a Ton Onosaka rope routine. Rocco is an original thinking street performer and he performed his own mystical pendulum effect. Koshek continued the mentalism with a math effect.

Moving on to the classics, Vincent Mendoza performed his “R.O.C. (Ring on Cord)” routine, a three-minute effect which you can see

him perform on Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/180369155> Jimmy Brown returned to the stage with a change bag and silks. Robert Francis, the Dork of Deception, performed a wonderful cup and ball routine with two cups and too many final loads to count. The final classic was Jeff with the Linking Rings. His routine is so smooth that it appears to defy laws of matter and space.

Finishing up, George Hann, a guy who loves cards, did his "Pink Panther" routine. I think Reba loves money, her two routines both used paper currency. First, a brainwave effect with bills appropriately called "Counterfeit", then pencil through the bill. The night's last performance was a floating table by Johnny Cee, defying gravity using a table that he made.



Johnny Cee with his floating table

That was one night with a whole lot of magic and that is what we do at Assembly 181.

## Psycho Path - Magic for the Mentalist

### Mr. Golden Balls by Ken Dyne



When I review a product or book, I always will review one that is readily available for someone to purchase. Why review a product when it can't be purchased? I'm bending the rules on this one because (A) I know only about 15 people read my reviews and (B) it may be available from the inventor. The reason I want to write about this product today is because of its superior quality to others like it on the market. The item is Mr. Golden Balls by Ken Dyne. Ken Dyne is a working mentalist in the UK. He isn't as well known as Derren Brown and some others, but he has a unique slant on every effect he does. Ken's philosophy on mentalism, which isn't too far from the truth, is that mentalism is predictable. Hand someone a book and ask them to think of a word and what happens, the mentalist reveals the word they are thinking about. Who would have guessed?

Mr. Golden Balls is unique in two ways, the quality of construction and the outcome. The routine is a take on Max Maven's Kuratsuko. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this plot, a bag of objects (usually balls) are handed to several spectators. They each take one and the mentalist's job is to determine who has the odd colored ball. The difference between this routine and the others is that there is a kicker prediction at the end which is what colored ball will not be selected. Though it seems like a small difference, this extra layer does add another dimension to the trick.

Besides the added layer of deception, Mr. Golden Balls is probably one of the best constructed Kuratsuko sets out there. I own a couple of others and they are very cheaply made. The balls used are either cork or a thin molded plastic ball which feels and looks like they came out of a gumball machine. The balls in the Mr. Golden Balls set are made of solid resin and manufactured by a company in the

UK that makes billiard balls. They feel solid, which they are. The bag is also made extremely well and it should last a lifetime of performing. By the way, each Kurasuko type set has a different method to it, so not only do you need to be comfortable with the props themselves but also the method and the methods can range from electronic, magnetic, weight oriented or switch bag type methods. Obviously, each method has its advantages and disadvantages to them. I have all but the electronic methods and to me this seems the most practical.

To watch the trailer for Mr. Golden Balls click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3o05fprDyo>

**Bob Little's 2018**  
**SUPER** **NEXT**  
**SUNDAY**  
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*A One-day  
Magic, Chocolate  
& Champagne  
Convention*

**BOB LITTLE**  
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Hatboro, PA 19040  
215-672-3344

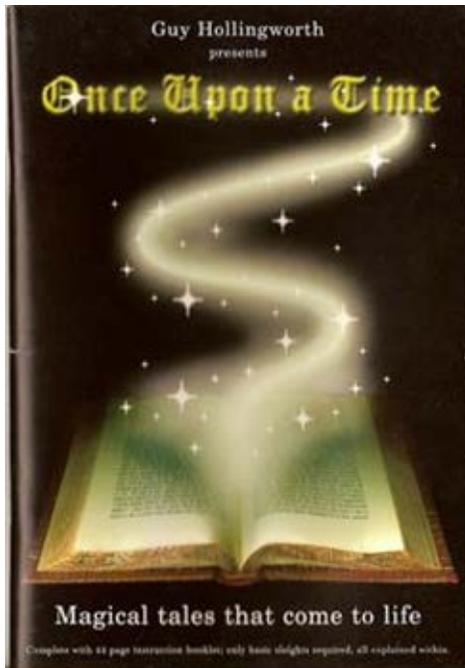
**JUST BE THERE** *Titanic loss set at over 1500 passengers  
Capt. Edward Smith ignores iceberg warnings...  
Lindbergh baby still missing...  
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**BEST WESTERN**  
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**Bensalem, PA 19020** **to**  
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## Tricks are for Kids - Magic for the children's performer

### Once Upon A Time by Guy Hollingworth



There aren't many card tricks out there for kids and the ones that seem silly by today's standards. Typically they would be in a form of a packet trick. However there is a deck of cards that is entertaining to kids as well as adults. If you are willing to invest a little time and effort into a small, pocket-sized trick you will get a lot of mileage out of this one.

“Once Upon A Time” by Guy Hollingworth is a storytelling deck that can be used to magically tell three well-known children's stories. Within this cleverly designed deck you can magically relate Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Jack And The Beanstalk and Cinderella. The deck has been designed in such a way that the printed pages of the book magically turn into pictures, as well as having images appear and disappear and objects change from one thing to another. So clever is the design that what appears to be a book that has only one story contains three. What is nice about that is, if you tell one story more than likely you will be asked to tell another and yet another, and you can.

Some basic card handling skills are needed, this is not an automatic, flip a switch card deck. Knowing a double lift and finger breaks are needed sleights as well as a false cut. “Once Upon A Time” marries card magic with story telling which allows you to exercise multiple skills at one time. Along with the deck, you will get a fully illustrated booklet showing all the moves, sleights and handlings of the deck. There is no DVD or video instruction.

With one deck of cards, you can entertain for fifteen minutes or more while appealing to all age levels except for the very youngest. Once Upon A Time is not a cheap trick. For a deck of cards, it is quite pricey to be honest.

However, as a kid's magician how much would you have to invest in typical props to get 15 -20 minutes in a show? Probably a heck of a lot more. "Once Upon A Time" is highly recommended as an item to have with you if you know you're going someplace where there may be children to entertain.

To watch Once Upon A Time click here:

<https://www.vanishinginmagic.com/magic/beginners-magic/Once-Upon-A-Time/>

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## Modern Day Proverbs

I plan to be spontaneous – tomorrow.

Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of car payments.

Love may be blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.

You can impress more friends with your ears than you can with your mouth.

Two things that are bad for your heart: running up stairs and running down people.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

Seen it all, done it all, just can't remember much of it.

## Do you believe in magic? - Magic for the general magician

### Invisible Card by Blake Vogt



Mentalism or Mental Magic, is there much of a difference? There is if you were a mentalist, but the truth is that the public doesn't differentiate. To them, everything you do is considered magic whether it has a mental flavor or it is obviously in the magical camp.

Invisible Card by Blake Vogt is one such trick that straddles the line between the two.

The effect starts out like the traditional invisible card deck routine. An invisible deck is handed to a spectator. They choose between number cards and court cards. They decide on a card and fold it up. They place the pretend folded card in the closed fist of the magician whereby he then produces in actuality the card they chose. Sounds amazing right? In actuality, the trick is very close to what is described. So for those who are still pondering how this is possible, there is a gimmick and a method. Of course, there is, do you think magic is real?

The method and gimmick will allow you to display any court card chosen. You will not be limited to one type of card i.e. Queens for example. If the Jack of Clubs is chosen, you can produce the Jack of Clubs. The method allows you to have the court cards chosen (via our old friend equivoque) and the gimmick allows you to display any one of the court cards. Like any magic trick, there is an Achilles heel. The gimmick cannot be inspected nor in my opinion shown for just a few moments. I will also go out on a limb and say that low lighting will be helpful to the performer (as well as the spectators consuming some adult beverages). This is not to say the gimmick

isn't well made, it is. However due to the number of options, one has to be able to show any one of a dozen cards which makes the gimmick a bit cumbersome. Like any other method, you need to practice locating, opening and displaying the chosen card to make it look natural and that there is only one card in your hand. I found that you may need to cup the card to hide the thickness of the gimmick. However don't let that discourage you, the effect is probably the only one that allows this amount of options without carrying a wallet full of cards or an index. One bit of advice, at \$50 it is expensive and I would wait until it shows up on sale somewhere like I did.

To watch a trailer about The Invisible Card click here:

<https://store.theory11.com/products/invisible-card-by-blake-vogt#/play-video>

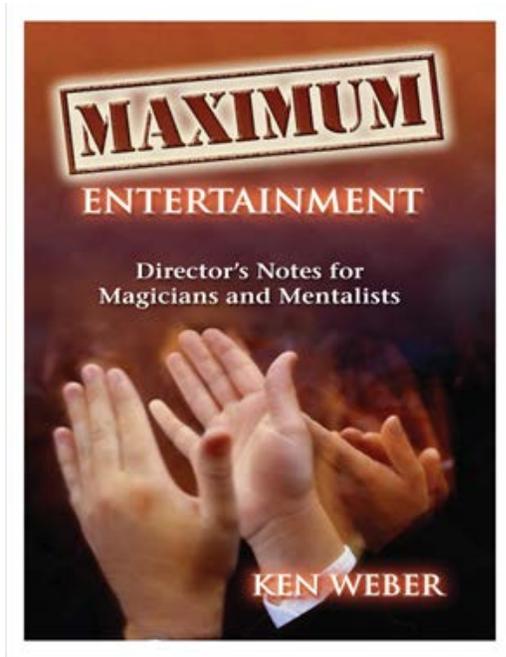
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## RABBITS AGAINST MAGIC



## The Magic Library - A Book Review

### Maximum Entertainment by Ken Weber



At SAM 181 we see lots of magic. In fact, there are some members that go to multiple clubs, lots of lectures and watch dozens if not more videos. Yet, at each one of these venues to watch magic, there are those performers that rise to the top and others who struggle to get through one trick. Some are more fluid and polished. They grab your attention while some others make you fall asleep. What is the difference and how do we improve

what we do? Unless you have the ability to have a real director guide you in your attempt to improve, you would have to resort to more affordable means of guidance. Maximum Entertainment by Ken Weber is a must read for those that desire to improve.

Ken Weber is a highly accomplished in the financial field as well as a performer in his own right. As a long time member of the PEA (Psychic Entertainers Association) his ability to dissect a performance and turn it on its head is legendary. Ken had advised and helped mentalists as well as magicians to fine tune their performances and make the most out of every moment they have on stage.

You may not like what you read in Maximum Entertainment because it may bring up points that either you are doing already and dismiss or go against your long time beliefs in how to perform magic. The book is over 250 pages long and covers

everything from your physical appearance, the words you speak, controlling the moment to stage presence. There is almost nothing in a performance that is not touched upon in this book. I personally wish that it would have been several volumes long, it is that good. If you want to even slightly improve your performance, reading this guide will certainly help you.



Bruce, Dave, Jimmy Brown, Coco and Reba tearing paper

## London launches world's first contactless payment scheme for street performers



Here's a casualty of the cashless society you might not have previously thought of: the humble street performer. After all, if more of us are paying our way with smartphones and contactless cards, how can we give spare change to musicians on the subway? London has one solution: a new scheme that outfits performers with contactless payment terminals.

The project was launched this weekend by the city's mayor, Sadiq Khan, and is a collaboration with Busk In London (a professional body for buskers) and the Swedish payments firm iZettle (which was bought this month by PayPal for \$2.2 billion). A select few performers have been testing iZettle's contactless readers on the streets for the past few weeks, and Khan now says the scheme will be rolled out across London's 32 boroughs.

Charlotte Campbell, a full-time street performer who was part of the trial, told BBC News that the new tech “had a significant impact on contributions.” Said Campbell: “More people than ever tap-to-donate whilst I sing, and often, when one person does, another follows.”



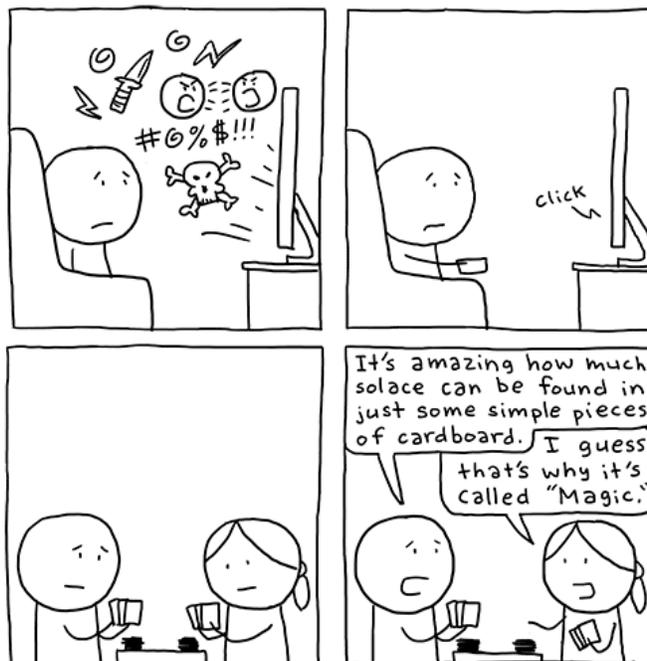
The readers need to be connected to a smartphone or tablet, and accept payments of fixed amounts (set by the individual performer). They work with contactless cards, phones, and even smartwatches. There’s no detail yet on how many readers will be provided to London’s street performers, or whether they will have to pay for the readers themselves.

Although individuals do sometimes set up their own contactless payment systems (and in China, it’s not uncommon to see street performers and beggars use QR codes to solicit mobile tips), this

seems to be the first scheme of its kind spearheaded by a city authority.

“Busking helps emerging artists to hone their talent and gives them the chance to perform in front of huge numbers of people,” said Khan in a press statement. “I’m delighted that iZettle has chosen London to launch this innovative scheme - allowing artists to accept donations by card payment, as well as cash. Now, more Londoners will be able to show their support to the capital’s brilliant, talented street performers.”

Although street performers will be able to adapt to this change, it’s also worth thinking about those that won’t, like the homeless. Experts say that if coins and notes disappears from city streets it’ll be yet another barrier that keeps the destitute out of society. If you don’t have a bank account or access to the internet, how are you supposed to live in a world without cash? That’s a question we have yet to answer.



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# MAGIC CALENDAR

	THU JUNE 7	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 181</b> meeting is Thursday, June 7, 2018, with a workshop lead by Magic Mike on “Mistakes, Misfires and Backup Plans” at the First United Methodist Church, 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Doors open at 7:00. Workshop at 7:30 PM. <a href="http://magicsam181.com">http://magicsam181.com</a>
	SUN JUNE 10	<b>Bob Little's Super Sunday</b> on Sunday, June 10, 2018, 10 am to 10 pm at the Best Western, 3499 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020. All day only \$40. <a href="http://boblittlessupersunday.com/">http://boblittlessupersunday.com/</a>
	MON JUNE 11	<b>I.B.M. Ring 6</b> , The Delaware Valley Conjurers Club regularly meets every 2nd Monday, with a meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018, at the Hancock United Methodist Church, 542 Wesley Road, Springfield, PA.
	MON JUNE 11	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 161</b> meets on the second Monday of each month at the Stoney Brook Grille, 1285 Easton Turnpike in Branchburg, NJ 08876. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAM161CALENDAR/about/</a>
	TUE JUNE 19	<b>I.B.M. Ring 200</b> meets on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08817.
	THU JUNE 21	<b>S.A.M. Assembly 4</b> will be meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at the Polish Home, 9150 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114, doors open at 6:30 PM.
	WED JUNE 27	<b>I.B.M. Ring 123</b> will be meeting on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at the King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Road, Middleton, NJ 07748 starting at 7 PM
	FRI-SAT JUNE 29 - 30	<b>MAXX EAST 2018</b> : Newark: June 29-30, 2018 at the Hilton Newark Airport, 1170 Spring St, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. Join Dan Harlan, Michael Weber, and Chad Long for an unparalleled TWO DAY convention event! <a href="http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/9791">http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/9791</a>
	FRI JUNE 29	Magic is back on TV! <b>The Masters of Illusions</b> , season 5 premieres June 29th, 8pm/7c on the CW.

Visit the Magic Calendar on our SAM 181 website at [http://magicsam181.com/?page\\_id=95](http://magicsam181.com/?page_id=95)