

On being clumsy

Let's define *clumsy*:

- gawky: lacking grace in movement or posture;
- awkward: not elegant or graceful in expression;
- bungling: showing lack of skill or aptitude;

Does this sound like the last magician you saw? Pete Rose will give you 4:1 odds that it does.....

There's a discussion on *Fat City* about purposely dumbing down a performance for layman, so they think you aren't skillful. Unless you're performing for Cafe regulars or your audience looks like this:



nobody thinks you are creating these *miracles* by magic!

I've often thought that most, if not all, of the *look clumsy* proponents have no choice. They're skillless oafs, incapable of giving a competent performance, so they excuse it with this lame excuse. Hell fellers, Dick F. Cheney makes better excuses than that!

Thinks about it for a moment. When you present a magic trick, it can be explained by ANY audience in one of 4 ways:

1. *Real magic*
2. *Some sort of inhuman force*
3. *Skill*
4. *Some sort of gimmick available at the local shop*

Anyone with an IQ of 55 or greater will probably dismiss the first 2 as improbable. That leaves *skill* or *mechanical trickery*.

What impression do you want to leaves with your audience? I would think most would prefer the former. This is what elevates the art. Unfortunately most performances are the latter. Couple that with a clumsy performance, contrived or not - add a few stale jokes and you take magic down another undeserved notch.

If you insisted on the clumsy approach, call Curly and Moe and see if they want to do a *Stooges* revival or get a job with FEMA, but stay away from magic!

Take care.....

