

Hold Your Nose

Generally, I only post reviews for two categories - *Good to Great* and *Unimaginably Bad*. In all honesty, I try to concentrate on the former as they do the most good for everyone. I like good magic and like telling you about it.

However, once in a while there comes along a product so unimaginably bad that I must write about it. Products that require ENORMOUS BALLS to ask money for them. I'm talking about world class, pants ripping kajonies. Could you have actually produced and sold *Silver Shifter*, for instance?



In a way, I admire these people. I would never, never in a thousand years, dreamed you could sell bottled water, \$5 coffee or \$50 rubber coins. Thus, I am doomed to a life of poverty - so be it!

Magicians are the easiest of consumers. I'm constantly amazed at the number of discussions on the Cafe which revolve around someone defending shoddy treatment, poor shipping or total non-delivery of promised product. The reasons given by the various vendors are invariably pathetic. Their defenders, and there are many, seem unfazed by the jobbing. I stand constantly amazed.

In my old blog I wrote a post titled *F*** me, I'm A Magician*. It received more comments than anything I ever wrote. Even there the defenders could be found.

The travesty I'm referring to in this review is a 2 DVD set called *The Sankey Sanders Sessions*. I honestly don't know how old these are and am not interested enough to find out. The cover says it was shot in 2002. If I can save 1 person from buying this, then it is worth it.

As far as I can tell, one of these guys got a video camera for Christmas and started filming each other doing a bunch (21) of mediocre tricks. At some point one of them must have said *think we can sell these tapes*. After the laughter died down they must have decided - why not - they've seen worse stuff sold. (That's true, but barely).

Remember what I said above about having industrial grade balls – they took one DVD worth of material and put it on 2 DVDs! It appears they spent the greater part of 15 minutes editing and slapping together a menu.

Both of these guys can do better. Sanders is a likable and capable magician. Some of his earlier stuff has been overpriced, but at least it was decent.

Jay Sankey has gradually tarnished a fine and deserved reputation. His early stuff was brilliantly creative and items like *Mr. Clean Coins Across* and *Paperclipped* are modern classics and seminal points for many other tricks. His recent output has been, in a word, pathetic. I expect him to start spitting in a napkin and selling it next. Apparently he has a following that will buy it.

Any good points? Actually the physical production is top notch and you get 2 DVD holders which you can use for other DVDs – that way you can recover 50¢ of the money you spent.

I recall an old story about a farmer that gradually replaced his horse's food with more and more saw dust. The horse never complained, but one day the horse died. These guys should remember this.

Take care.....

