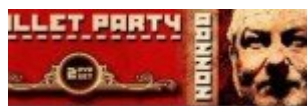


Missed Target



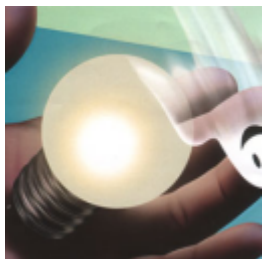
I've spent a good bit of time over the last couple of days watching John Bannon's latest DVD effort, *Bullet Party*. It's not bad, just uninspired. It reminds me so much of the later efforts of Ammar, Malone and Osterlind. They just seem tired and the best material was already used. All of the excitement and energy shown in the earlier DVDs just wasn't there. I feel the same way about *Bullet Party*. This DVD set consists of two DVDs and two sets of cards for the headlining packet tricks. It's a good value. There's actually enough material for two DVDs, which is not always the case recently. Bannon has certainly improved his on camera persona. His introductions to each trick are very well done. I guess standing in the woods introducing card tricks is now the thing to do since the Paul Harris boxed set. I don't understand that, nor do I understand performing the tricks while sitting on a weight bench in a workout room. Maybe somebody can explain it to me. It's not that the tricks are bad, it's just that I've come to expect so much more from him. I'm glad I got it and certainly don't feel screwed, but I'm certainly not excited. OH!! One other thing. They traded Sammie Pennington for David Solomon. I don't care which side of the tracks you play on, that's not a good deal!

i/m



Another i/m tip: Carry a small mirror with you when you perform. Before going "on stage" look at yourself in the mirror. If you are wearing a dunce cap, fez or other humorous item on your head. TAKE IT OFF! It's not funny and you look ridiculous.

To light or not to light



After all of these years in magic I bought my first Tenyo magic trick, Scotty York's Lamp Trick or, as Tenyo calls it, Ghost Lamp.

I had the version originally put out by Ken Brooke many years ago and also the "improved" version marketed by Paul Stone. Both of these were breakable and rather fragile, but the trick was worth the necessary care.

The current Tenyo version is, of course, plastic, but it looks much more substantial and is realistic enough to use, I believe. I just keep wondering whether it screams "electronics" to a modern audience. Those that are familiar with the trick realize that it has nothing to do with electronics, but it would be a convenient explanation used to dismiss the trick. I have scrupulously avoided things like magic apps, which have no mystery at all and are only useful as curiosities.

Another concern is whether any trick using an incandescent type of bulb is not dated. I guess the only thing to do is just start working with it and see how a modern audience reacts. I think it's a cool trick, but that means absolutely nothing to the audience. I'll report back later.