

A Favorite Favourite

I've often said that Andrew Musgrave over at Ye Olde Magick Blogge writes the most ambitious and intelligent articles on the web (magicwise). He has committed himself, as have several other bloggers, to producing an article per day during 2011. We'll talk about that later. Right now I want to concentrate on several of his most recent articles.

He has declared February as favourites (as he spells it) month. So far, the articles have been outstanding. I would think the toughest part of this series is actually defining the categories. He has already written articles such as favorite book on magic theory, favorite L & L performance, and favorite talk show magic performance. As I write this article, I believe I have only agreed with Andrew on one item, which is favorite impromptu card trick. Certainly, much of this is due to our sizable difference in ages (I have underwear older than Andrew) and part of it do to our individual preferences and prejudices e.g. he has already awarded two categories to Jay Sankey, which is something I would never do. Jay has put out so much crap over the years that was unworthy of publication that I have a hard time accepting he has also done some incredibly good development.



The article which recently caught my attention was *favourite torn and restored card*. The easy out would have been J. C. Wagener's seminal routine and it would have been an excellent choice. Andrew, however, went with Charlie Frye's *Ripped and Fried*. Frankly, this is a trick that I had missed. It is on one of the discs in Paul Harris' True Astonishment set. In searching out Charlie's trick, I again realized what a terrible, terrible effort the long awaited Harris set was. Here we have the work of possibly the most influential magician of the past 30 years and he doesn't show a single trick. Boy, was I disappointed!

Charlie's trick is well conceived, well executed and doable. I'm a big fan of Charlie Frye - his juggling and magic. This trick is worth looking up. Our thanks to Andrew for bringing this and other items to our attention.

i/m

PS Favorite L&L performance? - it's gotta be that gal in the front row of Tommy Wonder's DVDs keeping that micro skirt from going that last inch before the vice

squad is called in. VERY impressive.

The kid finally gets it right



Mr. Erland referred to yours truly as *venerable* in his latest post.

I wasn't sure if I had been insulted, so I checked the dictionary:

Pronunciation: \?ve-n?r(-?)-b?l, ?ven-r?-b?l\

Function: adjective

Date: 15th century

*1: deserving to be **venerated** —used as a title for an Anglican archdeacon or for a Roman Catholic who has been accorded the lowest of three degrees of recognition for sanctity*
2: made sacred especially by religious or historical association
3 a: calling forth respect through age, character, and attainments <a venerable jazz musician>; broadly : conveying an impression of aged goodness and benevolence <encouraged by the venerable doctor's head-nodding> b: impressive by reason of age <under venerable pines>

synonyms see *old*

— *ven·er·a·bil·i·ty* \?ve-n?-r?-?bi-l?-te-, ?ven-r?-\ noun
— *ven·er·a·ble·ness* \?ve-n?r(-?)-b?l-n?s, ?ven-r?-\ noun
— *ven·er·a·bly* \-ble-\ adverb

Even though the *old* theme runs through the definition, I can live with that.

He classifies our little corner of magic blogland with The Phantom Notebooks. I consider this an honor. Anyone that writes with the sheer passion he exhibits has my admiration. Don't miss the current series of *The Man Who Raped Erdnase*. Agree with him or not (personally I do) it's not to be ignored if you have any real interest in the pasteboards.

Take care.....



I asked the cab driver, "Where can I get some cheap action?". He took me to my house. - Rodney Dangerfield

Blog briefs



Thereâ€™s some pretty good stuff going on in blogland these days. For any of us writing blogs, itâ€™s an ego thing. Whether weâ€™re trying to be entertaining, controversial, instructive or just screwing around, weâ€™re making the large assumption that we have something worth reading â€” at least by some people.

Writing a blog takes time and thought. If youâ€™re reading one regularly and like what you see â€” leave a comment. I can assure you that it is appreciated. If the blog sucks, then move on. It will wither and die if enough people feel that way.

Anyway, hereâ€™s a brief look at some of the blogs I read and whatâ€™s going on:

Unexpected Wonders â€” Jim Coles writes the most thoughtful posts about magic of anyone currently available. As I write this, heâ€™s complaining about being 44. Hell! Iâ€™ve got socks older than that!

Reverie â€” Tom Frankâ€™s very personal magic blog. I could never be comfortable exposing myself the way Tom does, but heâ€™s been a regular poster for a long time and those of us that follow his blog really feel like we know him.

An interesting man. His description is very telling “ *Just celebrated the 21st anniversary of my 21st birthday. Crazy about a girl named Polly. Love to Swing Dance. Trick Deck Pitchman. I have 4 kids who won’t speak to me. See what I mean.*

Be sure to catch some of his videos he makes available. The one on the linking rings is superb.

The Wizard’s Ball “ Mike only posts sporadically. I wish we saw more of him. His recent post is about the disappearing Cafe topics which we continue to endure. He comes to a conclusion that I disagree with strongly:

Instead of crapping themselves every time a naysayer comes along perhaps the Cafe could learn something and perchance improve by allowing a bit of healthy debate.

Go on Steve you know you want to.

The last thing that group wants is open discussion.

The Phantom Notebooks “ He’s just begun a review of the Rob Stiff / MagicMakers production of Wesley James 7 DVD set *The Man Who Knows Erdnase*. Actually it’s more like a public execution. e.g. his conclusion on DVD #1: *A completely pointless and useless DVD.... and yet still the best of this 7 disc set.* I’m not a good one to comment here” as I’m no fan of Wesley James either. Don’t miss the series if you are into cards, at all.

Magicforge Blog Tracker “ Although the MagicForge blog has been dormant since February, the blog tracker continues to perform a valuable service. Do yourself a favor and subscribe to the RSS feed. It makes it very easy to keep up with the status and postings of all the major magic blogs.

Take care.....



A person who trusts no one can’t be trusted.

Recommended - Unexpected Wonders Post



Jim Coles writes an intelligent and insightful blog, unlike the spittle youâ€™™re currently reading. I found the following article on e-book pricing particularly well done.

Unexpected Wonders: Magic E-Book Pricing.

Take careâ€¦â€¦

