



## Alex McAleer Lecture – Ring 17 (Toronto, Canada)

Alex McAleer (a.k.a. Alexander Marsh) gave a lecture on May 6 that Rob Fishbaum (a.k.a. Fish the Magish) predicted everyone would love.

In 2013, Alex joined the ensemble illusion show *Champions of Magic* performing over five hundred shows across Canada, the United States, Mexico, and the United Kingdom, including London's West End. As I write this, he is currently performing his own one-man show in Toronto at The Lighthouse ArtSpace and there are three performances remaining until May 12. Then, he heads back to perform shows in the U.K. I snagged tickets for opening night, and it was a solid show from start to finish.

His first offering for our group was with a pack of ESP (Zener) cards. The magician and participant alternate dealing five sym-

bols and, upon turning them over, it appears the participant has predicted the order in which the magician would deal the cards. Alex then showed a version for walk-around where you hand your phone to someone and three other helpers each tell the magician to stop shuffling at any time, resulting in three symbols being selected. The three stopped-at cards are shown to match a picture on the phone.

Next was a coin routine based on Alex's routine "Hot." This effect enables you to deduce which side a participant has flipped following a coin toss. To this he has added a clever prediction aspect in which you can show you previously wrote the word "heads" or "tails" on a dollar bill.

He went on to explain that, using the same dollar bill configuration, you could do a semi-hands-off "Bills Across" routine, since



*Alex, on why the billet switch matters.*

the preparation would enable you to count a stack as either three bills or five bills.

The hour following the break was all about billets, specifically Alex's preferred peeking practices. In order to do this, you write a message on a business card that takes up all the space except for the bottom right quadrant. Alex's message is typically the following, "Please write any short English word \_\_\_\_\_." If you are handing out several and wish to keep track of who wrote what, right before the line you can put a dash to represent person number one, a colon for person number two, and an ellipsis for person number three. Alex then demonstrated the effect that he currently uses to open his show, using two billets in two envelopes and two audience members. Following this, he added a third billet in envelope with a switch involving a flapless envelope. Each routine was well constructed and very clever. By the time the second hour was up, I wanted to dig into Corinda and Annemann to uncover hidden gems I had overlooked simply because they involved billets. If it's an illusionist's job to "talk away the box," then it is the mental-



*Alex, selling merchandise and signing autographs for Ring 17 after the lecture while the crowd gathers.*

ist's duty to "talk away the billets" – something that Mr. McAleer does magnificently.

At the conclusion of Alex's lecture it was clear to everyone that Rob's prediction had come true.

For lovers of mentalism, please check out Alex's site at [www.the1914.com](http://www.the1914.com). He has items for sale, including the aforementioned "Hot" and a comprehensive Billet Master Class. Follow Alex on Instagram @alexthe-mindreader. *David Peck*

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