

Jeff Hinchliffe Lecture for Ring 17 (Toronto, Ontario)

If you attended our September meeting, you'd now know who Louis B. Histed was. Histed invented the "Square Circle" and also had a deep love for card magic. That's how guest lecturer Jeff Hinchliffe introduced his well-attended club get together as we kicked off our year.

Jeff is a talented magician. He's a smart, thoughtful, and engaging performer who gives a marvelous lecture. Ring 17 was thrilled to have him at our first in-person meeting after over two years of hanging out together online. It was great to be back.

The club was entertained and engaged. Jeff's magic is rooted in the work behind the work, but he's never in it for the pursuit of the merely academic. He cares about the magic, the audience, and the moment. He really is looking to fool you badly. He wants you scratching your head one second and gasping the next. His work on *Mnemonic* is a thing of beauty to watch unfold. The immediacy of how he teases

out his magic while he sprints from one revelation to the next is a skill you can only get from working an effect this way and that. He knows how to interact with the crowd, and he knows how to get them involved. I love how Jeff thinks.

We learned about variations on Vernon's "Out of Sight and Out of Mind," the power behind revealing thought-of cards, a few fine points on mentalism, and some practical ideas on the Breather Crimp. Jeff talked about Si Stebbins and tipped us a little on how he approaches improvisation and jazzing. We even found out that The Colouring Book was originally unpacked in Scot's *Discovery of Witchcraft*. Hard to believe Reginald felt compelled to expose this in the sixteenth century. I wonder what the going rate was for a birthday party as the Enlightenment began to unfold.

Jeff took us to a few new levels regarding forcing techniques. We were surrounded in subtleties as he shared little bits



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of helpful business from Michael Weber, Max Maven, and Mel Stover. In between, he reminded us of the rich tradition and history of which we're all a part. For example, years ago I had read about The Stranger Card in *Expert Card Technique* and have now, thanks to Jeff, rediscovered its brilliance. A handy tool for those of us in the miracle-making business. One of those "worth the price of admission" moments.

Jeff is a generous performer and gifted teacher. When he's not lecturing, creating, or performing he can be found at the

Browser's Den in Toronto. Yes, an actual brick and mortar shop. A great place to get your magic and an intimate spot to hang out. Stop by next time you're in Toronto.

We were thrilled to have Jeff start off our year. He may not be doing the lecture circuit soon, but if he decides to and travels down that road, you need to host him at your club. You'll learn a ton, be entertained, get a little history lesson in between, and oh yeah, did I mention ... he'll knock your socks off? I've been wandering around barefoot for days now. *David Peck*

Ring 21 (Hollywood, California) Installs New Officers

Returning to Taix French Restaurant in Los Angeles, Ring 21 members assembled with their friends and families to dine, meet, and honor the newly elected officers. After installing the officers, popular magician Jonathan Levitt enthralled the crowd with some fabulous magic. The meeting closed with a raffle, where many lucky prize winners left with an array of magical gifts donated by several club members.

Gerry Schiller



Jonathan Levitt does his magic, making Wendy Sobel feel a totally different object from that which the audience saw him place in the box.



New officers for Ring 21 (from left) Raul Fernandez, Krikor Guzelian – Members at Large; Bob Weiss – Sergeant-at Arms; Bob Thomas – Past President; Gerry Schiller – Secretary; Lex Schwartz – Vice President; Charles Cisneros – President; (seated) Wendy Sobel – Treasurer.