



Ring 17 (Toronto, Canada) Huot Lecture



Last month, members of Ring 17 (Toronto, Canada) had the privilege of watching the supremely creative magic of Michel Huot. Michel began by explaining how he got into magic. During dark times in his early twenties, Michel had gone to a magic show and when it was over he realized that he been able to put his sorrows aside for its entirety. Recognizing what a remarkable gift magic had given him, he began to pursue it in earnest. The first magic book he read was *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*, a book he still loves to this day.

I was instantly intrigued by the first item involving a large gift box sitting on his table. Nicole was invited to assist, and she chose one of a number of images of stuffed animals. The one she chose ended up being the exact same stuffed animal in the box. Not only that, but Michel also asked Nicole what its name should be. Nicole said "Cuddly." When Nicole opened the box and removed the stuffy, it was wearing a tag around its neck that read Cuddly. Inspired by John Archer's "Collared," Michel has made some clever modifications to make the effect even stronger.

"Re-match" was a cool trick wherein a

candle was lit with a wooden match. Then Michel stared at the burned match and we all witnessed the char visibly vanishing off the match until it became like new again. To prove it had gone back in time, he lit the match once more.

Imagine "Paperclipped" without the paperclip or the Clarity Box without the box and you'll understand what Michel showed us next. A folded card was placed in the outer breast pocket of his jacket. Then, Michel displayed a number of signs (i.e., red or black; heart or diamond; odd or even, etc.) which led to the audience creating a playing card. When the card that had been in full view, protruding from in his pocket the entire time, was unfolded it was seen to be the very card created! This was called "Cardvertisement" (including HIPS).

Next up was a mash up, not of tricks but of songs. In one hand Michel showed cards with various songs written on them and in the other hand cards with various artists. A card was selected from each packet. When the cards were dealt, one from each hand in unison, it was seen that none of the artists matched up with their songs. One of the selections was shown and the artist was seen to be Sinatra, Michel then played a song which sounded like "New York, New York," but turned into "I've Got a Feeling." When the Sinatra card was turned around it now said The Black Eyed Peas. Think of this like a McCombial Deck using music to add an additional punchline.

Andrew Sutherland assisted Michel with his next trick by selecting a card. The card was lost in the deck, the cards tossed into the air and a glue stick plunged into the cascading



(l to r): Michel shows “Dirty Pool.” • “Priceless.” • “Rematch.” • “Shoeing Gum.”

cards. Unbelievably, the selection ended up stuck on the end of the glue stick. I believe this was used one time as a back-up when Michel’s Card Sword was left behind and ever since it’s this version that has stuck (pun intended). Following a similar plot, another card was chosen. Michel put some chewing gum on the toe of his shoe, tossed the cards in the air once again and kicked his foot into cascading cards. Perhaps even more unbelievably, the signed selection stuck to the gum on his shoe! Appropriately, this trick is called “Shoe-ing Gum.” I saw this in July at the Browser’s Bash where it was a stage-filling piece, and it was also good to see it done in this intimate lecture setting where it was equally effective.

“Nostalgia” is a mentalism effect using a toy many readers will recall from their childhoods. A number of ViewMaster reels were shown and one was selected, and the images thereupon were viewed by a spectator who chose one of the many images. The volunteer concentrated on the image and Michel successfully drew a picture of what was being imagined.

“Priceless” was a crowd favourite. Michel asked us to guess how much his blazer cost. We did and he explained that he paid nothing

– he stole it! Removing his jacket, he showed that the security tag was still attached, and we could see the price tag hanging off of it. Sure enough, when the tag was turned around it showed the same price that we had guessed.

Michel closed his lecture with “Dirty Pool” in which cards with different pictures of billiard balls were shown and an audience member selected one. Michel explained that he had a prediction in the card case. He shook the case and a full-size billiard ball fell out of it, the very one selected!

Overall, Michel presented an action-packed lecture that was filled from start to finish with direct, hard-hitting effects using an eclectic mix of items, all of which were done with practical, audience-tested methods that have been honed over years of performances. In addition to the effects mentioned above, his merch table was filled with other treasures including three different sets of lecture notes (including his Penguin lecture), a booklet discussing the best way to choose audience members and last but not least, The Comet Table which all restaurant workers will want to have the minute they see it. I can’t wait to see what he comes up with next.

David Sutherland

75th Anniversary Celebration of Ring 79 (Binghamton, New York)

Ring 79 (Binghamton, New York) gathered at Tony’s Restaurant in Endicott, New York to celebrate our seventy-fifth anniversary. Folks enjoyed each other’s company over drinks and hors d’oeuvres before sitting down to a wonderful meal.

Dan Young read out a resolution that the

New York State Senate and Assembly passed recognizing Ring 79’s seventy-five years of providing magic to the community. Doug Welch, who recently became our TVP, read out a Presidential Citation from I.B.M. International President Charles Arkin, recognizing the Ring’s achievement. Doug presented