



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2025 - Number 9 - September 2025

Classics of Magic Public Show - Saturday September 27, 2025 - 7:00 pm

Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas

Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School



The September meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists will feature a Classics of Magic public show on Saturday evening September 27. The 7:00 pm show will be held at the Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth.

The show will feature a full 90 minutes of classic magic effects. Narrated by Honorary Life Member Bruce Chadwick, all members of the clubs who wish to perform will be given a chance to do so. It will be a great opportunity for the public to see great magical mysteries such as floating lady in the air, the production of a person from nowhere, astounding magical boxes that produce an assortment of mysterious items, feats of dexterity, skill, and sleight-of-hand.

The show will be limited to an audience of 50 people. All seats are general admission, first come, first served. While the show is technically free to anyone who would like to attend, a suggested cash donation at the door of \$10-\$15 per person is appreciated.

Please bring your family and friends, tell your neighbors and associates. There will only be one show and it promises to be an incredible event. Magicians, if you want to perform, please contact President Gary Poe. See the back page of this newsletter for his contact information.



MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Over the years, Lance Pierce has become an “underground” legend in the art of magic. Associated with other experts and masters in the field of sleight-of-hand such as Roger Klause, John Cornelius and Michael Skinner, Pierce is the author of “Roger Klause in Concert” and “The Award Winning Magic of John Cornelius.” He is also the webmaster of The Magic Pebble online forum and the host and organizer of Pebblepalooza, a close-up convention in Dallas, Texas. Simply put, Lance is a “magician’s magician.”

At 7:00 pm on Thursday August 21 for the monthly club meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists, Lance blew our 17 plus group of magicians away with his incredible creativity, innovations, and perspectives regarding the magical arts. His work with cards, coins, dye tube, ring and string handling, and other effects was astounding and perfect. His work was refined, his psychology was in the right place, and his thinking about performance was virtually flawless. Lance is easily one of the top sleight-of-hand experts in the world.

The lecture was free for 2025 dues-paid-up members of our club. Others attended the lecture by paying \$25 cash per person at the door, or some paid on the Application page of our www.sam138.com website and thus made application for club membership for the remainder of the 2025 club year.

As a bonus, Pierce also offered a tabletop discussion from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop. This hands-on training was offered for the low cost of \$20 per person cash for all attendees (dues-paid-up members and guests) and paid at the door. Needless-to-say, the discussion was well attended. In all, the discussion and subsequent lecture was no doubt one of the most incredible meetings in our club’s history.



MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Gary Poe called to order the August 21, 2025, Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:46 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room. The meeting was held sandwiched between the Lance Pierce Tabletop Discussion that was held from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, and before Lance's lecture for the 7:00 pm Monthly Clubs Meeting.

A quorum of all officers were in attendance including President Gary Poe, Vice President Joey Byers, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Sergeant at Arms Jack McCoy, Historian Hare Evison, and Member at Large William Weebo Beaty.

The minutes of the July Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the August issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Lonnie Olander reported a previous Operating Account balance of \$11513.41. Receipts from the close-up show were \$166.24, and the clubs had the usual MailChimp monthly \$13.86 charge, leaving the clubs with a balance of \$1665.79 plus the club's CD investment.

The Classics of Magic Public Show on Saturday evening September 27 at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse, was discussed at length. (See the front page of this month's SERVANTRE for additional information).

Other meetings for the 2025 club year include:

Oct - Spooky Magic

Nov - Swap Meet and Finger Foods

Dec - Christmas Party and Show

With no further business, the Executive Committee Meeting concluded at 000 pm to start the 7:00 pm Monthly Club Meeting and Lance Pierce lecture.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary





LESSONS

This last month was a great learning experience for those who were able to participate. I found the Evening With Lance Pierce to be the magic highlight of my reign as club president, and I know others that attended will agree with me. As I now descend into the lame duck era of my rule, I know things will be all downhill. I will attempt here to summarize at least some of what I took away from our club's evening with Lance.

Lance is first and foremost a really nice and humble fella. I believe that should not be overlooked as an important part of why his magic was so darn good. If Lance had the over inflated ego that too many magicians display then I am certain his magic would have suffered considerably. Lance was not "an actor playing the part of a magician". He was himself. His performing style was that of an open and sharing friend. He was authentic. Not one time did it feel like he was a person trying to fool me. There was no "I know something you don't" attitude that gave off a condescending vibe. It was a feeling of friends hanging out and sharing an experience.

I feel this was a powerful weapon, especially in the intimacy of close-up magic. It is odd to say "weapon" when speaking of just keeping the ego in check and being genuine and nice. Perhaps it is a sad statement that I even notice it because it should be the norm.

We should take away how disarming it is to be genuine and likeable. If you perform and frequently deal with the arms crossed, "not gonna fool me" type spectator, then perhaps you are creating the wrong vibe and could benefit from looking in the mirror for more than checking to see if you flash.

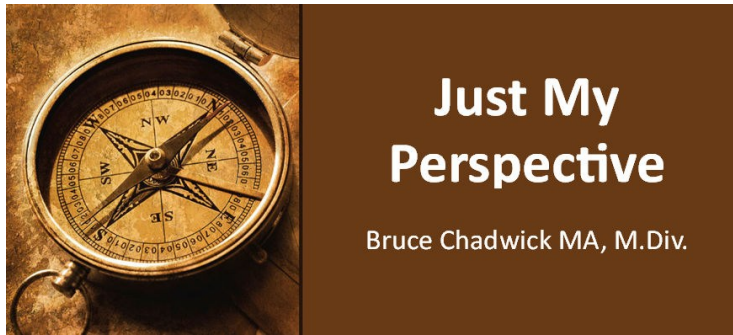
There were other lessons to be learned at the evening with Lance. I saw a guy repeatedly fool a room of magicians with stuff they know while using effects that were created for real people. These were not routines that were designed as magician foolers, which only a magician could love. These were real world routines that could be performed with people all around.

I know Lance is capable of difficult sleight of hand but he didn't do anything I would rate more difficult than 5/10. He did practical magic and the sleights and effects that were within the realm of possibility for the average magician. His magic WAS NOT within the realm of possibility for the average magician unless that magician decided to quit being average and give their magic more love and attention.

Part of the beauty of everything performed was that every move was done at a level of perfection that made it so smooth and invisible when combined with the excellent construction of the routines. That doesn't happen if a magician is content to be average. Don't get me wrong. The effects could be pretty in the hands of an average magician but we witnessed how beautiful they can be with study, dedication and a deep understanding of our art.

In summary I think the lessons were: Be likeable, practice to perfection, study your magic and polish to perfection. That means stripping away all unnatural and unmotivated movements. These lessons aren't new but we rarely see them so well embodied in a magician.

We should remain students of our art. If we are mere students, then hopefully the arrogance that plagues magicians will be kept at bay.



VERY STRANGE NAMES

Magicians use some very strange names. They have invisible thread, finger choppers, hot books, silks, and the Faro shuffle. There are also names that have questionable political correctness such as Chink-a-Chink and the Jap Hank Box.

There are Chinese Sticks, Buddha Tubes, black art principles, devil's hanks, zombie balls, dragon's breath, stripper decks, and the spirit dancing handkerchief. Imagine a layman listening to a magician at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop asking for an imp bottle, an occult board, and a nudist deck! Visions of someone being burned alive at the stake come to mind.

Then too, magicians shouldn't use names in front of laymen that reveal too much. Laymen shouldn't hear names such as invisible thread, vanishing silk handkerchief pulls, mirror boxes, shell coins, and thumb tips. Using these names gives too much away.

As well, magicians shouldn't use questionable language that contradict their morals. There is little place for remarks that are racist, derogatory, or immoral. Certainly so called "street language" has no place in magic.

Magicians should also think carefully before including the bra trick and Magic Ding Dong in their performances. A large portion of an audience's perception of a performer comes from what that performer says and does.

For questionable names, it is ok to re-name things to make them more appropriate for the work as entertainers. Certainly no magic performer should ever alter their morals for the sake of magic.

Common sense is the key. Where it is questionable, don't say it. When it is suspicious, change it. When one's soul cries out that something's inappropriate, don't do it. A person's morals will appear stronger, and they will appear wiser. Also the entertainment value of their performances in general will be better if a person follows convictions that are not too controversial socially.

Lastly, many performers have learned through the years that they will be more accepted in church work if they eliminate the terms "magic" and "magicians" from their vocabulary.

And so no, sorry, but the term Gospel Magic isn't appropriate either. In church work, any form of the "M word" is usually suspect. While the term Gospel Magic might be a great internal term for magicians to use to identify their peers who use magic in ministry work, Christians in general are much more comfortable with the terms illusionist and sleight-of-hand artist. Trust me, I know.

Finally, using correct and appropriate names is almost an art in and to itself. Magical performers must think though what they say and do. Certainly they should choose their names wisely. They should practice their patter as much as they practice performing their repertoire.

Now if only I could find my Ouija Board, Tarot Cards, and other Magick tricks for my séance show at the upcoming bizarre magic convention . . .



The 'Linked & Unlinked' idea has been put on hold because of an old magician's grumpiness pertaining to something he'd recently experienced. See, that old grumpy guss was at a lecture recently and this young professional magician was the guest speaker. The kid was certainly talented, but he also was quite arrogant and to be honest naïve of those out in the audience. Needless to say I watched them more than him, seeing their reactions to his boastfulness on what's superior and what's not in terms of particular card handlings. I guess

he hadn't considered the fact probably close to 98% of his entire audience were knowledgeable and experienced magicians who've been using said moves their entire career, and with great success. The audience were half asleep, looking at their phones, probably irritated in similar fashion. Sure, the lecturer's pretty hand wiggle card change looks lovely, I've seen it done countless times and certainly gets a reaction. But, and this is a big but, it's not superior to the sleeve rub change as far as effectiveness. Here's what I've adapted as my general routine for a sleeve change. The magic doesn't happen on the forearm but the moment the card is moved from the arm to the deck.

Patter: "When I rub the card on my sleeve, static is created and being a magician the moment it gets near the deck,,," The double card is rubbed on the left sleeve, briskly where it's nearly a blur like you would were it a balloon. It is held by the right hand's thumb on the left edge, middle finger on the right edge, and index in the top center and pressing slightly causing it to bow, the double's bottom middle lightly touching the sleeve (A). Don't go near the deck with the double while rubbing. When you mention getting the card near the deck, rapidly move the double down slightly off the forearm towards the wrist, the moment it reaches the left thumb base (B), let go with the middle finger and lower the double down towards the deck. This creates a nice loud snap, similar to a static charge. Pressure of the fingers, combined with the thumb base cause the double to instantly be flipped, the selection now visible. Time it perfectly where the snap and right hand motion ends when the double is



directly above the deck (C). Leave it on the deck as the right hand moves upwards slightly as if dodging the shock (D).

Notes: Although the images make it look obvious what's happening and wondering how it could trick a spectator, keep in mind the actions happen lightning fast. The pop is surprising and really sounds like static, and the moment it's heard the double is on the deck in one fell swoop.

Benefits: The static patter gives a logical excuse for the double's location where the double can be immediately placed on the deck's top, thus eliminating the chance of a misalignment flash. The card is rubbed, static is created, the card is quickly moved down to the deck (logical) where suddenly 'POP' a charge happens the moment it's above and now magically a selection!

Many magicians prefer changing the card while still on the forearm, which is of course fine. It's been done that way probably a million times in the magic world and with great success. I came up with the pop and static idea as a personal preference, and not suggesting it's anything superior. It works for me.

Double Shocker: The following is a method for using the sleeve-change as a magical means for transforming 2 selections. Follow the steps and you'll feel the natural flow this method provides.

History: The routine is mine but I claim no credit for any sleights. In this modern era and the internet being the way it is, immense and dense and not in a good way, I've been fruitless in seeking out the credited originator of the sleeve-change or whatever it's originally called. I learned the move when I was a teen back in the 1970s. As always, any information pertaining to rightful crediting of any trick or move I post please let me know and I'll include it in the next 'Sevante' newsletter.

Skill Level Required: Moderate

1. Spread the shuffled deck face down and instruct the spectator to remove a card. Request they look at it, plant it in their memory and/or show it to others. During this time create a 'tilt' break beneath the top card. I do Steve Draun's one-handed method (E, F, G,) but you've plenty of time to obtain it in standard fashion. Take the card back and insert it into the gap. Close the gap with a right hand thumb riffle flourish upwards suggesting the selection being hopelessly lost in the middle. Many tutorials for the tilt-break can be found online. Quickly, the Steve Draun Method basically is to hold the deck as shown (E), the left thumb running along the left side. The thumb raises the left side of the top card(s) (F), the thumb base enters the gap at the back left corner as the pinky lets go of it's hold on the card and the thumb presses the left front edge down flush with the deck proper. A full description can be found in the Richard Kaufman's excellent 1993 book 'Secret's Draun From Underground'.
2. Spread for another selection be removed and memorized by a 2nd spectator. Close the spread, getting 3 cards into tilt break (the gap beneath 3 cards). Take back the selection and insert it into the gap, again closing up with a thumb riffle flourish. The selections are now 2nd and 4th from the top.
3. Don't shuffle the deck or anything if you're tempted as both selections are believed to be already hopelessly lost inside it and that's where you want them remaining. Any shuffle or mix will actually diminish that mental illusion in their heads. Japan creator Hideo Kato and I had a wonderful conversation about this at 'The Magic Café', down in the 'Secret Sessions', search for 'Jack' and you'll eventually find it. I was one of the first people which is how I was able to secure the simple name 'Jack' there. That same thread has a new trick by him, by me, and a combined one he developed which I thought was a personal cool, a bragging right I can toss out there, making me seem larger than I truly am.
4. Turn the top card face up, obtaining a break beneath the 2nd card down (selection) in the process. Grasp the double above the break by the right hand in preparation for the sleeve-change. Remove it and begin rubbing the left arm, during this time obtain a left hand pinky break beneath the deck's top card. Do the electric static sleeve-change thing, the 1st selection now magically face up on the deck's top! Remove the selection off the deck and place face up on the table.
5. Double-turnover the deck's top cards, made easy due to the break, spreading over the 3rd card slightly and back, getting a pinky break beneath it. Grasp the 3 cards in sleeve-change grip and do the move. You'll find 3 cards to be no different in 2. The 2nd selection will be magically face up on top! Remove it and drop next to the other. Pick up both selections and move on to something else.



More: A different handling of step 5 is to not place the 1st selection onto the table, but instead after removing it, keep holding it, right hand's thumb on top, fingers below. Those right fingers feel and move into the gap of the left's pinky break and the right hand now moving upwards, the fingers and left hand assist in turning the double face up, the left obtaining the break beneath the 3rd card as this is happening. The held card provides cover of the sneaky stuff going on. Afterwards, set the 1st selection onto the table.

A strong point for doing a double sleeve-change in this fashion is because the 2nd change eliminates any thought of the first's beginning card to now be on top of the deck after the first change. A spectator who might have seen the move and had an idea how it's done will be caught off guard by the double-turnover, their assumed card not there. To laypeople this effect is fun and strong. Since you've made it this far, I know you'll have unique magic even your magic buds haven't seen before and you just might fool them with. I still dislike the word 'fool' when used in this context, just doesn't fit in my mind but I know it's common.



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DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.

DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

See www.DallasMagic.org for meeting information.

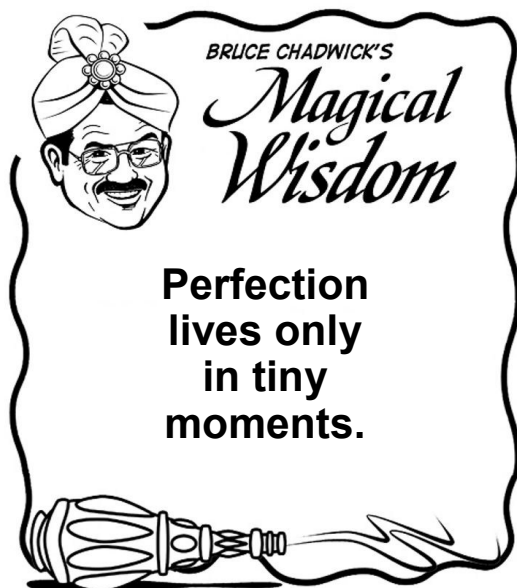


IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.



I was hoping for a more cursory examination of the deck.