

**February**



**At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center**

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805**

Doors open at 6:30 for Meet & Greet

Meeting starts at **7:00**

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**Officers:**

- President.....**Jason Allen Burke**
- Vice President/Librarian.....**Harrison Kaplan**
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- Member-at-Large.....**Brad Erickson**

## January 2024 Lecture

January's meeting featured a lecture from member Brett Bolich a.k.a. BrettsotheGreat. Brett's lecture focused on show-flow along with suggestions on show preparation. Brett gave guidance on techniques for best packing show accessories to be ready for shows at any time.



Anyone who has seen Brett perform know that his act is high-energy. Brett demonstrated his 3/15 show opening where he performs three effects in 15 minutes. That grabs the audience's attention. Then Brett can move into some more lengthy routines.

Everyone enjoyed this fun and exciting lecture.



# February Meeting



## 2024 OCMC Schedule



February 14	Jam Session / Show & Tell
March 13	Lecture: Michael O'Brien (Tentative)
April 10	Close-up Competition
May 8	Workshop / Show & Tell
June 12	Close-up Show
July 10	Michael Mezmer (Tentative)
August 14	Stage Competition Show 5:30-9:30 (Assembly Room)
September 11	Open Workshop
October 9	Jam Session / Show & Tell
November 13	Dress Rehearsal
December 11	Holiday Potluck



**It's time to pay dues for 2024**

**You can pay dues on the OCMC Club website:**

**[TheOCMC.com](http://TheOCMC.com)**

**Select the Join or Renew Membership tab.**

**You can also pay Phil directly at the next meeting.**

**Meanwhile, as Phil says, Keep Calm and Pay Your Dues!**

**Cash, Check, or Credit Cards accepted.**



The OCMC newsletter will regularly feature articles on magic written by Member George Reis.

This is the 11th of a series of articles in which George will share his thoughts on learning magic. He would love your feedback, so please feel free to email him to share your thoughts and ideas.



On Learning Magic

George Reis

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## **It's About the Audience**

This article is inspired by two magicians – Jon Armstrong and John Kippen.

Three things happened in January that coalesced into something I found insightful. I'll share these in consecutive order and then explain how we can apply it to our practice.

First, I listened to the January 14, 2024 episode of The Penguin Magic Podcast. It was an interview with Jon Armstrong. At one point Jon said, "We should be thinking about the show first ..." And, he continued, "... We're not professional time-wasters, we're people who should be going out there, giving them (the audience) experiences so that when they come out of there they go, 'Wow! This is something that I could not have done any other way. I'm going to be more inclined to actually put on clothes, leave my house and go to more live shows.'"

When I heard that, I immediately thought that even in my practicing, I need to think about the audience. How do I get them to think the way that Jon describes this?

Less than a week later I was reading the December, 2023, issue of Kippen's Conjuring Chronicles (<https://www.conjuringchronicles.com/#decissue>). On pages 3 and 4, John relates an experience he had performing a trick involving a signed card at the Magic Castle. John keeps the signed cards so that he can remember his experiences. But, in this case, he overheard that the group of people watching his performance were heading to a local In N Out location. He followed them there and arranged to have their signed card inside their order when they went through the drive-through. Man – talk about focusing on the audience! Imagine their reaction upon opening that bag to find your signed card inside your food order at a different location. How is that possible?!!

Reading this, I had before me a concrete example of putting the audience first, of making the audience think, “Wow! This is something that I could not have done any other way. I'm going to be more inclined to actually put on clothes, leave my house and go to more live shows.”

The story that John writes in his Conjuring Chronicles goes into more detail, and I highly recommend reading it directly.

The third thing that happened that same week was listening to John Kippen on Episode 30 of LD Madera's Improv and Magic podcast. John told the story of the above incident as well as another time he went beyond the walls of his performance arena to create something special.

John is a friend of mine, and he has many other stories of making the experience special for the audience. I'd like to share how he made

magic special for me when I first met him. I was at the Magic Castle with my wife, and we saw him performing next to the upstairs bar. He engaged my wife and focused on her for his performance. She was blown away.

Shortly after this, I started taking lessons at the Castle and ran into John at a table next to the Library Bar. I introduced myself and he asked me about my interest in magic, about my background, and about me. He seemed truly interested in me. I was a stranger who he made special. Since I was a student, he shared with me some secrets and made me feel special. He gave me advice based on what I shared with him about myself. If I wasn't a student, I felt like he would have spent just as much time making my experience special, just as he did with the In N Out group.

So, how do we apply this to learning magic?

We do so by keeping our audience in the front of our mind as we choose what tricks to perform, when we choose our patter, when we display the magic moments, and in our interactions with the audience. It's so easy to focus on the trick and forgetting that we will be performing it for real people to make something special for them. But, if we put the audience frontmost in our mind, we can really focus on how to make our magic truly a extraordinary experience for them.

Whether he is with one person, or with a filled room, John knows how to make his audience the focus.

Jon Armstrong gave us an idea in this podcast about focusing on the audience. John Kippen gives us concrete examples of this philosophy. Let's use these to make our magic special to our audiences. From the time you decide on what you want your effects to be, as you practice, and especially when you perform, think about making an experience that is special for your audience – whether it's an audience of one or a filled auditorium.



# January 2024 Raffle

**Thanks to all who participated!**  
**All proceeds go to our club.**





## **Other Events in the Area:**

For more Ring96 info, visit their website @ [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)