

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

# VOODOO

THE MAIL ON OCTOBER 2019

**HeKnows**  
**PROBABLY**

**PAUL BROOK**



**STUNNERS!**  
THE MENTAL MAGIC *Plus*  
OF LARRY BECKER





# PRE-SHOW, DUAL REALITY, AND CAREFUL SCRIPTING

Recently, J.R. and I had the opportunity to see a small theater show by a magician we both respect, and who has created material we both enjoy watching and performing. In the show he had a very strong book test, with a pre showed, dual reality closer. Unfortunately, due to an inattentive spectator, the effect didn't quite come off, but it, and the memory of the Derren Brown show we mentioned last week, got me think about the importance of really strong scripting, especially in effects like that one.

Any dual reality effects require you to be very careful in keeping two views or perceptions of an event separate, and pre-show work directly challenges this by forcing you to remind the spectator of the other reality in that very moment without reminding the audience at large. While the specific techniques used will vary effect to effect and performer to performer, one mainstay will be careful scripting, such that the words can (and hopefully must) be interpreted correctly but differently by the two groups. Creating this dual language can be difficult, but definitely pays off in the impact effects that properly employ it can have. (For some excellent examples of this and more ideas in this area, check out almost anything by Luke Jermay.)

For example, here is a simple script designed to elicit a pre-showed word from a spectator at the end of a book test like the one seen in the show. This script assumes this spectator was handed the book and asked to confirm that the page numbers were on the bottoms of the pages (for another phase of the effect), to make sure the book wasn't just the same few pages repeating over and over again, and then to immediately pass it off to another spectator. After reading the mind of the spectator they handed the book to you turn to them and say:

"A moment ago I asked you to confirm the page numbers are on the bottom of the pages, and that the book is normal, correct?" "Yes." "But I think, even before that, you had seen a word, one that really rooted itself into your head. Is that right? Are you thinking of a word?" "Yes, I am." "Focus on that word now, the one rooted there, not one that maybe just floated through, or that you skimmed over..."

Since verifying the page numbers was the first thing the spectator did with the book, being told to think back to before that must mean before they had the book, and thus to the pre-show when you forced or peeked a word they chose. Combine this with the repetition of a specific phrase in both the pre-show work and the moment of recall to jog their memory ("rooted itself," or whatever fits your presentational style), and asking them not to think of a word that floated through or that they skimmed over (and since you hurry them through checking the book they really only have time to skim it), you ensure they arrive back at the intended word.

Additionally, none of these instructions to the spectator tip that they are actually thinking of a word not from that book to the rest of the audience. Since most of them wouldn't be able to see the spectator directly they can certainly believe that they had more time looking through the book, or spent more time really scouring any given page, than you allowed. If additionally you have the book handed back to them just before you begin this phase (but don't give them a chance to open) and ask them to stand and pass the book back to you after you reveal the word, then you will visually bookend the effect with the image and idea of them holding and looking at the book.

Seeing this show certainly prompted me to look back over a lot of my scripting choices, and hopefully it will help you as well.





EDITOR'S  
NOTE >

Hi everyone,

I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who has commented and the fact that this digital VOODOO magazine is still getting some fairly high visitor stats I'm incredibly thank you!

In the meantime, there are plenty of articles on this VOODOO magazine that you can read to hopefully improve or at least understand Mentalism in a little more detail! Again, a huge thank you to everyone!

—Saji Vijayan, on behalf of the team Voodoo  
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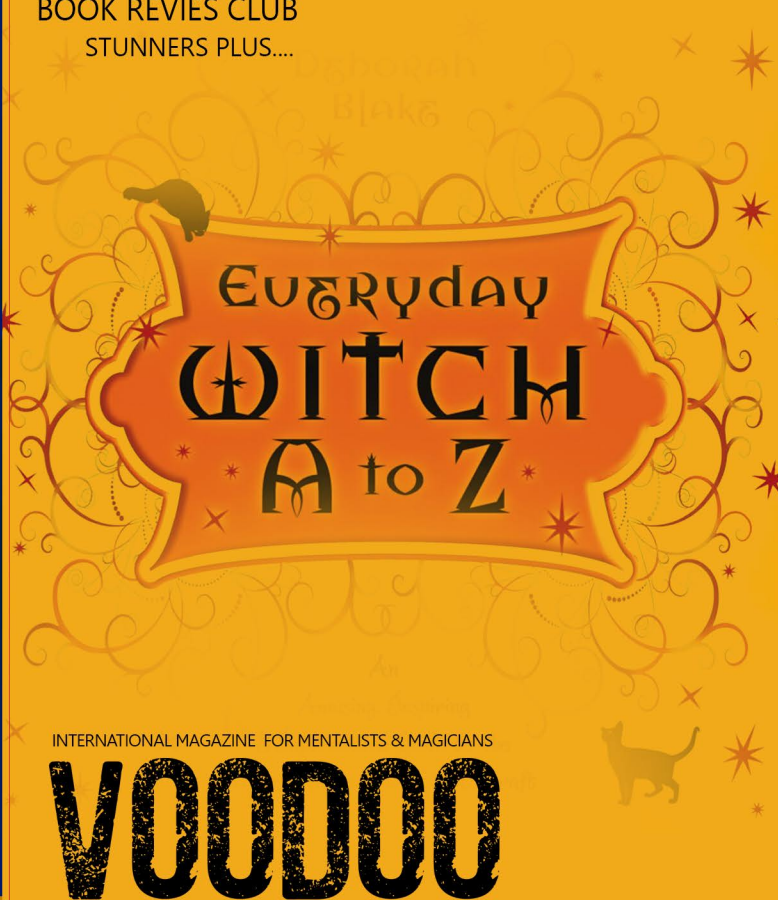
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**VOODOO**

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# Thoughts

BECOMING

# Things



If you've recently been hurt in some way, or there's something bothering you that just doesn't seem to go away, then this may be of some help to you. I'm not saying that this is a long term fix, nor am I saying that it'll work for everybody, but why not give it a try? You never know, it could help you.

When you're laying in bed, struggling to fall asleep because all you can think about is this certain thing that's been playing on your mind for days, I want you to focus only on whatever it maybe that's bothering you. Notice how your breathing changes, notice how your heart rate may increase and more importantly notice how you feel inside, do you feel sad? Angry? etc.. just focus on what you're feeling at that very moment in time.

Continue to think about whatever is affecting you and just let the emotion take over for a couple of minutes, stay laying in your bed and resist the temptation to get up and punch something, if the emotion you're feeling is anger. If you're feeling sadness and begin to cry, then just cry, let it all out and continue to take note of how you're feeling. This is the hardest step to take because sometimes emotion can be overwhelming, but you only need to do this for a couple of minutes.

Once the emotion has completely taken over for a couple of minutes and you've recognised the emotion that you are feeling, then it's time to imagine a box. It doesn't matter how big that box is or what it looks like, that's completely up to you, just imagine a box floating above your bed. I then want you to imagine all those feelings, and thoughts you've just experienced being put into that box followed by the lid closing, and then imagine placing that box away.

Doing the above is a way of going through that emotion, which is an important step to healing, and it also allows you to put those emotions and thoughts away to enable you to get a good nights sleep. This technique may take some practice before it begins to work efficiently, or it may work straight away. Even if you don't believe that it'll work, give it a go, it might just help you.



# Self Hypnosis

If you're someone who become stressed or angry easily, then being able to hypnotize yourself in the comfort of your own home will be a great help to you, or perhaps you want to have a more positive outlook on things around you, then again, Self Hypnosis will help you achieve your goals.

Self Hypnosis is very easy to do, and the good thing is, you can pretty much do it whenever you have some free time or whenever you feel stressed, and all without leaving the comfort of your own home. The first few times you may find it takes between 30-60 minutes to get into that deep relaxing state of hypnosis, however the more you Self Hypnotize the quicker, and easier it'll become for you. The steps below are to be used as a guide only, and should help you achieve that profound state of relaxation, however as these are a guide, you may find doing something slightly different helps you, it depends on the individual.

Step 1 – Find somewhere where you can relax and wont be disturbed for a while, laying down in a comfortable bed is recommended, however if you find that you're more comfortable sitting in a chair, then this will be good too, just as long as you're comfortable and in a place that's quiet, which helps you to relax.

Step 2 – Pick a time of day when you feel your best, and also a time of day when you're less likely to be disturbed.

Step 3 – Think about the amount of time you have, the Self Hypnosis session should last between 30-60 minutes, at least for the first couple of times.



## 13 Self-Hypnosis Methods For Deep Trance

Step 4 - Make sure you know what the reason for the Self Hypnosis Session is for, make sure you're fully aware of the goals you wish to achieve through this session, don't aim too high until you become more confident of your abilities to Self Hypnotize, start off slowly.

Step 5 - Begin to take nice deep, relaxing breaths and feel yourself growing increasingly relaxed.

Step 6 - Think about your entire body relaxing, start with your toes, working up to your knees and so on, all the way up to your head, feel the tension begin to flow out of your body.

Step 7 - Focus on your breathing for a moment, focus on each and every breath, focus on how each cleansing breath makes you more and more relaxed

Step 8 - As you continue to grow more and more relaxed, imagine a staircase appearing in front of you, continue to take deep, cleansing and relaxing breaths, begin to tell yourself that you're growing increasingly relaxed.

Step 9 - Imagine taking slow, soft and easy steps down that stair case. With each and every step tell yourself that you'll grow more and more relaxed.

Step 10 - Start to count down from Ten to One, with each number imagine stepping down onto the next step of the staircase, notice how your entire body is now relaxed and with each number and each step, you grow more relaxed as the relaxation gets deeper and deeper.

Step 11 - Now imagine a peaceful and beautiful place, imagine yourself there and you can feel it, allow the sense of peace flow through every muscle and every cell of your body, as you begin to relax even further, deeper down into the body.

Step 12 - Tell yourself in a slow, soft voice the goals in which you want to achieve, tell yourself over and over again, imagine that being a reality, imagine the goals you wish to come true are already happening, whether its to quit smoking or to be a better person, just tell yourself and imagine its already happening.

Step 13 - Count from Zero to Ten, with each number you'll become more alert and awake to your surroundings, when you reach 10 you'll wake up feeling profoundly relaxed and calm, better than you've ever felt before.

Congratulations, you've now completed your first Self Hypnosis Session, as I said in the beginning, the more frequently you do this, the easier it'll come to you.



# Steepling



The raised steeple



The lowered steeple

It's been a while since I've discussed body language on this blog, so I thought it'd be a good idea to talk about the "steepling" move. This move is done to show confidence. Steepling is shown when someone brings their hands up and puts their fingers together (as shown in the picture to the left) this expresses that a person is confident about something. They may show this whilst in an important meeting when they become confident about the offer you're offering. Or perhaps you're being interviewed for a job and you see the interviewer make this move, this can tell you that things are going well, and that they're confident you could do the job right.

You can use the knowledge of this technique to win a game of chess. Picture the scene - You're playing chess and it's your turn to move. You move your hand over the chess board and touch a piece and then your opponent makes the steepling gesture, this will tell you that your opponent is confident about the move you're about to make, so it'll probably be best to go a different way and make a different move. You may also see this happen in a game of cards, if someone is making the steepling gesture then they probably have a good hand.

However, despite the steeple usually being a positive gesture it can be a negative one which is why you have to look at other gestures to go with it. If the steeple is used following a range of positive gestures such as nodding of the head, open palms, leaning forward and so on, then chances are it'll be a positive one.

If the steeple is followed by negative gestures such as shaking of the head, leaning back in the chair and closed palms, then chances are it'll be a negative gesture. However this only really applies to the interview side of things. When a steeple gesture is shown in a game of cards or a chess game as described above, then it's usually a positive gesture showing confidence.

Looking for a Rubik's Cube Magician in Singapore? Look no further! Prior to going into magic, Frederick has been solving the Rubik's cube and various other puzzles since young. He has come in 2nd place for the Rubik's Cube One-Handed category in the Singapore Open 2008 Competition, with an average of 28.42 seconds. His official records for the Singapore Open 2009 Competition can also be found on the world cube association page. Even now, with little practice, he can still solve the Rubik's Cube in about 20 seconds!

Frederick even has had his own business making and selling competition level Rubik's cubes and similar puzzles. Now, this professional speedcuber combines his love of the Rubik's cube with magic. He has learnt from famous Rubik's Cube magicians such as Steven Brundage, Takamitsu Usui, Axel Hecklau, Henry Harrius, Karl Hein and Kev G. You might have seen some of these people perform Rubik's cube magic on TV shows like America's got talent, Penn and Teller's Fool Us and many various talk shows.

Now instead, of watching Frederick speed solve the cube in 20 seconds or one handed, Frederick uses magic to solve the Rubik's cube instantly! Frederick even combines this with Rubik's cube cards to create further magic. Sometimes, he even invites one person to join him on stage and then magically gives the person the ability to also solve the cube. This makes him highly entertaining and unique!

Frederick is primarily a Singapore mentalist, but he is also a Singapore magician who specializes in some forms of magic such as Rubik's cube magic. So what are you waiting for? Check out this Rubik's Cube Magician in Singapore!



# RUBIK'S CUBE MAGICIAN SINGAPORE



# TIP FOR AMATEUR MENTALISM

As the world's only professional amateur magician, I am also the only professional amateur mentalist. So while no one thinks of me as an authority on mentalism, I have performed a lot of it. And today I want to present what I think is the key to the most compelling amateur mentalism (regardless of what the actual effect may be).

You see, the problem is, many of the role-models in mentalism aren't great entertainers. They'll ask you to think about a time of day, they'll furrow their brow, then they'll write something on a pad, then they'll ask you what time you were thinking of, then they'll turn the pad around. Literally that's all the thought they've put into presentation. And these are people with multi-volume L&L DVD sets.

In a way, the professional mentalist has it easy. If you roll into town and put on your mentalism show and successfully name what animal someone is thinking of, the spectator has to consider a few options. 1. It was a trick. 2. You really did it using some kind of supernatural abilities. 3. You really did it using your intelligence and powers of perception in a way that mimics psychic power.

This triune view in regards to the nature of the performance is baked into mentalism. You can deepen the mystery by being a competent performer, but even a moron with an invisible deck will have people weighing the options.

But when an amateur performs a feat of mentalism for friends or family, the audience knows you can't read minds, and they probably know you're not so off-the-charts brilliant that you can use your vast intelligence to simulate mind-reading. So they don't have to consider those possibilities. It just becomes a question of figuring out how you did it (rather than the more intriguing question of what was the nature of what just happened). In other words, they don't have a lot to chew over in their mind other than what the method might be, which is generally not what we want our spectators to be ruminating on after we leave them.

So, does that mean all amateur mentalism is destined to just be a puzzle? No. I have the solution.

THE SOLUTION IS TO ADD MORE PROCESS TO YOUR MENTALISM.

## MENTALIST

A master manipulator of  
thoughts and behavior.

Think of last week's post about naming the color of your spectator's prom dress.

If they write down "blue" and then you look at them for a moment and say, "Blue," and raise an eyebrow like you're Max Maven, they have two options. They can reassess everything they know about you and your mind powers or they can think "How did he see what I wrote?" And they're going to do the latter.

For the amateur mentalist, mind-reading can't come too easy.

*Let's say you have them write down the color of their prom dress. Then you tell them that with enough other sensory stimuli you can sometimes pick up on details someone is just thinking of. Then you ask them if they remember a song they slow-danced to at their prom. Maybe they do or maybe you check out the music charts from the year they graduated and make an educated guess of a song that might have played. You ask how tall her date was and maybe you crouch a little or stand on your tip-toes to re-enact the height difference. You start to slow dance. After a couple moments you ask her if she thinks you two are moving about the same number of rotations-per-minute as she and her date were all those years ago. She says it was maybe a little slower. You ask her to really concentrate on being back in that moment, dancing, the song, and specifically the color of her dress.*

*You look down at her and blink a little as if something is coming into focus. You let go and take a step back. Squint a little. "It's uhm... it's a blue dress. I mean... it was a blue dress, right?"*

*Here's what happens with this style of amateur presentation.*

*The best case scenario is that you've given them more to consider about the nature of what just happened. Yes, they know you're not someone who can just look into someone's eyes and read their mind. But maybe you are someone who can—in a controlled setting with a lot of other sensory clues—pick up on someone's thoughts (or read some physical clues that give you some insight or whatever).*

*That's the best case scenario. That something that was "just a trick" becomes something less easily categorized and more resonant for the spectator. It happens more often than you might think.*

*But the thing is, even if that best case scenario doesn't hit, even if they still see it as a "trick," the experience of the trick is exceedingly more fun and engaging than you rubbing your temples and going, "It was blue!"*

*Even if they know it's all fiction, this fiction:*

*"I can read your mind by concentrating."*

*Is significantly less interesting than this fiction:*

*"If we go on a little nostalgia trip and set up some things in the present day to put your mind back a couple decades, I can sometimes pluck a small detail from your memory."*

*That is, of course, just one example. I've come up with a million of these little pre-effect encounters. They're not hard to create. (I'm sure more will be on this site or in some future release.) Coming up with an engaging procedure or technique or ritual that leads into the mentalism is a no-lose situation. At the very least it will make the effect more interesting. And ideally it will also make the whole experience a little more enigmatic and intriguing. [While I haven't done the prom dress trick above, a very similar effect is a staple of my impromptu repertoire. I ask my friend to think of a dance she went to as a teenager and remember a song she danced to. I have her dance with me to the song in her head. After a few seconds I stop her and say, "No, really do it for real. Really hear the song in your mind." We start dancing again.*

*This may be a slow dance or she may be swinging my arms around like a maniac. Either way is fun. I tell her I think I may know what it is. Maybe I'm way off. If I am, that will be funny. But I actually have a pretty good idea of what it might be. There was something very evocative in the energy she projected when we were dancing (or whatever). I borrow her phone and bring up a song on youtube and hand the phone back to her. I ask her what the song was. I tell her to raise the volume on her phone and she finds the song she named is the one I was playing on her phone. This is my presentation for Marc Kerstein's Earworm. And it's pretty fucking delightful.]*





# MAGIC PLANET

THE MOST ADMIRED &  
ALL TIME FAVOURITE DESTINATION  
WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

**MAGIC PLANET** is one among the most multifaceted destinations offering an exceptional diversity of experiences for visitors to explore and enjoy by every standards. Astonishing historical museum, natural sites that resembles the great heritage of India, unique build ups, exotic performances, glorious circus castle, fascinating street magic appearances, beautiful greenery, life inspiring shows of mentally challenged children and many more interesting features make it the most admired and socially relevant spot in the whole country. Not surprisingly the paradise of magic, Magic Planet situated at kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram has been continuously ranked as the top tourist arrival spot in the recognized travel site portal Trip Advisor for long periods.





In the initial days many had the thought whether it was a mere arena where magic program is conducted on a daily basis, but within days of operation the whole concept and thoughts of the common people changed as everyone came out with a single opinion that this was something they were craving for all these years, a perfect world class entertainment destination filled with uniqueness and magical wonders at their door step. The very entrance of the Magic Planet will showcase an old man holding the building which gives the effect of a Holly wood film. It signifies the importance to protect the rare Indian street magic produced by traditional street magicians of India. Day long stream of visual experience starts from the History museum, Stunning feel of Fantasia Theatre, Dramatic visualization of Shakespearean play Tempest, Incredible Mentalism show where the mentalist predicts the future and read the minds of audience using special mind powers, Eye popping performances of varied artistes from old genre to new ones which goes on till evening for the final whistle magical parade, Rhythm of Wonders. Here the entire staffs of Magic Planet unite to ensure an ultimate bang of colorful magical moments for the entire visitors.



## MOST ADMIRER

## FAVOURITE DESTINATION

The great Indian mango tree magic at the street magic corner, arouse the curiosity of entire audience as tree grows up from a tiny mango seed in a matter of minutes, that eventually ends up as a mango tree bearing fruits. The mysterious Indian creation for world magic that Ibn Battuta, the famous Persian traveler of fourteenth century has mentioned clearly on his travelogue, the incredible performance of Indian Rope magic that he witnessed in New Delhi , where the rope rises into the air without any means of support is displayed on a daily basis at Magic Planet.

Second anniversary of Magic Planet has rooted out a big hope for the Circus artistes, who wander from place to place for their daily bread. Our brotherhood artists from Circus arena who are at the verge of complete wipe out from the main phase of our society is currently leading a miserable life. Thallasery which is considered as the play ground of Kerala Circus has lost its base. Kannur and its suburbs once produced the majority of circus artistes have already switched off from their roots to other trade for mere livelihood. An art which has started with much fanfare is struggling to survive and moreover in a state of pathetic condition to carry forward its great legacy. It is at this instance the Magic Academy has ensured a rehabilitation hub at Magic Planet titled Circus Castle, to restore these unrecognized but talented artists of Circus arena. They are given a permanent platform to perform their rich acrobatic skills on a daily routine basis before the common public.







To pass on the scientific base of manmade miracles for the coming generation through magical art that enable younger audience to understand the unhealthy practices and superstitions existing in our society, a Black White centre itself is opened to learn the involvement of science in magical art. The Menlo Park model is designed in the memory of Thomas Alwa Edison, popularly known as the magician of Menlo Park. Here magic and sciences join hands to provide wonders for students where they can experiment with the scientific principles.



Third anniversary of Magic Planet witnessed the opening of Mpower centre for the differently abled children suffering from various autistic disorders like cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other learning disabilities to showcase their magical talents before wide audience. The centre gives employment to differently abled & mentally challenged children in a mode that they can earn their daily bread for their family members. It's for the first time in the entire world a permanent magical performance centre is opened for the differently abled children. The centre was opened on October 31st, 2017 by the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan.



Child Development Centre, Medical College, Government of Kerala has assessed the overall health status and well-being of these children who were trained and currently performing at Magic Planet. According to their study report, there are remarkable changes in behavior, functional status, social adaptive skills, cognitive status and overall health status. Now by overcoming the challenges of disabilities and neglect of society through magical art, differently abled artistes performing at Magic Planet has created a historical land mark.

The Mpower team consisting of six mentally challenged talents has successfully completed 1000 stages, since the inauguration in 2017. These mentally retarded child artistes are continuously entertaining the audience groups from various parts of the world reading Magic Planet.





# Mpower

Considering the huge success and authenticity received from the public domain The Academy of Magical Sciences is crafting out a new venture titled Different Art Centre to engage 100 differently abled children suffering from various autistic disorders who are talented in various dimensions of arts like music, dance, painting and other musical instruments. The first stage of Different Art Centre, India fort for drama and second stage, Beethoven Bungalow for music has already been inaugurated and the project is heading towards a dream come true for mentally challenged children that lack creative platforms.

Boundless experience of sharing, caring and developing the talented mentally challenged children through Mpower platform are simply exceptional and enlightening memories for the audience. Every single moment in the museum brings a meaningful smile that lingers for a long time. Indian travel fraternity has always been very proactive in the promotion of magical dishes all throughout the world. The multitude of choices, serene ambience and commitment towards society has gathered unwavering support across the frontiers for this dream magical destination.







**PAUL BROOK IS A PROFESSIONAL  
BRITISH PRESENTER, AUTHOR,  
MENTALIST AND ONLINE STREAMER.**

**HE HAS WRITTEN OVER TWENTY BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT  
OF MENTALISM AND IN PARTICULAR PSYCHOLOGICAL MIND READING.**

**PAUL IS A FULLY PAID MEMBER OF EQUITY. BROOK IS ALSO A VEGAN,  
ATHEIST AND A SKEPTIC**

Brook was born and raised in Birmingham, West Midlands, he still resides in the West Midlands in the market town of Willenhall. From a young age Brook had an interest in the subjects of the mind, especially that of hypnosis. In the early years of his career he was a psychotherapist and ran his own therapy practice in Birmingham. In 2004 Brook decided to start entertaining full-time and became a professional psychological mind reader. In September 2007, prominent magic magazine Genii wrote a review of his first publicised work The Brook Test, beginning his career as a technical author in the field of mentalism. April 2007, Winner of the Magic Circle Close-Up Magician of the Year 2006, James Brown, acknowledged Paul as one of the most prominent mind readers in the UK.

October 2007, was the first public stage show of Brook's material. The show Open to Influence took place over two nights (18 and 19 October) and was described by a reviewer, "...the audience were clearly enjoying themselves. The work Paul had put into the show was evident, and the smoothness with which it ran was exemplary." [6] April 2008, Brook lectured alongside Marc Paul, Enrique Enríquez and David Berglas in London. The lectures were on the psychological nature of mystery entertainment. A reviewer for the lecture wrote, "Already hailed as a must read for all mentalists, Alchemical Tools has taken the mentalist community by storm." In 2009 to 2010, MagicSeen magazine gave Brook's products four and five star reviews. September 2012, Arts Fest Birmingham, Paul gave a public mind reading stage show at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham as part of ArtsFest, the largest free arts festival in the UK. Throughout 2012 and 2013 Paul was an on-set Executive Consultant for a 10 episode mind reading and magic television series called 'Draíocht' starring Irish TV personality and magician Rua and created by Midas Productions. The show was first broadcast in the Spring of 2014 on the channel TG4. [11] April and May 2014, Brook toured the United Kingdom and Europe with the Panasonic Roadshow. During the five weeks Brook presented information about the latest technology that Panasonic has to offer and was able to perform in ways that were analogous to these technologies. From late 2014 until mid 2017 Paul's main focus has been trade show mentalism, presenting around the world. In April 2016, Brook gave a live streamed world wide lecture for Penguin Magic.

July 2016, Paul was a guest lecturer at the Tyne lecturing alongside Luke Jermay, Lucas and Mark Chandaue.

February 2017, saw the start of Brook's in with entertainment, mentalism and on. May 2017, Paul filmed an 'At The Table Brook was part of a public super-Mare. November 2018 games on the Twitch.tv name 'SirGameKnight'. 'SirGameKnight' channel and in March 2019 has Partner. Due to his father's death, the live streaming

'MINDS 3' mentalism convention in Newcastle upon Jorje Garcia, Alex McAleer, Dee Christopher, Harry

weekly 'Ask Paul Podcast', where listeners call show business questions for Paul to give his views lecture for Murphy's Magic Supplies. July 2017, theatre show on the Grand Pier, Weston- Paul Brook started live streaming retro streaming platform under the As of January 2019 the became Twitch Affiliated applied to become a Twitch long illness and subsequent ended on April 25th 2019.



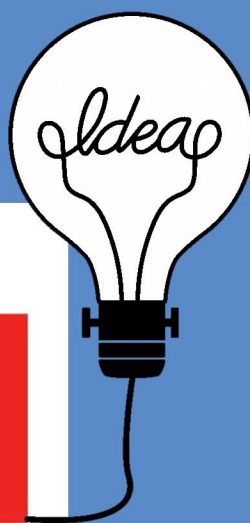
**I write  
books,  
I play  
with  
minds and  
engage  
audiences**



Brook's works have been praised by a long list of prominent members within the field of mentalism, such as AndyNyman, Bob Cassidy, Marc Salem, Keith Barry, Marc Paul, John Archer, Jeff McBride, Richard Osterlind, Colin Cloud, to name a few.



# PLEASE BE SEATED



## TIPS & TRICKS

The “chair problem” has been intriguing Mentalists for years. From Dr. Jaks to Max Maven, the concept has been employed to good advantage. Here is Steve Shaw’s solution to this eternal conundrum. “I will need the help of a pretty stranger,” begins the performer. “You sir, you look pretty strange to me. Please come up on stage.” The Mentalist hands him a white marker board and a marker pen. “You are going to predict the future. Please write a number from one to four on that marker board don’t let anyone out there see your number.” The performer turns to the audience, “Is there anyone out there who believes in reincarnation? You do? Welcome back. Would you please come up and have a seat in the chair of your choice?” “I’m not so sure I believe in reincarnation, but I don’t take any chances. In my will I left everything to myself. You, madam, would you join us and occupy one of the remaining chairs?” “Now I will need the help of a thinker. You sir, look like you think a lot; the kind of man who might know where the people in hell tell each other to go! Please choose a chair and sit on it.” Addressing the audience, the performer states, “Let’s meet the three people who are seated. Sir, your name is? You chose to sit in the first chair. You could have selected the second, third, or fourth, but chose instead this one.” “Madam, please tell us your name? You preferred the third chair, but could also have chosen the second or fourth.” “And last, but certainly not least, what is your name? You made the final decision, opting for the chair number two. Fate has decided that the #4 chair would remain empty. It’s impossible that anyone could have known that fact in advance. Sir, please show them your prediction. And then tell us how you did it!” “The participant turns around his card to show a large #4. The Mentalist pulls the slip cover from the back the empty chair to reveal a large #4. The other slip covers are lifted to show the numbers 1, 2, & 3 in random order. The modus operandi is multiple outs. Each of the four chairs has a number taped to the bottom of the seat as well as a different number taped to the back. The backs are covered with little slipcovers. If the backs are numbered 3, 4, 1, 2, and the seat bottoms numbered 2, 1, 4, 3, any chair can be shown as any number. When the prediction/empty chair combination dictates using either of the hidden numbers, refer to the empty chair as chair number 4. When using the empty chair’s position to match the prediction, you then talk about the fourth chair.

For instance, the chair on the left can be shown as #1 by standing next to it and counting it as the first chair. It can be shown as #2 by folding the seat up to show the large digit taped there. That end chair can be shown as #3 by removing the slip cover, or as the fourth chair by standing at the opposite end of the row and counting to it.







# THE BOOK CLUB REVIEW



Books are a WONDERFUL bargain in magic. I sell a very small selection. Books are a 'bad' deal for dealers because they are just so heavy that in some cases I have lost money shipping them! So...be aware that I ship books at cost. No markup to profit on the shipping. I will only charge just what it costs me to put it or them in the mail. All best, Brad Larry Becker's magnificent opus, Stunners! was first published in 1992. In 1993 at the Society of American Magicians annual convention in New Orleans, Mr. Becker received the coveted Milbourne Christopher Foundation Literary Award for this Outstanding Contribution to the Art of Mentalism and Magic.

Now, after ten years, not only may you enjoy this original masterly work, you'll also be able to delve into the many variations, improvements and new effects that were created during the decade following the publication of Stunners! In addition, this exciting new book also includes the instructions and presentations for many of Larry's commercially produced effects.

Stunners! Plus! contains the more than fifty effects from the original Stunners! including Larry's original presentation of his death defying "Russian Roulette." A total over over 100 killer mental routines with books, coins, paper currency, cards, pencils and pens, watches, newspapers, boxes, props, no props, and so much more. Some of the most baffling entertaining, mental effects ever created, all bearing the Becker hallmarks of maximum entertainment potential and simplicity. These inexplicable mysteries, complete with presentations, will catapult you to a higher plateau as an entertainer.

Stunners! Plus! is also packed with major improvements to such effects as Casino Royale, Ultimate Flashback, Serial Killer, Sneak Thief and so many other powerful effects created over the decade following the original Stunners! release. And, as if all this wasn't enough, imagine peering into the inner workings of Larry's many commercial effects, including: Chameleon Chest, Versadex, Blockbuster, Incredible, Insight Wallets, Psiclops, Casino Light, Zenneristic and more.

The Stunners! material has been completely re-typeset and all of the original art and illustrations have been preserved and updated. Stunners! Plus! is a must-have for mentalists from amateur to professional and for magicians who want to make the transition, there's no better place to start.

Softbound, 674 pages, fully illustrated.

# STUNNERS! THE MENTAL MAGIC *Plus!* OF LARRY BECKER



INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

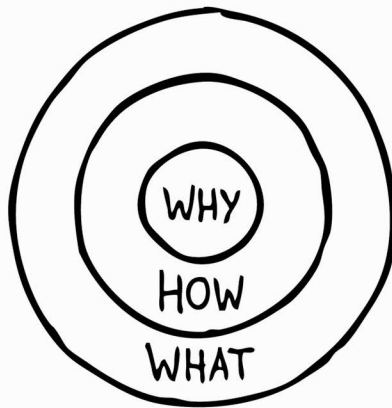


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