

Our October meeting lasted about ninety seconds. Those are my favorite! The reason for the swiftness of the meeting was so that we would have more time to enjoy a lecture entitled “Turning Tricks” by David Corsaro. David is a young magician from New Jersey who specializes in strolling magic and restaurant magic who was mentored by Herb Zarrow and recommended to the club by member Eric DeCamps. You know you can’t go wrong with that kind of pedigree.

David’s lecture includes a PowerPoint presentation that has instructions to the tricks, outlines of salient discussion topics and other bits of business that greatly enhances the experience. As a bonus, David will e-mail the presentation to any attendee who provides an e-mail address.

Now, on with the magic. The first item was Mad About You. A freely selected card is the only card in an examinable deck that has David’s wife’s name written on the back of the card. This item lends itself to many presentations. Mallrats is an updated Room for Doubt type of an effect that also includes a give-away. David then shared some thoughts on the Baby Gag trick that included an additional climax. A Damn Good Trick is an item that uses the Out to Lunch principle and would come in handy when performing for that rowdy crowd.

The second half started with an item called Baci where a spectator blows kisses at a card and pictures of lips appear on the card before it vanishes and two Hershey’s Kisses appear in its place. Getting To Know You is a wonderful effect where the magician asks the spectator four silly questions and spells out the answers as he deals the cards. When he’s done, the discards are shown to be cards with people’s names on them and then, the next card dealt has the spectator’s name written on it!

The final effect of the night was entitled Can I Call You Sometime. It starts by the performer explaining he used to collect girl’s phone numbers on the back of cocktail napkins. He

recently found his stash and one of the girl's phone numbers is randomly chosen and a deck of cards is shuffled face up into face down by the spectator. When the cards are spread, the face up cards matches the girl's phone number! This is a really good item that David got to perform on his first visit to Fechter's where he did it for John Bannon. You see, one of John's published effects serves as the basis for this trick and, according to David, John was so impressed when he saw it, he uttered one of the seven words that you can't say on television.

All right, all I can say now is David has some very insightful ideas and some very commercial magic. When you put the two of them together, you get a great lecture!

By the way, Eric DeCamps show, Pure Magic – A Performance of Contemporary Conjuring, is back from November 9th through December 28th at the Metropolitan Room in Manhattan and our annual dinner, dance and show taking place on January 10th is on its way to becoming a sellout.

Bill Krupskas, O.M.