

Since Long Island is in reasonably close proximity to Batavia, NY (eight hours by car, but that's pretty close) where, by the way, Fechter's Finger Flinging Frolic is held, we are usually pretty lucky to land one of the attendees as a lecturer at our May meeting. It seems to me that that the previous sentence may have broken a few rules of grammar but, hey, whatever. Anyway, we were extremely lucky because we landed two. The first was FISM award winner Vincent Hedan from France and the second was IBM Close-Up winner Michael Dardant from New Orleans, LA which is kind of like France. The down side to having two extremely talented magicians was that we have a curfew at the location where we meet. We have to be out of the room by 10 pm so there was a lot of great magic squeezed into a limited time window.

Vincent started off by performing his award winning act. He shuffled a red and blue deck together and proceeded to ribbon spread the cards face up on the table. He then ostensibly memorized the spread in about 60 seconds. He found selected cards. He knew from which location the card was taken. Don't forget there were duplicates. Two decks – remember! He had cards selected and returned to a different location in the spread. All in all, pretty amazing!

Michael followed with his act which was primarily a manipulation act. He produced and bent cutlery. He produced various sizes of ball bearings. I could see why he won.

Vincent returned with a nice routine using the Mene-Tekle Deck or Multieffect Deck. He followed up with a very good mentalism (the category for which he won at FISM) bit divining the three wines that were written on pieces of paper and tossed into various wine glasses. He had a very unique method for differentiating between the wine glasses. He closed with a really good book test.

Michael was back with some really nice stuff. He explained to the group that he feels that his strength lies in taking existing tricks and creating unique routines. He backed that up by performing two routines, the first centered on the Invisible Deck where, by the way, he actually exposes the deck but, in the context of the performance, nobody would ever know. He then closed with a very entertaining borrowed bill routine.

It was a great evening of magic. It was easy to see why each of the fellows won their respective competitions. It would have been nice to have the room for another 2-4 hours because these guys had so much more to give.

Bill Krupskas