

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

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November had a small but talented and talkative group of nine members gather together the week before Thanksgiving. We are getting excited about March's Winter Carnival of Magic, and members are volunteering for all of the positions needed to make our 46<sup>th</sup> annual convention a success! Our theme for the month was Holiday Magic...any holiday of our own choosing, and Michael Messing opened performing Barry Mitchell's "Ghost Wand" to produce a 36" Santa silk. He also showed Barry's "Super Screen" and produced a 60" wide "Happy Holidays" banner. Mike Stratman did a Visual Painting with a picture of the jolly ol' elf. Bill Sturgis showed a prop with six different colored holiday lights...and when three were taken away, they magically reappeared. Michael Priestap switched to some Halloween magic with the King Tut song playing in the background and did a little mentalism with different colored mummies in a wooden sarcophagus.

As we moved into our "Works in Progress," Ed Ripley talked about a show he is writing called "Kids vs. Science" and got our opinion on a piece with clips on Chris Koopmans coat that were used in a "game" between Ed and Tom Vorjohan. Mike Stratman did a piece that we got to brainstorm about involving a knot on a rope that moved to a wand and slipped off the rope. For some "Show & Tell" Bill Osburn showed the "Modern Illusion" book by Tom Palmeraka and Tony Andruzi. Michael Messing showed a variety of covers that he uses on his Lefler Suitcase Table for each of the different holidays. Ray Adams is only into the first few chapters of David Fisher's "The War Magician" and was very excited about the stories already discussed. Jack Wilson brought a copy of "Rune's World" that Joshua Jay re-released and discussed the multiple sides of this sketch comic magician's book: part sleight of hand, part funny business, and part graphic novel.

As we headed down the home stretch, Tom Vorjohan went over a couple tricks that Bill Wisch had covered last month in his lecture including a false shuffle and a wonderful move he used in his ACAAN. Ray Adams then finished the evening with a piece on the concertina where Jack Wilson was the human ventriloquist dummy and Ray made him sing. A rather unbelievable feat. We finished with talk of the December Holiday Party to be held in early December.

Tom Vorjohan