

Tabula Mentis III: Psychology, Suggestion and Mentalism

12 April 2008
7 Mallow Street
London EC1Y 8RQ



PSYCRETS: The British Society of Mystery Entertainers proudly presents

◆
➤ **Tabula Mentis III** ☾
Psychology, Suggestion and Mentalism.

◆◆◆
Sessions to include :
◆
Paul Brook
The Brook Test, The Gift, On Mephisto's Shoulder & Vibrations...

◆
Plus Special Guest from New York City
Enrique Enriquez
Art of Imagination, Invisible Gradations, Invisible Tarot, Invisible Readings, Notes on the Tarot De Merveilles.

◆◆◆
Plus break-away sessions and discussion groups

◆◆◆
When: 12th April 2008
Where: 7 Mallow Street, London, EC1Y 8RQ

◆◆◆
Times: 10 : 00 until ??
Fees: £20 for Members / £30 for non-members.
Tax, Coffee and Lunch included.

By Cheque - please make payable to The British Society of Mystery Entertainers.
Send to: Dr Todd Landman, 1 Elm Cottage, Mission Lane, East Bergholt, CO1 6XH
Paypal - please remit payment via the email address: payments@psycrets.org.uk

Please email: dtodd@psycrets.org.uk with any questions.

◆

Sponsored by
Psycrets: The British Society of Mystery Entertainers
www.psycrets.org.uk

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

10:00 – 10:30

Arrival and Coffee

10:30 – 11:00

Opening Session:
Dr Todd Landman

11:00 – 13:00

Optical Tarot and Readings
Enrique Enriquez

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

2:30 – 15:30

Psychology, Suggestion, and Mentalism
Paul Brook

15:30 – 16:00

Tea/Coffee

16:00 – 17:00

Corporate Mentalism
Marc Paul

17:00 – 17:30

Tea/Coffee

17:30 – 19:00

Numbers, Cards and the Grand Master of Mystery
David Berglas

Introduction

The Third Tabula Mentis meeting was held on 12 April 2008 and included a similar sized group as our second meeting totalling 50 people altogether, as we once again filled our lovely subterranean venue at 7 Mallow Street. Our attendees included familiar and new faces from all over the UK, Norway, and The Netherlands, and included some of the new *Psycrets* members.

Presentations and lectures were made by Dr Todd Landman, Enrique Enriquez, Paul Brook, Marc Paul, and David Berglas, while we had more time for informal discussion (a highly positive feature noted by Ian Rowland in his review of Tabula Mentis II in the December Issue of *The Magic Circular*). The day ended with festivities in the local pubs and quite a few attendees ending up in a curry house.

Psycrets: The British Society of Mystery Entertainers sponsored the event and helped subsidise the proceedings. *Psycrets* now boasts 60 members around the world and continues to grow every week. Andrew Webb posted a nice review of the event on the Home Counties Magical Society website (www.hcms.org.uk), and Dr Todd Landman received a Special Achievement Award as part of The Magic Woods 2008 Magic Awards (www.themagicwoods.co.uk) for organising these meetings and helping to establish *Psycrets* along with Roni Shachnaey and Steve Drury, our wonderful webmaster.

Dr Todd Landman

The day kicked off with a warm welcome from Dr Todd Landman, who summarised the growth of *Psycrets* and performed *Luna*, his new effect developed with Rick Rothbart at Outlaw Effects (www.outlaw-effects.com). The effect is based on the now defunct Mental Asylum at Colney Hatch in North London, which was built as the largest such facility in Europe during the Victorian period. The facility is now home to luxury apartments, while the site still has the graveyard and memories of the 1000's of patients committed to its rooms, many of whom were not meant to be there and many of whom *never left*. In many ways, Rick and Todd created *Luna* to pay tribute to the exciting community of mentalists and mystery entertainers in the UK, and they will be releasing companion books to *Luna* for the years 1935 and 1935, which will allow for multiple participants, different revelations, and even remote viewing!



Enrique Enriquez



It was a great pleasure and honour for *Psycrets* to host Enrique Enriquez for a two-hour lecture on readings. Hailing initially from Venezuela (and now New York City), and famous for his *Act of Imagination*, *Blindfolded Portraiture*, *Invisible Tarot*, *Invisible Gemstones*, and *Invisible Readings*, Enrique turned his attention to his ‘optical’ approach to reading Tarot through the use of a wonderfully recreated set of **Tarot de Marseilles** deck from 1650 (see <http://letarot.com/>). The deck is popular among tarot readers and Enrique provided a completely different system for reading the cards that moves away from traditional approaches linking esoteric and occult iconography to deeper meanings to one that celebrates the visual imagery on the cards

and provides a vehicle through which to carry on a dialogue with the querent.

He opened the talk with how to think visually using a specially procured feather from a London taxidermist he had visited the day before (he also took great pleasure in telling the UK Border agent at Heathrow that he was lecturing at the *British Society of Mystery Entertainers!*). He explained that four main movements characterise the way a feather falls to the ground and discussed the ancient art of feather readings used today by particular Native American tribes in the United States. These four characteristics, however, apply to the types of movement that one can see in any sequence of Tarot cards, creating for Enrique the notion of an ‘eye rhyme’ in which successive cards randomly drawn from the deck paint a new picture that will contain different sets of meanings for different querents.





The session then moved onto members of our group selecting cards from the major arcana and watching Enrique provide a demonstration of how a reading progresses with his system. The approach challenged many preconceptions about Tarot, its links with mentalism, and the tension between performing as a mystery entertainer and providing meaningful advice to querents. It is clear that Enrique draws on his vast knowledge of history, literature, poetry and art to supplement his approach. His system is available from www.mevproshop.com and he has a website and blog on which he posts regularly, which can be found at <http://enriqueenriquez.net/>.

Paul Brook



After a hearty lunch break and lot of sidebar conversations, participants reassembled for the much awaited lecture from Paul Brook. Paul is a psychologist and actively performing mentalist from Birmingham, who has written the following series of fascinating books on mentalism: *The Gift*, *On Mephisto's Shoulder*, *Good Vibrations*, *The Brook Test*, and *Alchemical Tools*. Already hailed as a **must read** for all mentalists, *Alchemical Tools* has taken the mentalist community by storm, selling in its 1000s and now in its second printing.

These are available via his site www.paulbrook.co.uk

Paul opened with a killer (dare I say *Kolossal?*) card effect in which one card freely thought of by a participant was the only card in his top pocket. The group gasped at such a clean and sharp revelation. He followed with a fine demonstration of hypnotic power where a pen placed on top of one of three glasses mysteriously fell off



onto the table and corresponded to the glass chosen by the participant.



He then performed a nice psychological profiling effect using business cards, a series of personality questions, and a randomising process that in the end led to a anything but a random outcome! His final effect was a lovely psychometry demonstration using a woman's finger ring held by the participant. The

participant rather than the Mr Brook himself provided details of its owner simply by holding the ring. The details were noted down and then found to match those listed in a newspaper clipping about the woman who once owned the ring!

Throughout his demonstrations, Paul provided thorough explanations that draw on the many principles of psychology and mentalism found in his books, such as probability, being 'almost correct', forcing, and pre-show work. Overall, his style was engaging and entertaining, while his performance persona is one that develops the idea of plausible explanations for what is happening in his demonstrations.

Marc Paul

Paul Brook's 'plausibility approach' gave way to Marc Paul 'impossibility approach', which rests on his opening line, 'Tell the audience it's impossible, tell them why it's impossible, *then do it!*' Marc hit the ground running and did not stop to take a breath (and we had no time to catch our breath!) Clearly an energetic and experienced performer, Marc explained that as a corporate entertainer, he has to deliver a punch to his audience early on to grab their attention. His approach contrasted with Paul Brook's in that he simply performed inexplicable routines and his approach also contrasted with that of Enrique, since he claimed that we should first and foremost concentrate our efforts on being *entertainers*. He then performed his AAA Booktest, which can be done *any time, any where, any place*.



He performed the effect and then explained the full handling and subtleties. The best piece of advice came when he said, 'Do not leave the reveal in the hands of the spectator.' Too often, the mentalist will reveal the word in a book test and then the participant will simply say 'correct.' In contrast, Marc showed all of us how to write the word or phrase, turn the pad around, and make the most of the revelation while staying in control.

The strongest piece of his session followed with the presentation of his Truth and Lies, a rendition of the 'Ring of Truth' puzzle that was completely AAA. All you need are five business cards and a pen. He used five participants, one of whom marked a card and one of whom chose the marked card after they were shuffled and spread onto the table. The 'suspect' was rooted out in spectacular fashion as Marc made the most out of truth, lies, bluffing, and double bluffing.



Marc can be reached at www.marcpaul.com

David Berglas



After a much needed coffee and tea break with more informal chat, we settled down for the final presentation of the day from none other than David Berglas. David has become a firm patron of *Psycrets* and did not disappoint us on the night with a specially prepared number routine for our meeting. Six digit numbers were chose and then used to choose another selection of six numbers and then summed into a huge number that ultimately equalled the date of the *Tabula Mentis* meeting 120,408!

David then changed tack in dramatic fashion and proceeded to perform a range of card effects with *other people's cards*, including his signature any card at any number, which not only brought gasps from the participants,

but open jawed astonishment. David, in his softly spoken and genteel fashion, ended by saying, 'I may be old, but I can still perform miracles.'

It was clear from this performance and a lifetime of achievement in magic, mentalism, and corporate entertainment, that David is most deserving of recognition from *Psycrets*. Though still a young organisation, *Psycrets* has grown in little over a year to a good strong membership, successful and well attended meetings, as well as a serious organisation that values quality mystery entertainment. It has attracted big names from the field and we certainly hope to continue to do so.



Roni Shachnaey and Todd Landman have discussed a number of ideas on how best to recognise the level of achievement illustrated by David Berglas and have devised *Psycrets*' very own **Griffin Award** for **The Grand Master of Mystery**. The Griffin symbolises much in the world of magic and mystery and has a particular connection to London, where *Psycrets* was born. It was thus with great pride and enthusiasm that Roni and Todd announced to the participants that David Berglas be made a lifetime member of *Psycrets* and named **The Grand Master of Mystery**. David graciously accepted the award and will appear at the next *Tabula Mentis* meeting (see below) to receive a special award from *Psycrets*.



Tabula Mentis IV

Tabula Mentis IV will be devoted to séance, bizarre, and psychic demonstrations and will take place on 15 November 2008 at & Mallow Street, London.

Psycrets is most excited and pleased to feature:

Rogova Séance
Roni Shachnaey

Fraud!
a lecture on mediumship by
Jon Randall
Editor of *Pentacle Magazine*

Creating Aged Props for Bizarre Magic
Tom Lauten

Bizarre magic from
Dr. Steve Murray

and

a special evening presentation
David Berglas

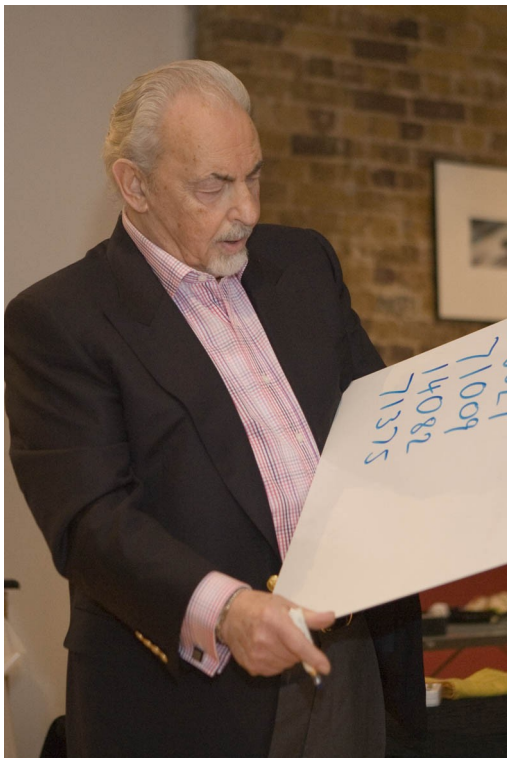
Psycrets will be issuing tickets for the event.

The fee for members is £25 and for non-members, £60.00.

Please send paypal payments to payments@psycrets.org.uk

Or send a cheque made out to: The British Society of Mystery Entertainers
to Roni Shachnaey, 3 Long Walk, Scarborough, YO12 6BQ

Parting Images





Hosted and photographed by Tim Bowden
www.timbowdenweddings.co.uk

Organised and Sponsored by *Psycrets*
www.psycrets.org.uk

Poster designed by Phill Smith
www.sushidesign.net

List of Participants:

1	Akintunde	Ken	18	Godwin	Steve	35	Ryder	Peter
2	Antoniou	Peter	19	Hanrahan	James	36	Schouten	Matthew
3	Berglas	David	20	Harrison	Richard	37	Segal	Doug
4	Bowden	Tim	21	Hedley	Ross	38	Shachnaey	Roni
5	Bowles	Maria	22	Hicks	Margarett a	39	Shaw	Simon
6	Brook	Paul	23	Knight	Howard	40	Shrimpton	Dale
7	Brooks Casimir-	Mark	24	Landman	Todd	41	Souch	Ian
8	Mrowczynski	Piers	25	Lupine	Robert	42	Stokes	Richard
9	Cooper	Barry	26	Lynch	Vincent	43	Thackery	William
10	Craven	Paul	27	Marshall	Jonathan	44	Thompson	Jon
11	Cross	Les	28	Monaghan	Sean	45	Waltham	Jeff
12	Crow	Alex	29	Moore	Alan	46	Webb	Lyndon
13	Drury	Steve	30	Moore	Julian	47	Webb	Andrew
14	Dunford	Iain	31	Murray	Steve	48	Wilde	Michael
15	Fisher	Andie	32	Paul	Marc	49	Winterton	Clive
16	Fitzherbert	Nick	33	Randall	Jon	50	Ziatabari	Darius
17	Gibson	David	34	Rolinson Rainford	Adrian			