

THE CHAINLETTER

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ESCAPE COMMUNITY



Wolflock II

Next Generation

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United Kingdom Escape Artists 2021

The 19th Annual General meeting of the United Kingdom Escape Artists (UKEA) took place on Saturday the 25th of September 2021 in Doncaster with a strong turnout of both professional and amateur escape artists. The meeting comprised a number of lectures



and presentations and also saw the 6th annual "Mick Hanzlik" award competition and the 04th David

De-Val Award.

This year, the Mick Hanzlik award was won by Miranda Allen.

Miranda performed her new artistic escape titled "fifteen seconds". "It's an act I've been considering

for about a year drawing unspoken parallels between waiting out a time of crisis and the sensation of a breath hold".



This was Miranda's first time at the UKEA convention, a double record as it's the first time an award has been won by a new member and also the first female to win the award.

The Award is named after Houdini Historian and Master Locksmith Mick Hanzlik.



The second award goes to Aaron Firth as he became the fourth person to win the prestigious David De-Val award for his efforts during the last 12 months in promoting the art form. He was nominated for the work he has put into the United Kingdom Escape Artists zoom meetings and keeping members entertained with his collection at the Doncaster Restraint Museum. Sadly, Aaron contracted Covid days before the meeting so had to attend virtually.

Aaron says "I'm thrilled to say that the committee have awarded DRM, Clare and I this honour, largely due to our fun zoom presentations and demos during lockdown and the help with organising the AGM. This was a very much needed lift after all the planning to show UKEA our lovely DRM was thwarted.

Thank you so much for voting for us and helping us rescue just the worst piece of bad luck!

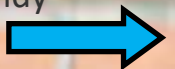


On

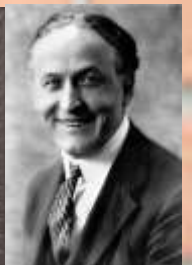
the day we had a mixture of Demos and lectures, after a quick introduction and welcome by the UKEA Chairman Allan Taylor we then moved onto a Risk Assessment lecture by Miranda Allen followed by a Q&A session. Andy Robertson gave us a talk on the types of restraints used by Police and activists and how the Police remove them.

Dave Cox went head to head to compete for the most handcuffs removed from an arm in 1 minute. Dave easily managed 10 and aims to completely smash this for a Guinness world record later in the Year. Tom Magick stepped in to replace Stuart Burrell and astounded us by managed 9 even though he had never done it before. Chris Gower gave us a talk on Fake hinges, bolts and nuts. We also had a lock picking school from Dave Cox.

On the day we had several people perform escapes for the Mick Hanzlik award, Tony Gough, Andy Robertson, Dave Cox, Andy Storm and Miranda Allen.



"Wild about Harry"
John Cox' Houdini web site
www.wildabouthoudini.com



The group voted for the 2022 committee

Allan Taylor – Chair

Tim Holton – Vice

Chris Gower – Treasurer

Matthew Redmond – Secretary

Andy Robertson – Inner Circle

The first act of the day to vie for the Hanzlik award was Tony Gough. A brief history stated that in 1919 Houdini was challenged to be chained up to a Cannon which he accepted. Tony appeared wearing a neck collar with 15 metres of chain attached, he stood in front of the full-size Cannon and handcuffs & Leg irons put on him. The chain was securely attached to two D rings and wrapped around his arms, body and legs. Four padlocks were placed to secure the chains. The 1812 overture played and we were told he had just 90 seconds to escape before the Cannon Fired.

He struggled at first but managed to get the handcuffs off, then the neck collar then the leg irons and after 88 seconds escaped from the chains just as the Cannon Fired. Tony took his bow to a well-deserved presentation



After a very pleasant lunch, Chris Gower gave a talk on 'Fake Hinges, Bolts and Rivets'. Aware that we were over running on time he shortened the talk showing us some old neck collars with fake hinge pins, at a previous meeting Chris had shown us some Fake Bolts that are shown in Cannels Book 'The Secrets of Houdini' so he briefly showed these again. Bringing us into the 21st Century he showed two methods of how you could be riveted into a tank using pop rivets and escape. He then handed out two pairs of Bilboes, one with a padlock attached and a set without padlock. Both could be examined, the first set without the padlock had a left hand threaded bar that could be unscrewed once the padlock was put on. The second set was Chris's own invention and was cleverly gimmicked, he may well show this at the next GEO zoom meeting.

Finally he showed us a specially made Hinge that was attached to a lid, it was fully



examinable but the pin was made of a low melting point alloy.



The Magic Nook
www.magicnook.com

"Do-It-Yourself" Magic for
"Built-It-Myself" Magicians



A great tribute site to the amazing
David De-Val



<http://www.davidde-val.com/>

This should have melted when heated from the inside with a small blowtorch. However, he could not get enough heat and had to heat the hinge from the outside when the alloy melted and the hinge came apart.



Andy Robertson

This year I wanted to bring real danger and high risk in an escape to the UKEA meeting. I like to build my own escapes and this year I constructed a "Death Cage" The cage towers 8 feet tall and at each side suspended by a central pressure plate was 5 foot swing arms each with 6 inch multiple tube spikes....these were real. The construction was solid steel tubing with support legs, it is the biggest escape item I have ever constructed.

The pressure plate which I stood on in the middle was connected to both the spiked swing arms with my weight stopping them dead fall down and into me. Should I slip off, loose balance or the supporting chains snap or fail then I would be instantly impaled.



This site is well worth the time to study if you want to learn about lock picking
www.lockpickguide.com

Begging Box!

Your input is our output!

This is the part of The Chainletter where the editor begs for you to give him some material to publish. No idea what to write?



Well, How about...

- ◆ Your first escape.
- ◆ How did you learn to escape?
- ◆ Your creative process.
- ◆ Your last escape.
- ◆ Who is your hero? Why?
- ◆ What makes a good escape.
- ◆ Your escape bio.
- ◆ An escape you saw on TV.
- ◆ An escape you saw live.
- ◆ Anything escape related.



If you are interested in occult escapology, you want S. Rob!
<https://www.srob.co.uk/>

"Without a key"
For all your lockpicking needs
www.withoutakey.co.uk

I also was chained by my wrists and neck which secured me to the cage frame. This meant if it went wrong further risk of me not being able to move out the way of the falling spiked swing arms was all too real. So I had to pick the padlocks in full view and then jump off the

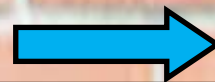


pressure plate. There was no way to re set the swing arm to safe it all came down to getting out the chains and getting away in time there was no room for error!

I did escape and the arm came down so quick as I jumped out the way! I also like to educate the group and after my escapes I will advise on what I did and aspects of the escape to help others learn and create other ideas from it as well as understand the showmanship that very important (Blood effect used being one aspect). This way I am not only doing an escape attempt but giving something back to others regardless of experience.

I also did a talk on how protestors restrain them self and the methods used by the Police to remove the restraints.

I make all my escapes portable and need to as I travel from Scotland each year to the annual UKEA meeting in England. If you think this was dangerous.....wait to you see next year's attempt. ...I am going to shock like never before!



**Have the lads at
Guinness turned down
your world record?
Online World Records
can help...
Contact Fenyx Fyre
info@fenyxfyre.ca**

Andy Storm Hanzlik Award



The Cuff Challenge



Watch this space

Allan Taylor and Andy Robertson made a special announcement regarding these Iron Masks



Where will the
G.E.O. Escape Artist
Convention take place?

Stuntman almost Dies in Horrific Accident!

TMZ 10/15/2021

Jonathan Goodwin, a daredevil stuntman on the new "America's Got Talent: Extreme" suffered brutal injuries after a stunt he attempted went horribly wrong, and it was so bad people on the set thought he was dead.

Production sources tell TMZ ... Goodwin was suspended 70 feet in the air in a straitjacket hanging by his feet from a wire. Two cars were suspended on either side of him ... swinging back and forth. The stunt was for Goodwin to free himself from the restraints and then fall on an air mattress, and avoid getting crushed by the cars as they swung in the air.



Something went terribly wrong, and the cars smashed together, sandwiching Goodwin in between them. The

impact caused the cars to explode, erupting in a gigantic fireball. Goodwin fell to the ground and hit his head.

Our sources say Goodwin was unresponsive after the crash, and people on the set thought he was dead.



However, Goodwin was responsive when he was airlifted to a hospital and rushed into surgery. We're told he's in a trauma unit and his condition is unclear.

Goodwin is no stranger to the 'AGT' family ... he was on the show in 2020, where he successfully completed another death-defying stunt.

Jonathan Goodwin's terrifying car stunt gone wrong left him riddled with injuries over much of his body ... and it sounds excruciating.



According to the police report, obtained by TMZ, the professional daredevil suffered multiple broken bones in both of his legs, plus cuts all over his face and burns.

It sounds like Jonathan got super lucky ... the responding officer says he was able to observe the stuntman after the incident and he was conscious and alert. Police say EMTs determined Jonathan had good vital signs.

Still, the injuries were bad enough that he needed to be airlifted to a nearby hospital, where he underwent surgery.



Injured America's Got Talent: 'Extreme' Escape Artist Speaks From Hospital About Accident: "I Was Protected By Love"

From Tom Tapp: Deadline News

Escape artist [Jonathan Goodwin](#) spoke out for the first time since a stunt on the set of *America's Got Talent: Extreme* [sent him](#) to the hospital.

"A couple of days ago my life took a complete left turn...and the out pouring of love from all the corners of the world; from people I didn't even think would know or remember me...has just been astonishing," he wrote on Instagram. "Thank you to everyone who has reached out and sent their love and support. It literally has been a lifesaver."

Among those wishing him well were his fiancée, British actress Amanda Abbington, who encouraged with the comment, "We've totally got this" on his post. Goodwin thanked his future wife in his missive and called her "the best thing to ever happen to me." *America's Got Talent* judge [Heidi Klum](#) also commented on the post writing, "Sending you my love as well and a speedy recovery."

Production on *America's Got Talent: Extreme* was paused after the [accident](#). Goodwin reportedly was crushed between two cars in a stunt that went wrong, causing an explosion on the set. He was rushed to the hospital.

Today, Goodwin sounded grateful to be alive.

"I have been to the very brink and dodged the worst that a human being can, without fear...because I was protected by love. Love is all you need, so make sure you get some, cos its good s—," he wrote. "There is a long road to recovery and that won't look like what it did...I may leave the daft s— alone for a while, but I have a lot left to do in this world."

He continued, "I will have a lot to say on that matter and the benefits of being kind in the future."

He ended the post with what was likely a caption to the photo he posted of himself thumbing his nose.

"To death I say nananana boo boo."



From Jonathan's
Instagram:

[jonathangoodwinofficial](#)

You can't say you don't get out what you put in. I've tried my hardest over the years to be kind, thoughtful, honest supportive and good. A couple of days ago my life took a complete left turn... and the out pouring of love from all the corners of the world; from people I didn't even think would know or remember me... has just been astonishing. Truly incredible. I will have a lot to say on that matter and the benefits of being kind in the future.. but thank you. Thank you to everyone who has reached out and sent their love and support. It literally has been a lifesaver. There are a few people who should not remain nameless. Firstly Tony, Stuart and Jenni (not tagged as it seemed in appropriate) Milligan, Joe, Grace, Jane, Helen, mum and dad and Simon and Danny. Then most importantly my fiancé and the best thing to ever happen to me, Amanda. I have been to the very brink and dodged the worst that a human being can, without fear...because I was protected by love. Love is all you need, so make sure you get some, cos its good shit. To death I say nananana boo boo... and to the rest of you... watch this space. There is a long road to recovery and that won't look like what it did...I may leave the daft shit alone for a while, but I have a lot left to do in this world. Maybe we can make something good together?



GEO: International Escapology Day!

On September 21st, The Global Escapology Organisation celebrated the holiday "International Escapology day." The event was held online by zoom, and ran off a face book page. Note, if you are reading this, and you are not a member of the GEO you might consider jumping in to join the fun. It is amazing how cool it is to talk with like-minded people. While the timing was not great for everybody, the videos from the event are still available on the Facebook page for GEO members to watch.

Currently up to be watched are an exciting array of videos..



Steve Spade offered up his very funny version of the in and out chair tie. The volunteer was left rather flummoxed.

Dean Carnegie offered up a quick video which was a lightning barrage of several escapes that were exciting and funny to watch.



Wolflock and Le Ah Kun in south Africa present a team escape that featured them chained together back to back, handcuffed and zip tied. They escaped and one spectator called the effort "Fucking Amazing."



Matt Johnson shared some memories and video from his 2018 efforts on Brittan's Got Talent.

Margarette Shared her memories too from the great old days at the Cannon's conventions! I am sure she is not the only one to miss those exciting events that showed us all how hungry escape artists are to talk to our colleagues.



Andrew Basso, co-founder of GEO added a couple of interesting pieces, one is a cute bit in which Andrew challenges five others to a speed straitjacket escape, another is a chain

and straitjacket escape done somewhere out on a field. Andrew is certainly a hard working escapologist and very dedicated to the craft.



Of course there was more to the day's event, including Houdini discussions, and other catching up among friends and colleagues. All of this leading to the inescapable idea that we need an escape artist convention and soon. Watch this space for details, or better yet, Join the GEO!

Since the page went up, much has been added regarding the accident and condition of Jonathan Goodwin. Jonathan survived the two-car sandwich, the explosion, and the 40 foot drop. When we he get back in the saddle? That is above my pay grade. What a great day this was. Excitedly waiting for more!

