

THE CHAINLETTER

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AN E-NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR THE
ESCAPE COMMUNITY



Christopher Campbell



New Restraint cart escape!

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Custom Straitjacket

From Mark Tripp

This story begins with the great Don Viano doing mall shows. One particular show held at the Oakland mall met with an intentional and calculatingly planned disaster.

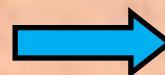
A couple of weeks before this particular show happened Don was t-boned by a taxi cab that ran the light. This left him among other injuries with a dislocated foot. That meant he



could not do the water torture cell as it puts too much effort and strain on the performer's feet. Mark advised him to just go out and make the audience happy. They

don't know what is going on behind the scenes. So, Don went out and was preparing to do the Abbot's gimmicked straitjacket escape.

Don was met on stage by a fellow who should be neither named nor remembered, but claimed to be an escape artist. This fellow simply snatched the jacket from him and revealed the gimmicks to the audience. "How long have you been doing illusions instead of escapes?" he asked Don.



Mark told the nameless instigator to "Get off the stage or I'll break your arm!" Needless to say, Don was livid, but continued on with a different effect.



That night Mark and Don spent a lot of time trying to come up with an alternative that was not so easily revealed, but still not too stressful on the performer, and yet retained the entertainment value of the original escape.

Another time, at Riverside Park, Mark was using an Abbot's jacket and told the spectator who was helping him to "Put your knee into my back and pull." Sadly, the strap broke right in half. That not only ended that effect for the night, it ended it until a replacement jacket could be acquired.



Here is the gimmick that Mark and Don came up with. Mark is sharing this freely for any escape artist who cares to try and make one.

The jacket can be normal, but has two hidden gimmicks that the audience will not find. First the jacket is custom sized. The sleeves are each two to four inches longer than they need to be. Second. Near the end of each sleeve is

a t-bracket. This bracket is sewn into a position to be grabbed and held by the performer.



The application of these two gimmicks is simple and should be obvious. The performer is being put into the jacket and grips the two t-brackets. This bunches up the sleeves a bit, but no one will



notice. How many spectators have any idea what a straitjacket is supposed to look like? Once you are strapped and buckled in, just let go of the brackets. You just got yourself between four and eight inches of slack. Now play with the audience and make your escape! No one will be the wiser for it!

If you make a jacket like this, be sure to thank Mark.



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



The Tim Dennis Radio Show

Niagara in the Morning



Tim Dennis, a radio personality from Niagara Falls interviewed our own Chris Campbell. The subject was Chris' amazing upcoming stunt doing escapes on a jet boat while traveling through the rapids below Niagara Falls.

A major point was made about the danger factor involved. Many people have lost their lives trying to shoot those rapids, and the whirlpool is probably the only one on Earth that really resembles the ones of movies. If Chris were to fall out of the boat, likely death would follow.



He is risking his life on this stunt.

Tim also questioned how legal the stunt is? Chris said it was fully sanctioned and legal in the eyes of the Canadian government.

Break a Chain Chris!



Cuff Linked

From Jim Gerrish

In the article from the Magic Nook "Cuff Linked, Jim teaches a couple of gimmicks that can be used in a number of routines.

Jim starts by citing some Harry Anderson quotes and routines. He gives the links to either find them or buy the DVD that shows them. This is a fine way to start out, seeing the routines in action.

Jim explains how to gimmick a pair of handcuffs and it is probably not like other gimmicks you have previously read about. Given that the Magic Nook is the master of do-it-yourself magic for built-it-myself magicians, these gimmicks are both cheap and effective.

Jim goes into making your own ball and chain, as well as a way to gimmick some ropes for an in and out played for laughs routine.

Last are leg and wrist shackles and the gimmick for them.

Jim includes some routines to go with it, and overall "Cuff Linked" is a great value for the money.



The Magic Nook
www.magicknook.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/>

The GEO's Latest Meeting Rocked!

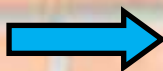
The Global Escapology Organisation held its latest gathering on Saturday, July 17th. There were between 20 and 30 people in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all.

Allan Taylor opened the meeting with an animated video that gave some colorful background of the GEO and showed the leaders and what they hope to accomplish. It was a cute effort and set the "fun" tone for the rest of the meeting.

John Cox gave what is hoped to be only the first of many in a series with "What Houdini was doing today." July 17 is the anniversary of his mother's passing, which had a profound effect on Houdini in many ways. John gave some examples from Houdini's life and was met with strong appreciation.



Andrew took on the role of the host at this point and showed a pair of videos from Bill Shirk. Then Bill himself came on line. He repeated his often told story of how he went from becoming an AM disk jockey in Indiana, all the way up



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

to being one of the greatest escape artists in the world.

He'd been sent to cover the Hoxie Bros. Circus. There was a huge build up to his performing an upside down straitjacket escape. He was supposed to chicken out, but at the last minute he did the stunt, and decided he liked it.

He had sought out Melbourne Christopher for guidance and Christopher told him to do it slow, and sell the restraint.

Bill decided that if he could earn four world records, then he could call himself the greatest. He set out to do that, and he did it.

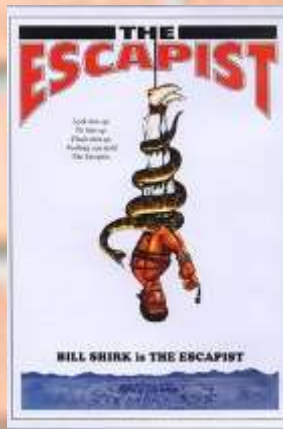
Bill talked about what a suicide mission it was trying to do the "buried alive" stunt and how it killed Joe Burris. Bill took precautions, but did the stunt for the publicity, not because he thought he would succeed.

For those that may want it, his video "The Escapist" is available on his website.

Cliff came on next to talk about membership. He spoke of efforts he has been making to reach out to local magic clubs. This has brought some small success, but the GEO still



wants to have 100 members by this December. He urged everyone to join him in reaching out to other local magic clubs in a quest for finding escape artists. We know they are out there.



Jake Bullet, who runs the Doncaster Restraint Museum



came to give a talk called "When restraint becomes torture." He showed some hideous pieces that ran from restraint and humiliation, to restraint and excruciating pain. It is always amazing to me the kind of evil and harm people can devise to do to one another.

David Merlini was up next with another museum. David runs the "House of Houdini," a tribute to the great master located in his hometown of Budapest, Hungary. David gave us a brief tour of the place, and then answered some questions. Probably the biggest point was about getting sponsors to pay for your events. "Keep your name out there," He said, "and then wait for sponsors to come to you." You can command a much better price that way.

We ended with Chris Campbell showing off his escape standing on machete knives and Helen Fury climbing through a tennis racket!

As usual, we stayed around to talk for a while after as kindred spirits tend to do.



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