

WONDER WORKERS & THE ART OF ILLUSION

“...in which it is the very trickery that pleases me. But show me how the trick is done, and I have lost my interest therein.”

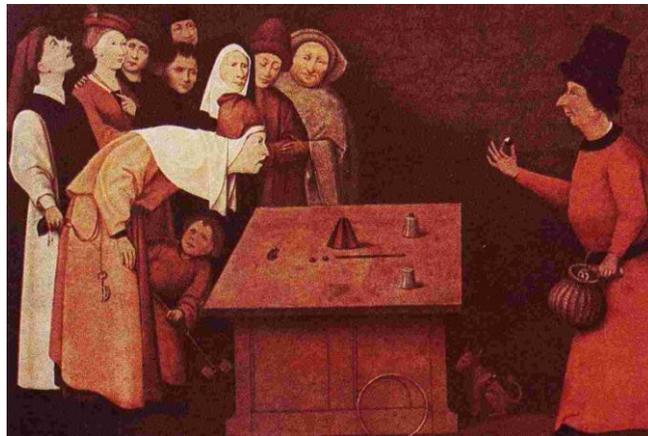
Seneca (3BC-65AD)

From the beginning of time the fascination with magic and the impossible has been widespread. Egypt was the cradle of magic. Sorcerer Priests used scientific principles to create illusions for the edification of worship and to hold power over the people. Where there was power there was magic. Then there is the age-old skill of sleight of hand, which proves that ‘the hand is quicker than the eye’. Magicians were known as ‘Jongleurs’ lest they be sentenced to death for ‘witchcraft and conjuration’ under the edicts of Henry VIII.

With the emergence of the Music Hall, Magic gained a new respectability and audiences flocked in there thousands to watch the extraordinary feats of The Great Illusionists. This gave birth to legendary tricks such as pulling a rabbit from a hat and sawing a lady in half. And if magicians guarded their secrets with their lives, how was the Magic Circle formed? – Home to 10,000 secrets.

Even Today in our super technical age of ipods and broadband, the wonder and surprise of magic are as popular as ever, not forgetting the Harry Potter craze.

Wonder Workers and the Art of Illusion is a whistle stop tour of the history of mystery from 3000bc to the 21st century and be careful! – you might be amazed and bewitched.



The ‘Jongleur’ by Hieronymus Bosch (c.1460-1516)

Books

1. Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke - Pub. By Bloomsbury
2. Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold – Pub. by Hodder & Stourton

Films

1. The Prestige (2006) Directed by Christopher Nolan
2. The Illusionist (2006) Directed by Neil Burger