

## 10 Below Zero Review

This DVD, produced by Big Blind Media, is a selection of nine of Andrew's close-up routines, mainly with cards, but there are also two coin tricks and one quirky mentalism effect. In common with all of Mr Normansell's work that I've seen to date, these are simple but effective, practical effects that can be used in the real world. This is a nice way of saying that there isn't any advanced, or even intermediate-level, sleight-of-hand, which may be a negative if you're an obsessive finger-flinging move-junkie, but which is a huge plus for everyone else.

Essentially, a lot of the material is streamlined handlings for classic effects, eliminating the busted knuckles, but allowing you, the performer, to concentrate on making the presentation entertaining. Andrew's routine "Rapid Transit", for example is a trick in which four signed cards mysteriously travel to four different pockets. A familiar plot I'm sure, and maybe one that a lot of you have loved, fought with, and then abandoned. But now, leaving the domestic violence metaphor aside, here's a way to do it with only one palm. Yes, you too can look like an advanced sleight-of-hand performer with the minimum of effort.

And that brings me onto the way these effects are presented. On the DVD, they are performed with an element of tongue-in-cheek, and as mild curiosities. As with all routines, you probably won't want to parrot the script verbatim when you perform them, and I think there is room in many of these tricks to play with presentation and turn them into real miracles for your audience. One that immediately presents itself in this regard is the mentalism effect "Funky Little Number". Imagine not only predicting a freely chosen number but, to follow up, predicting exactly how much change they have in their pocket. If you wanted to, you could use this to cement a reputation as a Derren Brownesque master of psychology.

All in all, with 10 Below Zero, you're getting some strong, easy-to-perform routines that could fit nicely into a restaurant act, or that could be used to fool your friends. You get what we've come to expect from Big Blind Media, in terms of slick production values and detailed explanations presented as a one-on-one conversation with another magician, in this case David Forrest. So, if you're not all about the sleights, and you want some maximum-impact-for-minimum-effort effects to weave your performance persona into, then this is an excellent DVD to add to your collection.