

2wo Faced

by David Forrest

Reviewed by Peter Duffie

It's not often these days that I see a collection of card tricks on DVD where every trick is a winner. More so, almost any one of these tricks could easily have been marketed as a stand-alone item. While every trick uses gaffed cards, you are supplied with all the necessary gaffs in Bicycle stock — twenty in total. This includes a custom-made force/vanish gimmick. More on this later.

Some magicians have an aversion to using gaffed cards. Oddly enough, many of those same performers are quite happy to use

gaffed coins. Why? If you ignore gaffed card tricks, you are missing out on some wonderful opportunities for incredible, impossible effects. There are many gaffed card effects that simply cannot be exactly replicated using regular cards. Close approximations might be possible, but the compromises that have to be made can often result in weaker effects.

The twelve effects on David Forrest's *2wo Faced* DVD are: Jackass, Con-Fused, The Wager, Wee Wee Mentalist, Predicament,

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50/50, Blurred, Superfly, Elmsley Smelsley, Quantum Leap, Where's My Card?, and Ze Flash. The plots covered include the Hofzinger Ace problem, transposition, sandwich, prediction, animation, wager, fusion, and card to impossible location. All are within easy grasp of the average magician, and all are well constructed.

Although this DVD is titled *2wo Faced*, double-faced cards only form a small part of the overall array of gaffs used. The supplied trick cards include double blanks, blank face, blank back, red/blue double back, red/red double back, double-faced cards with Aces on one side and indifferent cards on the other, etc. The aforementioned force/vanish gimmick is not a standard gaff, having been specially made. It allows a spectator to peek at a card in the center of the deck, after which, and with no moves at all, the card can be immediately shown to have vanished — with only 51 cards remaining in the pack. And, because the card is also forced, it can subsequently be found in any impossible location. I first came across this gimmick when it was supplied by Davenport's with Dr. Stanley Jaks' great little trick, The Four Blacks. It can be added to a deck, then just as easily palmed away again or surreptitiously dropped into a pocket. Forrest has included this because he feels that it's a gaff that has been unfairly overlooked over the years. I agree, and am glad that it has been revived here.

The DVD is easy to navigate and explanations are clearly presented. Camera work is mainly good, though the switch from wide



to close-up is at times slow, but this is a minor caveat. The running time is two hours, and with the high quality of material Forrest offers, buying *2wo Faced* is money well spent.

2wo Faced DVD by David Forrest. £22.99/\$35 postpaid. Available from Big Blind Media, 3 Tenyson Road, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 3FR, United Kingdom, www.bigblindmedia.com, your dealer. Dealers contact Murphy's Magic Supplies, www.murphysmagicsupplies.com.