

## In review

### Bullets After Dark by John Bannon

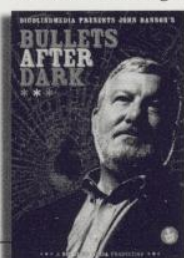
2 DVDs, total 2 hrs., 32 mins. £24.99 (\$35) plus p&p from [www.BigBlindMedia.com](http://www.BigBlindMedia.com) or your favourite dealer.

#### Reviewed by Matthew Field

I'm a big fan of the card magic of Chicago magician John Bannon. I edited one of his books, *Smoke and Mirrors*, but I don't think that has influenced my editorial criteria.

John's magic is somewhat cerebral. By that I mean that much of it demands that spectators are alert enough (and sober enough) to be willing to pay attention to what's going on. As John says on these videos, he wants to devastate the spectators, leaving them clueless as to method.

There are 14 items on these DVDs, shot in a studio setting with explanation sequences featuring British magicians including Magic Circle members Andi Gladwin and Iain Moran. Many of the tricks are from John's highly recommended book, *Dear Mr. Fantasy*. Some of the highlights are "Dead



Reckoning", in which a selection is lost in the deck and the magician deals cards as the spectator silently spells the selection's name. Sure enough, when the

magician stops, on a "psychic impulse", he's stopped on the selection. It requires a set-up, but it's very good. "Power of Poker" has the spectator making all the choices as he deals five cards to himself and the magician, and not only does the magician's Poker hand win, he has predicted the outcome. "Bullet Train" is actually three versions of an Ace assembly that comes to a denouement long before anyone is expecting anything of the sort. And "Bannon Triumph" is actually his "Play it Straight Triumph", from his first book, *Impossibilia*, and, while it requires a set up is very strong and has long been a part of my own repertoire.

Some of the tricks require Faro Shuffles and a small-packet Bottom Deal, not difficult, but not for beginners, either. However some, like the powerful "Einstein Overkill" are virtually self-working. In other words, there's something for every lover of card tricks.

The production is absolutely first rate, and throughout the tricks and sleights (John teaches his "J.B. Flytrap False Cut") is interspersed bits of John giving good general advice about the performance of magic. One missing credit, about which I've written to John, is that the Tap False Cut he uses repeatedly was invented by our own Bobby Bernard.

This is a DVD set that any card lover will enjoy, with a wide variety of tricks I think you'll want to add to your repertoire, from a soft-spoken, very talented magician.