

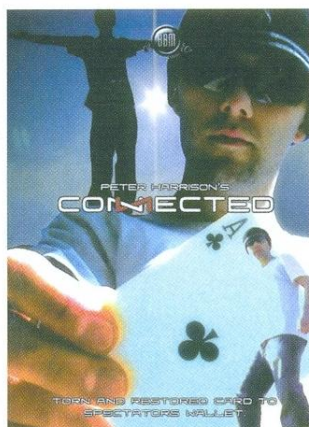


Reviews

magicseen takes a look at what's hot and what's not!

which features Scottish close up magician Peter Harrison. The DVD features the performance and explanation of just one effect, an effect which can be summed up as a 'torn and restored card to spectator's wallet'. The DVD begins with footage of Peter performing the routine twice, the first time to a couple of spectators and the second to one person on his own. Both are filmed outside for reasons which one can only wonder at since the routine is not especially designed for a street performance. Peter comes across as a quiet and undemonstrative performer and he clearly truly loves 'Connected' and has used it, I suspect, for a very long time commercially. As a result his performance is very assured and he gets a genuinely strong reaction from the spectators we see on the DVD.

The routine itself has been structured very carefully by Peter to extract the maximum impact from it, and indeed the method does rely on the performer being with a group of spectators for several minutes where there is an opportunity to perform at least 3 or perhaps ideally even 4 tricks in a sequence together. The reason is that the first effect in the performance sequence sets up the climax to Connected itself, which is a closing routine, and you need a time delay between the first and last tricks to make it truly fooling. So, with this in mind, I would suggest this routine is not really suitable to include in a repertoire to be used at a busy dinner function where time at a table is very limited, but is better suited to a more relaxed atmosphere such as at an informal party or in a restaurant where there is not too much time pressure.



CONNECTED

by Peter Harrison

Available from:
www.bigblindmedia.com

Price: £16.99

Connected is the latest DVD offering from Big Blind Media

Technically the effect is fairly straightforward. It relies on basic card handling and some spectator management. Experienced performers will work out the basic method from the performance segments, but for those who are less versed in methodology, Peter goes through every last nuance of the handling to make sure that viewers understand not only the physical moves required but also the underlying psychological points. I must confess that for my taste the explanation section was a little too drawn out - I'm not sure that the method justifies such a long time to impart the necessary details -but perhaps for a total beginner, the pace would be about right.

I have seen a few Big Blind Media products in recent months and they do make interesting DVDs with often quite innovative presentational formats. When reviewing the Cullfather in issue 15, for instance, I praised the split screen use which I felt was very helpful. With Connected they have inserted into the explanation section snap shots of relevant performance moments to illustrate the point that Peter is currently making, with Peter's explanation still continuing as a voice over. I thought this was very good as a way of instantly reminding the viewer of the exact moment that is being referred to.

What I don't enjoy so much, is the way the performance segments are filmed with the camera moving around all the time, zooming in and out for no particular reason and using odd angles and focussing. I know it is supposed to be youthful and trendy, but actually it's little more than annoying for the viewer. I also think that the lighting for the explanation segments, while perfect for the close ups on the hands, was too much to one side with the result that huge dark shadows were cast over Peter and Owen Packard making it

difficult at times to see their faces, particularly Peter's. In one section at the end, you virtually can't see his eyes at all because of the shadow and I found this made it more difficult to concentrate on what he was saying.

Connected will appeal to competent close uppers who are looking for something strong to start and finish a close up show set. There is a minor amount of re-set and you will destroy a card every time you do it. To perform it one spectator at least must be carrying a wallet (any sort will do). With the correct time delay and spectator handling, this routine can be played as a miracle, particularly for the more sceptical and attentive spectators. Overall this is another good product from BBM. **ML**

WHAT'S HOT: having a torn card appear restored in a spectator's wallet

WHAT'S NOT: need enough time with the spectators to set up the final phase convincingly

STAR RATING: ★★★★★