

GENII

Iain Moran - The Cullfather
By Dustin Stinett.

"If I had to do it all over again, I think that I would center my card handling on the Spread Cull. This is not to say that I don't do any culling – I do a little – but not everything is done spreading the deck. That's the versatility of this move. There's no much one cannot do in the realm of card control that cannot be done while simply spreading the cards from hand to hand. Culling is one of those procedures that I think is best taught one-on-one. Barring that, video is second best because books cannot properly convey the timing and motions involved with culling. Enter 'The Cullfather.'

"I had never heard of Iain Moran – a subject of the British Empire – until I received this DVD. As a result, I was unaware of his qualifications for teaching these concepts. I'm happy to say that having heard of him or not doesn't matter, just watching him work proves he's got the chops and it turns out that he's a pretty good teacher as well.

"On this nicely produced disc, Mr. Moran runs through 11 culling "Lessons." It's done step by step, beginning with the basic single-card cull attributed to J.N. Hofsinzer. From there, the techniques become more in depth as he moves into culling to specific locations, controls, forces, switching, set ups, multiple cards, and more.

"A terrific addition – and very helpful to me – are the two "mistakes" lessons where he discusses common errors and pitfalls, what causes them, and how to avoid them. (This is a little redundancy here, but I suppose he wanted to hammer home some of these ideas into us blockheads.)

Six effects are then performed (in studio with an on-screen assistant) and described, wherein even more technique is learned including a variant of Michael Close's "MC Spread Double Lift" from Workers 2 (taught in the "Forcing" lesson, credited and used with permission) where an odd-backed card is forced while remaining hidden. The plots are familiar ones, they just use culling as the basis of their methodology. Besides being "object lessons" – the lessons for the specific techniques used are referenced at the beginning of each explanation – they are pretty good tricks too (with proper credits given where applicable).

"The production values are very good. Maximum use is made of a split screen so a medium shot of him and a close-up shot of Mr. Moran's hands can be seen at the same time. The sound is excellent and the navigation menus are straight forward. This is an excellent DVD that I will be referring back to as needed. And boy do I need it: maybe you do, too."