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Methods in Magic: Live in the U.K.

Joshua Jay

£22.99/\$35

DURING SUMMER, 2008, Joshua Jay toured the United Kingdom on a 27-date lecture tour. The folks at Big Blind Media followed him to four of these: The Winchester Magical Society, the Surrey Society of Magicians, The Magic Circle of London, and the London Society of Magicians (filmed at Davenport's famous emporium). Since they were following him, Owen Packard had the idea of filming Mr. Jay as well and this DVD is the result.

The premise of Mr. Jay's lecture is a study of methodology, but not just for methodology's sake. Instead, he explores the relationship method has with construction, premise, and other aspects of "the trick." The effects taught during the lecture are lessons in this type of thinking behind the craft of magic. Now for those of you who are not concerned with this sort of thing—and you know who you are—you'll be pleased to know that the tricks and techniques shared are very good and within the technical abilities of intermediate magicians.

The performances and explanations are all well done. Because this was shot at four different events, there is an interesting artistic choice made by the producers wherein the different performances and explanations are mingled within each individual piece. We see Mr. Jay's clothing and the background change sometimes in mid-sentence (or so it seems). It's more seamless than it sounds, adds to the overall look of the project, and in no way detracts from it.

The camera and sound work are very good given the limitations that must have been put on the crew. Studio segments occasionally appear and it's easy to speculate that

adequate shots of these moments were not found within the live footage. So, instead of taking the expedient—and cheap—way out (picking the best of the bad), the producers and the star chose to put their viewers first and shot replacement segments that do the necessary job.

Throughout the DVD are question and answer bits that give us some insight into the magic and personality of Joshua Jay.

There is card, coin, and

mental magic with the emphasis on close-up, though a lot is appropriate for stand-up. Two pieces are marketed items and some have been published in the past. But again, these are lessons in the creation of good magic besides being a collection of very good tricks. In these cases, you are paying for those valuable lessons.

Most of the magic is stuff you can jump right into including a very clean vanish of three coins, during the explanation of which he also shares some of his most thought-provoking comments. A look at Mr. Jay's or the producer's website will fill you in as to the other pieces, all of which are worthy of consideration.

A long time ago I remember watching a kid wow a room filled with chin-scratching magicians (many of whom were probably thinking, "I'm not that good now let alone when I was his age"). A friend turned to me and rhetorically asked, "How good is he going to be when he grows up?" This excellent DVD provides yet another answer to that query. *Methods in Magic: Live in the UK* • Joshua Jay • Approx. 120 mins. • Multi-region • Available from www.bigblindmedia.com • Your Favorite Dealer * Dealers contact Murphy's Magic Supplies, Inc. on the web at www.murphymagicssupplies.com or by phone at (800) 853-7403 • \$35

