

performed on stage, and you will need the use of a sound system if you want to have the sound of breaking glass accompany the actions of you smashing a mirror. You will also need to record the sound of breaking and falling glass yourself, because no link to an appropriate sound effect file is included. It seems to me that the drawbacks outnumber the benefits of this illusion. It looks as if there are still a number of bugs to be worked out before it will become a workable and truly deceptive piece of magic.

### MAGICAL THINGS I REALLY DO LECTURE NOTES

By CHRISTOPHER MANOS

Available from Christopher Manos: [www.safetymagicshows.com](http://www.safetymagicshows.com)  
Price \$20.00

#### REVIEW BY NORMAN BECK



These notes came in a brown envelope, and were somewhat nondescript. The tricks are not pipe dreams, or new fancy sleight-of-hand moves, or crazy routines. If that is what you are looking for, just move on down the line. On the other hand, if you want routines that get the money, tricks that Mr. Manos uses in the real world, then this product is for you.

One of the best routines is Rub-a-Dub-Dub, a Cups and Balls routine that was originally done by Jack Bateman. Phil Willmarth, who holds the copyright on the original Bateman routine, gave permission for this to be in the notes. It is a great routine. Fred and Other Folks is a very bold card trick in which you predict the name of a card. My favorite routine is titled Vegas 21. This is a magic square that has a gambling theme to it, and it is just great. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. If you want commercial magic that gets the money, you have come the right place.

### WHEN THURSTON CAME TO TOWN DVD

By WILLIAM V. RAUSCHER AND RORY FELDMAN

Available from Rory Feldman Productions:  
[www.whenthurstoncametotown.com](http://www.whenthurstoncametotown.com)  
Price \$100.00

#### REVIEW BY MARC DESOUZA



I enjoy the history of magic, so I was eager to view this DVD. Bill Rauscher and I have been friends for many years and I have always enjoyed his performances and lectures. This package is no exception. This is a very classy production. The packaging is beautiful, and includes a thirty-two-page booklet, which is a biography excerpted from Thurston's 1928 manuscript. The DVD itself is beautifully produced, and runs for over two and a half hours.

This was truly a labor of love for Feldman, who has amassed the largest Thurston collection in the world. The music throughout is provided by the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra and is authentic to the period. It is a wonderful addition to the production.

The DVD is advertised as a part of the William V. Rauscher Lecture Series, but this is far more than just a lecture. Bill serves

more as a host for this DVD, and his lecture was totally rewritten for this project. His presentation is perfect for the purpose. He often reads from letters or articles about Thurston written by a number of magicians. The text is also superimposed on the screen for further clarity during Rauscher's commentary, as well as during historical audio clips, which may be a bit muddled due to age. There are audio and video interviews, and commentary by John Booth, John Calvert, George Goebel, Walter Gibson, Dorny, Maureen Christopher, Tom Ewing, Ray Goulet, Rev. Robert E. Olson, Charles Reynolds, James Wobensmith, and many others. There are over ten video clips of Thurston himself as well as additional audio clips of him. There are hundreds of images of Thurston throughout the disc. The final piece is a wonderful recording by Jane Thurston Sheppard, who toured with her father's show for many years.

This is not so much a history of Howard Thurston as it is an homage. There is not a lot of new information given from an historical perspective, but it becomes very apparent that Thurston was most influential on aspiring magicians of the time. Everyone involved refers to him as The World's Greatest Magician, and idolized him. Performers such as Blackstone, Birch, Milbourne Christopher, and John Calvert state that they felt Thurston was the best they ever saw, and all felt he deserved the title far more than Houdini. I came away from viewing this DVD wishing I had had the opportunity to see Thurston perform in person. I guess this is the closest I will ever come to that.

The one thing that seems to be missing is Rory Feldman's story. Although he does speak on screen about Thurston, I would have liked to hear him talk about how his interest in Thurston began and some of his own history. He began to collect the materials at a very young age, and has an amazingly extensive archive of this fantastic performer. He has expended a lot of time, effort, and money pursuing his interest and sharing it with the magic world, which is something to be commended.

This is an absolutely sumptuous product. If you love the history of magic and learning about the past masters, you will enjoy this immensely. I feel that every magician should watch this DVD. We should all learn from our past masters. My only hesitation in highly recommending this product is the price. At \$100 for a single disc, it is no bargain. I am certain Mr. Feldman had to look at the considerable costs involved in producing this marvelous project and analyzed how many people would likely purchase such a niche product. There are no tricks taught, and this is priced higher than the typical multiple-disc sets currently on the market. I personally feel, given these factors, that the price is justified. It is a joy to watch and to be inspired by. Given all of that, I do recommend this product, especially for those with a love for magic's history.

### PROJECT ZERO DVD

By DAVE FORREST

Available from Full 52: [www.Full52.com](http://www.Full52.com)  
Distributed by Murphy's Magic Suppliers  
Price \$40.00

#### REVIEW BY DANNY ARCHER

The prolific Mr. Dave Forrest is back with *Project Zero*, a double-disc set featuring fifteen effects involving holes punched in playing and business cards. Dave has obsessed over the moving-hole plot for years, and this compilation brings together the best from his notebooks. You will find holes that move, jump, slide, multiply, appear, and disappear.

Dave shows you a number of routines with holes in cards