



Mysteriosophy, Volume II

Steve Drury.

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Available from:

LuLu.com or *StevensMagic.com*.

It's difficult for the second volume of a magic book to be as good as the first, but *Mysteriosophy, Volume II* has exceeded its predecessor in spectacular fashion. Steve Drury, Mystery Entertainer and co-founder of the British Society of Mystery Entertainers, has refined and expanded the basic concept of the first volume, which is that true mystery (or magic) cannot be easily described in words. Rather, it must be experienced to be fully appreciated and understood.

With the help of contributors like Kenton Knepper and the late Barrie Richardson, Drury delves deeply into how to create performances that are more intensely personal for audiences. The more intense the connection, the more lasting the impression. "Intense connection" doesn't always mean scary or heart-stopping.

For example, "Efflorescence" is an intimate act of origami that connects and enchants. Done in three phases, the creation of a crane and flower is used to elicit warm and pleasant memories or vividly calming mental images. Each person will have their own imaginary version of what makes them happy or calm. That individual experience is what makes the performance special for each spectator. Haptic communication is a form of nonverbal communication involving touch. As such, "Haptic 2.0" is a divination routine that uses a simple folded card with no tears or impression devices. Colours and other objects are identified by feel and intuition.

"Human Indicator Test" is a propless piece that uses clinical and behavioural muscle movement techniques to simulate hypnotic

control over a person's arms, hands, and fingers. "Sounds of Symbolism" is a collaboration with Kenton Knepper that explores how we subconsciously assign gender and other characteristics to shapes, sounds, tastes, and textures before we even know about them (hint: milk chocolate is around, dark chocolate is angular). The late Barrie Richardson's previously unpublished contribution is called "Gestalt Vision" (Cards Unseen). In it, a deck of cards is fairly and repeatedly shuffled. Some are face up and some are face down, yet the mentalist can determine what cards are facing which direction while situated at a distance. Each section of effects and the reasons why they work is profoundly thought-provoking and enlightening. The book is written to give you an awareness of the human psyche, including your own. This should take your creativity and magic performances to new levels.

I am almost certain that no one else in your Ring will be performing the twelve effects in *Mysteriosophy II*. In fact, very few magicians in the world are using these kinds of techniques in their shows. While this volume includes some effects published in the first volume, the new refinements and simplifications are worth reviewing again. There is no question that most of these effects require a close-up or parlour venue, but they can be scaled for walk-around. The real lessons about human nature, natural responses, and the concept of a more intense personal connection for your audience are important things to know and consider, regardless of your venue. As Drury puts it, "At some level we perform because we enjoy creating wonder in our audiences." This book will help you intensify that wonder for your audiences and for you.

Highly recommended. Rolando Santos

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