

# Mystic



Roni Shachnaey

Edited By Steve Drury

# Mystic - Roni Shachnaey

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*I dedicate this book to the love of my life, Laraine.  
Thank you for all the wonderful years we have shared.  
Without you much of my inspiration would not have happened.*

*Also with thanks to my children, Aviv, Amanda, Tami  
and grandchildren, Dali and Aqua.*

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## ***Introduction***

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Firstly, *thank you* for buying this book.

It's a wonderful feeling seeing a collection of some of my professional repertoire published after so many years.

I must admit that without the consistent determination of my good friend Steve Drury, this compilation would never have happened.

Steve worked diligently on this project for quite a while - initially by badgering me enough to finally commit these to print, then by working with me to re-write each routine in English, making my command of the language sound far superior than it is!

So thank you so very much Steve.

I also feel obliged to thank Chris Gould for his suggestion that the title be simply, 'Mystic' and not 'Mentalism Goes Bizarre' as I'd initially envisioned.

I cannot forget my great friends Richard Lavengood, Marge Morneau, Patty Merrill and Lenny Hildrovo too.

Unfortunately there are far too many other names, friends and acquaintances for me to mention here – but you all know who you are.

May the spirits be with you.

Roni.

October 2013

## *Preface ~ Docc Hilford*

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In the 1970s there was a young musician caught in the claws of a strange, neo-art form. Bizarre magick was a new medium, and Roni Shachnaey changed directions to follow it. Although he remained in the shadows, his influence on Bizarre magick soon became legendary. Over the years his creations have been shared in books, magazines and in special publications for private distribution. You see, Roni is a rare breed of magician; he knows how to keep a secret.

I knew of Roni and his marvelous magick years before we actually met, and on that wonderful day Roni humbly approached me as if I was the celebrity, not him. His modest style was a surprising change from the typical bombastic personalities of magi clamoring for attention. Roni receives attention, but not from demanding it. His demeanor and appearance are impossible to ignore. At first sight, one is taken to a time of wizards and storytelling, when legends were created out of words that danced before ancient fires. You can easily imagine him leaning on a carved staff commanding the elements. Roni's universe is truly magical.

Somewhat due, no doubt, to his time in the Israeli army, Roni's magick is both direct and complicated. He has fooled me over and over with methodology I should have seen. But his presentational wrinkles keep everything well hidden. Often his ideas are so clean they're pilfered by nefarious magic dealers, repackaged and sold to

an unsuspecting public. He seldom receives credit for these inventions.

To Roni there is no separation of magick and mentalism. They are reflections of each other. Every magical performance piece is as believable as any mentalistic demonstration. And in his hands, mentalism becomes enchanting. Even a simple puzzle or clever trick is perfectly in character. His eye has a sparkle of boyish delight in fooling you. His audiences whether comprised of hundreds of bewitched adults or a single awestruck child, never feel provoked nor cheated, only privileged to have come so close to a living sage.

What you have in your hands is a collection of routines, effects and presentations that are from one of the solid founders of the modern bizarre magick movement. I trust history will place his name among those perhaps more famous, but no more creative. Roni is a priceless gem. You can tell volumes about a man from two things. How he lives with his family and the way he treats his friends. Roni is an exemplary example of how a man should do both. His family rely on him like friends and his friends adore him like family.

Roni Shachnaey is a rare combination of man and wizard. I'm privileged to call him my friend.

Docc Hilford

October, 2013