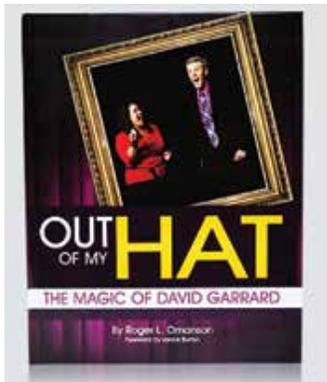


**OUT OF MY HAT:  
THE MAGIC OF DAVID GARRARD BOOK  
BY ROGER OMANSON**

*Distributed by Murphy's Magic Supplies  
Price \$40.00 paperback, \$75.00 hardbound*

**REVIEW BY JIM KLEEFELD**



So here is what happened. I received a paperback edition of *Out of My Hat* for review, and sat down to read it. I skimmed over the chapters, glossed over the headlines, and then read for about an hour. Before I had gotten half-way through, I got up, went to the computer, and ordered the hardbound edition. I bought a hardcover version because my copy will have to last. I will be rereading it time and again for fresh ideas, smart tips, and clever routines. After

only an hour I could tell that this was an exceptional book with classic routines that I would refer to again and again.

David Garrard has been a professional performer and an avid student of magic almost all of his life, and it comes across in the material. I've seen him work live and I can tell you that he is smooth, classy, and polished, with an outstanding repertoire. He is a masterful performer of close-up, card magic, platform and parlor shows, and illusions. If he has any shortcoming, it might possibly be that he does not consider himself a writer – no problem, this book of his material was written by his very competent friend, the late Roger Omanson. Omanson's text is clear, succinct, and to the point. He explains the effect, the preparation, and the method for dozens of tricks in an efficient manner. There is neither padded fluff nor extra-length meanderings, just a good, simple explanation of how the tricks work.

And what fine tricks they are. ATM is an almost unbelievable transposition of a signed bill (that is inside a sealed envelope) with a card that is openly inserted into an otherwise empty card box – a transposition; they change places instantly. Both the envelope and the card box have one item inside and are otherwise empty. I do not normally change my close-up repertoire, but I am adding ATM. As if that wasn't enough, there are nineteen more excellent card tricks in the first section. The Coin section contains eleven beautiful routines while Miscellaneous Close-Up has a dozen more workable pieces. There is a story effect based on the board game Clue, a coin vanish that uses a toilet paper roll tube, and a few well-thought-out variations of Triumph, Ambitious Card, and Spellbound. Taxis is a cut-and-restored paper effect that is reminiscent of Gene Anderson's Hell-O but simpler to set up and execute. I honestly liked almost all of the close-up, although I probably wouldn't do the one with plastic googly eyes or the one with a Groucho nose.

As you read through each section of the book, you will come across short interludes consisting of two types: pleasant biographies, and defined ethics. These are short, one-page-or-less essays on either David's friends in the biz, or his philosophy of performing. Each is worth reading. David reminisces about his relationships with Dan Garrett, Mac King, Doug Henning, Lance Burton, and more. His essays include tips on such topics as why it is important to be ethical, how to perform for magicians, and why

entertainment matters to laymen.

After the Close-up section, Omanson explains some of Garrard's parlor and stage work, including platform magic you can make, and several great tips on presenting illusions. His tip on how to motivate raising the assistant's legs in a broom suspension is pure gold, and could only have come from someone who performed this illusion regularly and thought about how it looked. The Charlie's Angels routine was one of the highlights in the book for me, and if I had a show with three beautiful assistants, they would be rehearsing that material tonight. Besides David's great magic, sprinkled throughout the book are great tricks donated by some of his friends like Mac King, Dan Garrett, David Ginn, Steve Bargatze and others. All are good tricks by seasoned pros.

In addition to the fine clear photographs that illustrate the book, David has filmed many of the trickier bits and handlings and posted them online. Your copy of the book will come with a password so you can watch David execute these moves and perform the effects; a fine bonus. Did I mention that the book's layout, typesetting, and format are clean and professional? It is an easy read, with plenty of effectively used white space, sharp photographs, and a well-organized structure.

Everyone should get this book. There is truly something in it for everyone in magic. Card tricks, close-up, new handlings of classic plots, platform, stage, illusions, sound philosophy and theory, a bit of history, and biographies of current and near-current famous performers – all presented with a soft, easy manner that flows easily into your brain cells. You may not feel the need to get the hardcover version to keep as a permanent reference for your shelf, but at least get the paperback version. You will be glad you did.

**DOVE WORKER DVD  
BY CY**

*Distributed by Murphy's Magic Supplies  
Price \$80.00*

**REVIEW BY MARC DESOUZA**



Okay, eighty bucks for a single DVD – are you kidding? No, they are not, and it is worth every penny (and far more) to any dove worker out there. Even if you don't do dove work, please read on. First, as with every

product I have seen from Lukas Crafts, it is first class: great video and audio (although there is no spoken word). I have two technical complaints. Sometimes the text superimposed on the screen is difficult to read due to the background. More attention should have been paid to this. Second, menu navigation is tough. After every snippet of video, you need to go back to the menu. As to the length, this is longer than the average two-DVD set, clocking in at a hefty 210 minutes. And they are 210 thrilling minutes. Yes, there is a lot of detail, but you will learn much. The Koreans have taken the lead in the field of stage magic for at least a decade; this DVD will show you some fine examples of why.

I don't know who CY is, but he is incredible. This is cutting-edge stage magic and I would consider this to be the finest teaching aid for learning dove work in existence. And I am not alone. My good friend (and a fine dove worker in his own right) Mike Miller (PNP) was extolling its virtues on our ride to 4F this year. I was