

Magician's Vademecum

Every great magic trick consists of three parts or acts. The first part is called "The Pledge". The magician shows you something ordinary. [...] Perhaps he asks you to inspect it to see if it is indeed real, unaltered, normal. But of course...it probably isn't. The second act is called "The Turn". The magician takes the ordinary something and makes it do something extraordinary. Now you're looking for the secret... but you won't find it, because of course you're not really looking. You don't really want to know. You want to be fooled. But you wouldn't clap yet. Because making something disappear isn't enough; you have to bring it back. That's why every magic trick has a third act, the hardest part, the part we call "The Prestige".
from the movie *The Prestige*

Magic is an art that must be studied and practiced with passion. Before performing in public it is necessary to practice, until reaching a good fluency in the execution of magic tricks. Training in front of a mirror can be very useful for understanding where to improve the presentation of the magic game.

Always take care of the performance. The perfect knowledge and execution of the magic trick is not enough if it is not combined with an accurate stage presentation. Games should be played with a positive and friendly spirit towards viewers, so they will be interested and involved in what is being done. However, a game may fail. Not demoralize and waste time justifying, but go immediately to the next trick with unchanged spirit.

The trick should never be revealed to the public. The interest and magnetism exercised on the public is inside the trick or illusion performed. The "magic" will be irreparably lost if the trick is revealed. Viewers have to be informed about a few things, showing something else while something different and unexpected is being done.

There will always be someone in the audience who want to discover the trick. So the same tricks should not be repeated too many times. It is preferable to perform different games in succession in order to continuously feed the amazement and interest of the spectators and distract them from the desire to discover the trick.