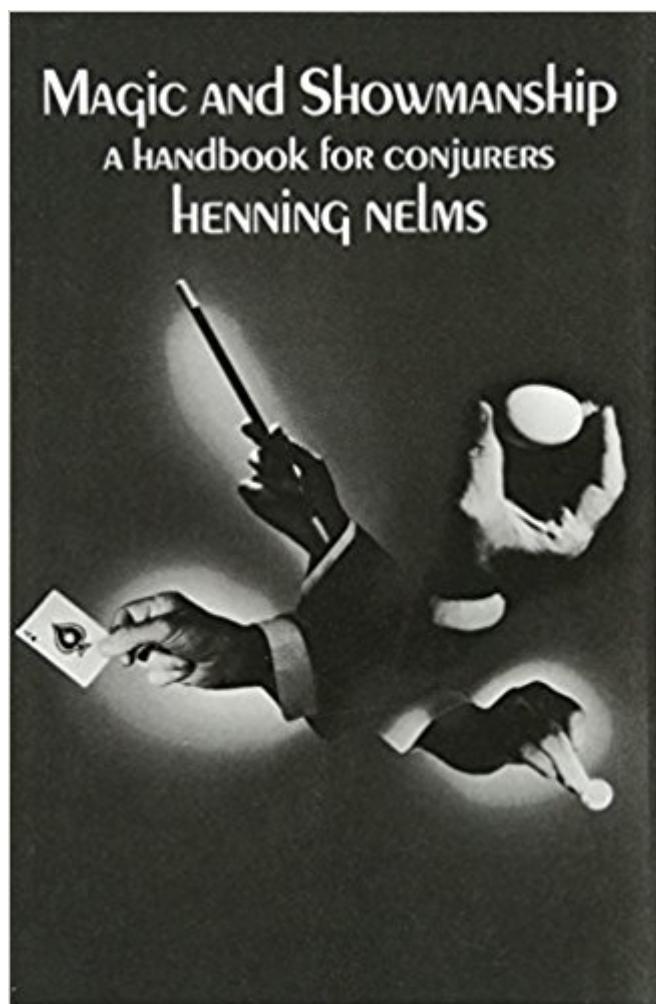


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Magic And Showmanship: A Handbook For Conjurers (Dover Magic Books)



Synopsis

Like theatrical presentations, conjuring is an art of illusion. A magician skilled in the craft is able to convince an audience that he or she can read minds, communicate with the spirit world, make objects appear or disappear, and perform other acts of seemingly genuine magic. Without having mastered the art of presentation or "showmanship," however, even the most competent sleight-of-hand artist can fall short in performance. With this in mind, noted authority Henning Nelms goes beyond the basics to show how techniques developed for the stage by playwrights, directors, and actors can heighten the dramatic effect of a magician's performance. In this instructive book, Helms analyzes every phase of conjuring • from sleights, devices, and illusions to misdirection, controlling the audience's attention, incorporating "patter," and the effective use of assistants. Of particular interest is a chapter on body language, posture, positioning and movement. Also included are some 60 original routines • from simple card tricks to such major illusions as having the performer suddenly appear at stage center. Indispensable as an instruction manual for novices, this how-to guide • enhanced with nearly 200 of the author's illustrations • will also serve as a lasting source of advice and inspiration for veteran conjurers.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

One of the best magic books I've ever read. Every professional magician should read this and treat this as one of their "go-to" books.

Clear direction on everything from stage presence to posture utilizing various illusions and tricks to illustrate concepts. No wonder it is suggested in "Mysterious Stranger" by David Blaine.

Excellent Book. I'm glad I got it. It reinforces things I've known about showmanship and has given me new ideas.

A must read book for any magicians. I am loving it.

Rigorously covers the subject. Cannot help but pick up valuable and applicable insights.

Magic and Showmanship is a book I recommend to all my writing students. It's better than almost any of the thousands of "how to write" volumes you find out there. There are all kinds of illusions in the world, and artists of all kinds employ the principles of showmanship in lots of circumstances. This book will teach you how to outline, how to write a believable character, how to get the audience to work with you, how to build to a climax, how to foreshadow later action, how to answer the audience's questions before they ask them, and generally how to entertain. It's a fantastic work, and well worth chasing down.

A bible to the magician who thinks about his performances and the meaning of his magic. A classic in magic literature! Wonderful!

This is a great resource for those wanting to learn further about how to relate to an audience. You could easily substitute the work presentation for magic in the book.

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