

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month
Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

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Our August meeting was our first lecture of 2019: Nathan Coe Marsh. We had thirteen members and three guests including crossbow expert Tara Swift who will be performing in Pigeon Forge with Ray Adams in the near future. Nathan's promotional material promised a first half filled with stand-up material and the second half close-up effects.

He opened with a Roy Benson vanishing handkerchief from a glass as well as the production of a full shot glass. A card that was merely thought of was grabbed from a deck tossed into the air (like a card stab without the sword!) and then the same card was found inside of an inflated balloon. Nathan's multi-phased thumb tie escape was very entertaining with our two Bill's assisting him, and his method for a borrowed and signed bill appearing inside of an orange that was held in plain sight was deviously surprising. This was a very strong 15-minute performance, but the explanations lacked quite a bit of detail for the majority of the tricks shared.

Before the break, Nathan showed a recording of his appearance on Penn & Teller's *Fool Us* where he had an impossible object appear in an empty bottle that had an opening too small for the golf ball. Possibly due to the constraints of time, Nathan did not explain the three key parts of the effect (the force, the switch, or the preparation), but he was selling a manuscript and sample of the bottles needed for the effect for \$50.

After the break, we were treated to just two quick close-up effects; Nathan's pet Three Coins Across highlighted the presentation being different than a simple narrative. He then did a series of card selections and revelations using a memorized deck (for the second time tonight) and the power of the peek. We were barely able to get out of the church before the alarm set off at 10:30 PM! While this was not a lecture loaded with tricks, nor did Nathan have much for sale including a lack of lecture notes for the six tricks he did other than his Penn & Teller effect, Marsh's knowledge and experience were evident and many of us gathered some good tidbits of advice during our time with him.

Tom Vorjohan