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Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research

August 4 2008 at 6:25 PM



kimmerv2 (Login [kimmerv2](#))

Teller is a co-author of this paper along with some other familiar names;):

<http://www.nature.com/nrn/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/nrn2473.html>

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY:

Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research

Stephen L. Macknik, Mac King, James Randi, Apollo Robbins, Teller, John Thompson & Susana Martinez-Conde

Abstract

Just as vision scientists study visual art and illusions to elucidate the workings of the visual system, so too can cognitive scientists study cognitive illusions to elucidate the underpinnings of cognition. Magic shows are a manifestation of accomplished magic performers' deep intuition for and understanding of human attention and awareness. By studying magicians and their techniques, neuroscientists can learn powerful methods to manipulate attention and awareness in the laboratory. Such methods could be exploited to directly study the behavioural and neural basis of consciousness itself, for instance through the use of brain imaging and other neural recording techniques.

You can choose a ready guide
In some celestial voice.
If you choose not to decide
You still have made a choice
You can choose from phantom fears
And kindness that can kill;
I will choose a path that's clear-
I will choose free will

- "Free Will" - RUSH

http://www.myspace.com/kimberlys_nyc

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Author	Reply
<p>Sage (Login SageO)</p>	<p>Re: Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research August 6 2008, 8:11 PM</p> <p>This is so cool – Teller is actually a published author in Nature! That's a really big deal. Heh, I remember Penn talking about how he forced himself to read Nature for one year, and "just wasn't smart enough" – I bet he fully understood this article. 😊</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respond to this message</p>

Little Tiger
(no login)

Re: Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research

August 7 2008, 8:36 AM

There are several cool magic names listed among the authors.

By the way, if you're unfamiliar with journal author listings, the person who actually did most of the writing is often listed first. But it looks like the magicians have arranged themselves in alphabetical order. How polite of them!

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Bunny
(Login [thewildbunny](#))

Re: Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research

August 12 2008, 8:29 AM

This article was an excellent read!

It was mentioned in the Times, seen here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/science/12magic.html?pagewanted=2&_r=1

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