



THE SOUTH LONDON MAGIC SOCIETY

The Danny Orleans Lecture May 2014



Gary opened the meeting and announced that we were going to start holding a raffle each month in order to boost club funds.

Marcus had generously donated two DVDs to be used as prizes.

Gary announced that he had already produced a programme for the year as shown in the last newsletter. he then introduced the evening's lecturer Danny Orleans and his wife Jan.

Danny showed an introductory film and then showed his Magician's Finger Exercise which he uses to gain the children's attention and to gain audience control. He said that the Magician's Exercise keeps the children quiet and attentive rather than hyping them up and getting them to shout which many magicians use as their introduction.

It also let's the adults in the room know that you are able to control the children.

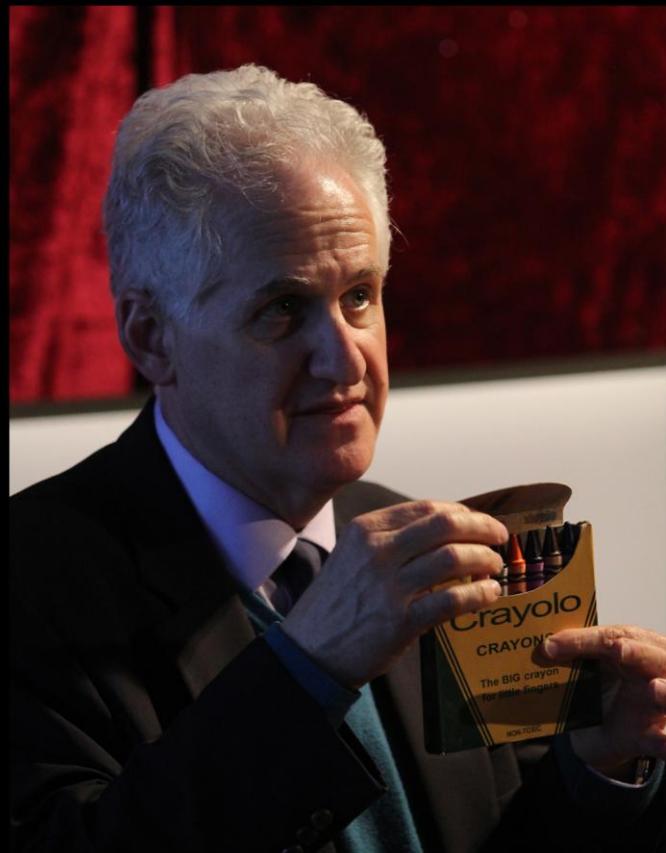
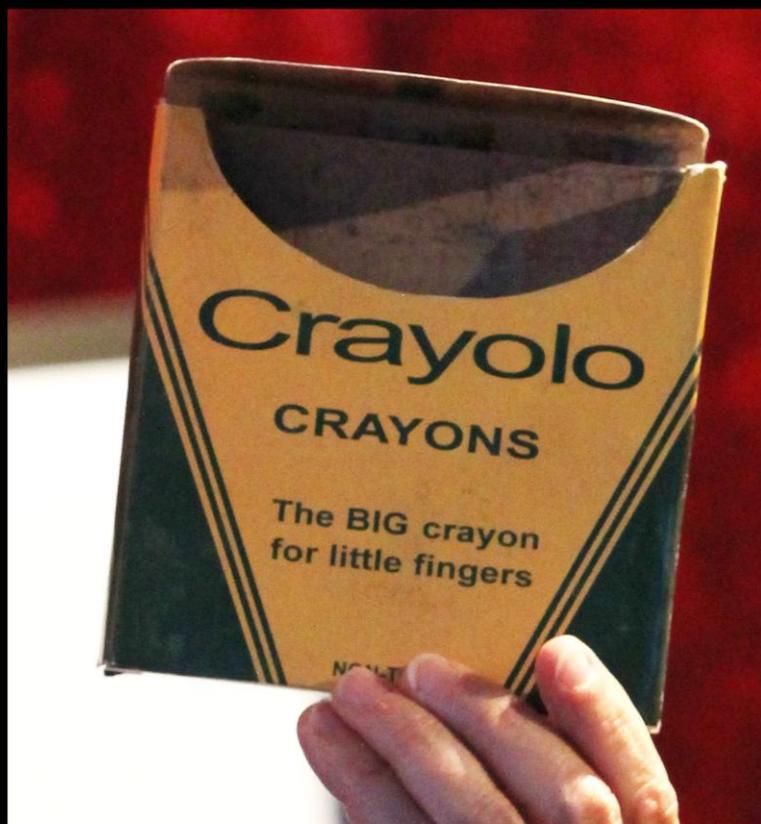
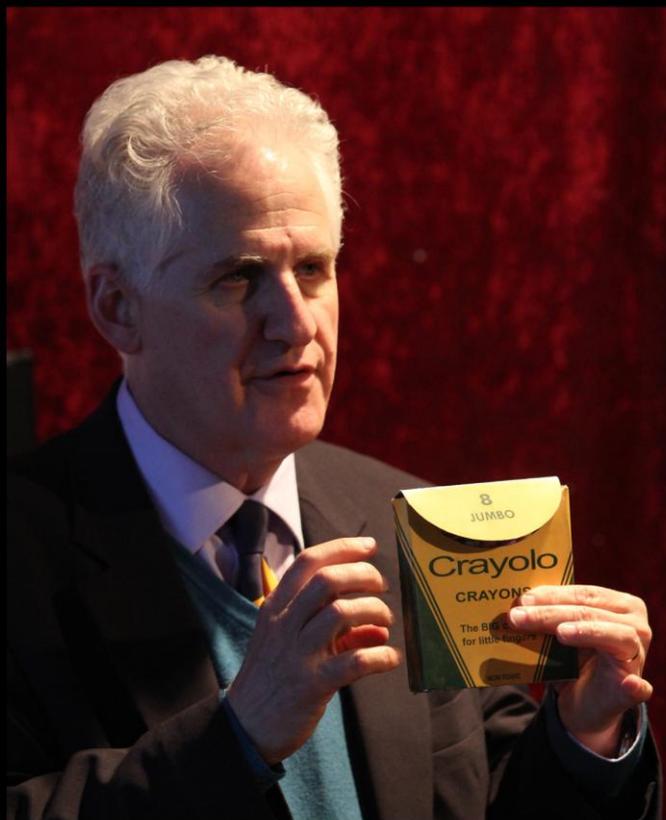


Danny talked about situations that make performing for children challenging. He talked a lot about the use of positive reinforcement where the magician compliments children showing the desired behaviour and ignores any that are not. This is surprisingly effective but you have to make the effort to catch the children being good! He says what the child is doing correctly and then praises them. When dealing with a child who is not behaving as you wish he suggested giving positive reinforcement elsewhere, "you are sitting very nicely with your hand raised beautifully" if that doesn't work reflect back to the child how they feel "are you feeling excited?" if that doesn't work ask them to sit down, if all that fails ask an adult to help before you turn them into a rabbit. Telling them that you want heir child to be safe. If no adult is around he suggested taking the child by the hand to their seat and sitting next to them singing a silly song for a few moments.

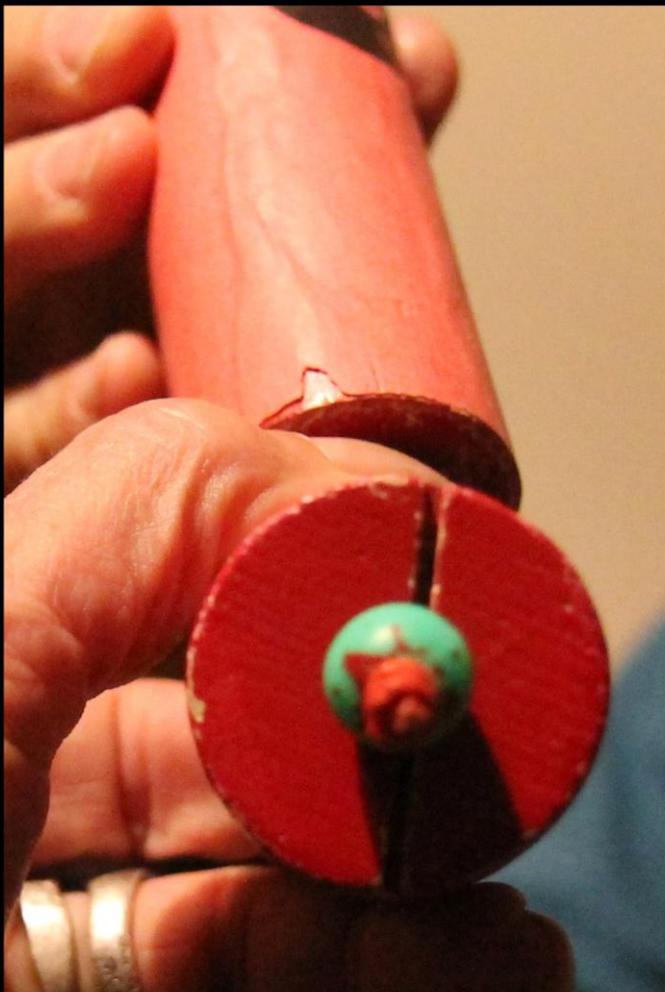
Danny demonstrated a clever idea of marking two points on the floor with tape showing where he wanted his child helpers to place their feet. He calls this Remote Control. When a child moved off their marks he would either compliment another child who was standing on theirs or ask them if they were standing on their marks. He showed a film of part of his act showing two children trying hard to stay on their spots during a colouring book routine enabling him to continue with the show to greater effect. Danny talked through how he had used his Remote Control tape, pointing out the squares on the floor to his child helpers thn using verbal cues, asking if they were standing on them then, if necessary modelling, showing the child what he wants them to do. He says that he always selects a cross section of children to help, varying gender, age, race and ability.



Danny then talked about his props for this routine. He told us how to make a magic crayon box advising getting the biggest box possible. He made his own box and is happy to send a PDF of the artwork to anyone who emails to ask for it.



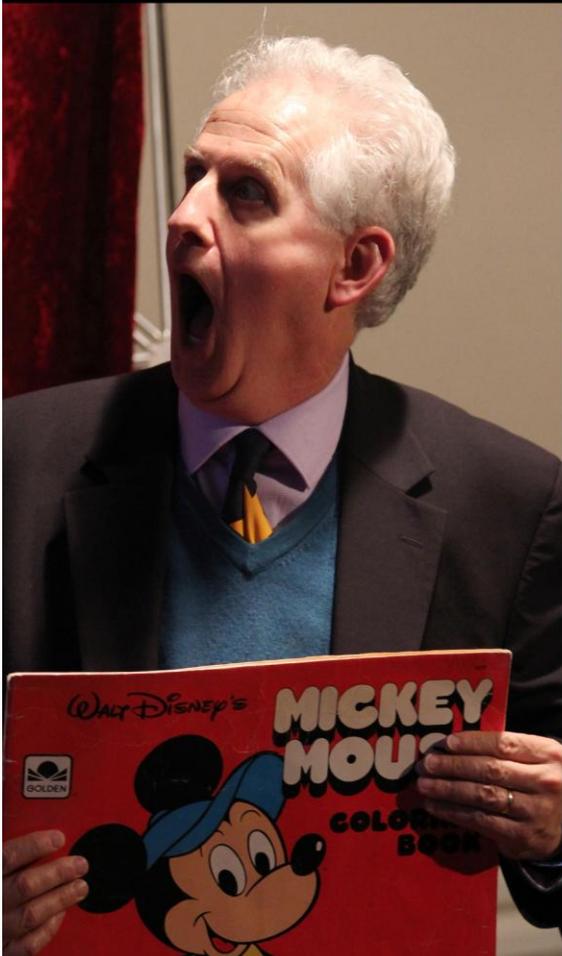
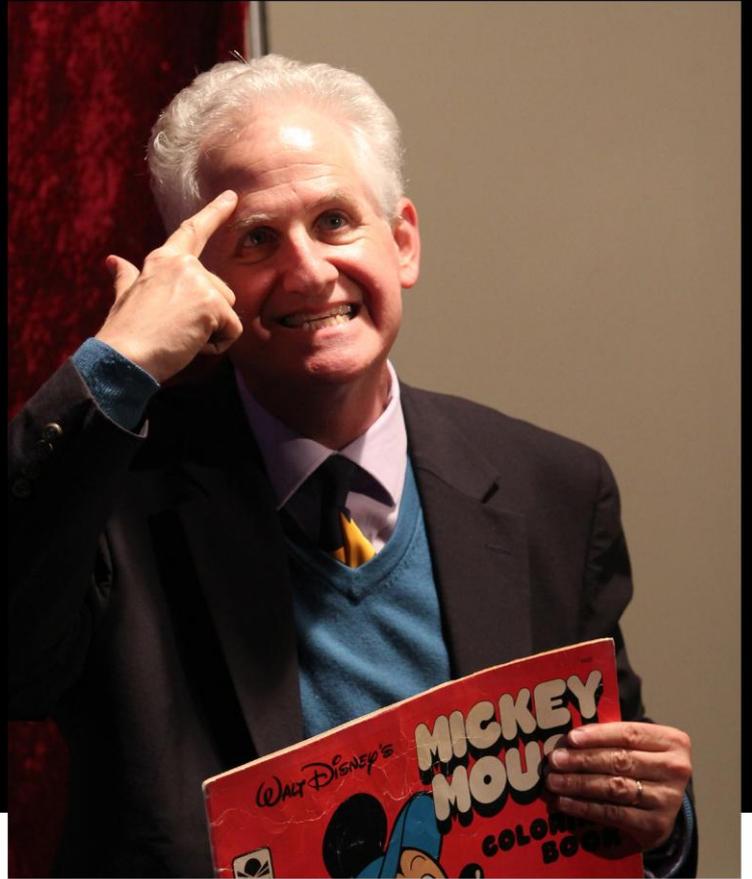
Danny also uses a Rainbow Breakaway Fan and a Breakaway giant crayon which he made.



. He also used a large set of nesting wands which he made from plumbing pipes and coloured tape. As they were so inexpensive and strong he is able to let them fall out onto the floor to great comedy effect which his intention more than magical effect.



Danny showed us how he made his colouring book, he said the colouring takes hours but advised buying books to fit a range of themes. He suggested Sellotape around the edges of the book, pages and tabs to prolong the life if the prop.



Danny talked about varying the pace of a show, creating ups and downs, not just getting children shouting but also having periods where you calm them down. He suggested doing this by introducing more story time tricks.

Danny divides tricks into four groups.

GAP Group Audience Participation

SAP Stage Audience Participarion

LAP Laughing Audience Participation

NAP No Audience Participation.

Danny led discussion about which effects may fit into each group which led to conversation about balloons. In America entertainers are now not allowed to use balloons in some settings such as hospitals after a child choked to death on one.

Danny talked about increasing his income from parties by providing a small magic trick for each child's party bag.

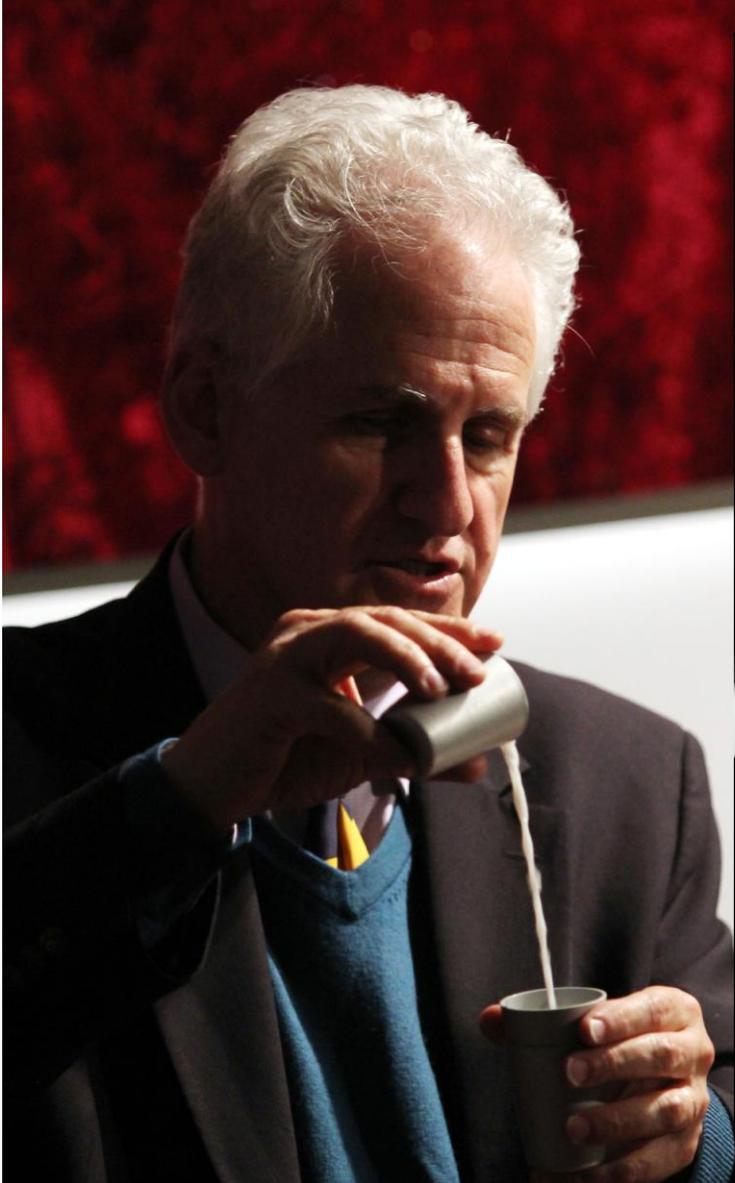


Audience Management Strategy #7:

Use positive reinforcement.

Compliment good behavior.

Ignore negative behavior.



Danny introduced his wife Jan who talked about the two versions of their holiday show Magic Over The Rainvow. She showed film of a metamorphosis and a torn and restored routine with both of them which was intended to reassure children about how they would be treated by the magician (Danny) as he treated her character ,Twinkle, kindly. She talked about how they had turned Danny's suitcase children's show into a very successful stage show.



Danny and Jan were both very friendly, informative and interesting. The lecture was not intended to be about how to do tricks though it did include how to make some props. Danny shared his insight gained over many years in the business of how to control and manage an audience of very young children.

Danny generously gave everyone attending a copy of his very well considered and helpful lecture notes.