

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to this the first issue of *The Journal of Performance Magic*. The journal comes out of *The Magic Research Group* here at The University of Huddersfield. One of our key aims is to explore themes and issues in the research and performance of magic, and we have deliberately cast our nets wide in the hope to attract a multidisciplinary and contemporary audience. We hope that this journal will encourage reflection on areas of performance magic not already covered in publication and serve to develop new perspectives on areas already researched.

The three articles in the first edition examine key questions in the framing and ideology of magic performance. In *The Development of Socialist Magic: Reflections on the Place of Power and Ideology in Magic Performance*, Ian Saville examines his own practice of 'socialist conjuring' against the complex received role of the magician. Geoff Tibbs' essay *Lennart Green and the Modern Drama of Sleight of Hand* examines the shape and influence of crime and notions of the 'juggler' in sleight of hand magic, suggesting space for a cultural criticism of contemporary magic. Finally, Todd Landman in *Framing Performance Magic: The Role of Contract, Discourse and Effect* develops a typology of performance magic through an examination of different framings of the art; that of the 'Magician', 'The Mentalist' and the 'Mystic'.

The editors would like to thank the team behind The University of Huddersfield Press for making this journal happen, and the support of the Drama Department for making this and the Magic Research Group a reality. We would also like to thank our editorial board for their advice and support as we developed this publication.

You can find more information about our research group's events on our website at; <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/magic/>

We welcome any comments on the work of the journal; please email them to; jpmeditors@hud.ac.uk

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