



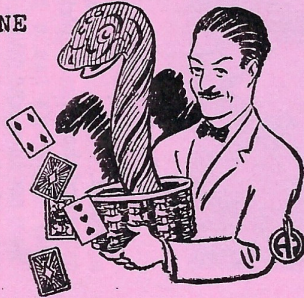
GENE GORDON



SNAKE IN THE BASKET ROUTINE

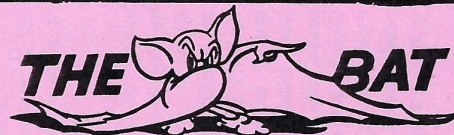
JUMBO SNAKE BASKET ROUTINE

Having a bountiful supply of card tricks in my show, this excellent and unusual effect sat on my shelves for some time before I realized its possibilities. Now, I never leave it out of a show, and the snake doesn't do card tricks either. I take it for granted that everyone is familiar with the modus operandi - a jumbo python snake worked puppet fashion from basket. Manufactured by Abbott and sold by him (also by us). Patter in capital letters - ALL OF YOU HAVE NO DOUBT SEEN THE EAST INDIAN ROPE TRICK PERFORMED BUT HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN IT DONE BY A GENUINE EAST INDIAN NATIVE. NO? WELL, YOU SHALL SEE IT. BRING RAJAH ON. Assistant brings on basket, arm goes in and snake slides up and down arm occasionally raising head to look at audience. YOU FOLKS IN THE FRONT ROW NEEDN'T BE FRIGHTENED AS RAJAH IS VERY TAME AND WOULDN'T HURT A FLEA. Snake turns and takes a bite at your nose or chin. JUST ONE CHIN, RAJAH - I CAN SPARE THAT. AND NOW FOR THE ROPE TRICK. Assistant steps forward and cuts (?) rope - rope is Ernie Moors's Instanto You lower end into snake's upturned open mouth and with fingers turn magnet up. Lower other end down and click! the rope is restored. Snake shakes head a couple times, drops rope into your hand and you hold up with left hand showing restored. Snake starts bowing and I assure you the snake will get more applause than you ever got doing the same trick. Snake starts looking at you and darting up and down excitedly. YES, YES, RAJAH, YOU'LL GET YOUR REWARD. AS YOU KNOW, PYTHONS JUST LOVE MILK BUT SINCE COMING TO THIS COUNTRY, RAJAH HAS ACQUIRED THE AMERICAN TASTE. Assistant brings on Rubber Beer Bottle by top so you can take it by the bottom. IF ANY OF YOU BELONG TO THE S.P.C.A., YOU NEEDN'T GET EXCITED - I ONLY GIVE RAJAH A LITTLE SIP BECAUSE IF HE GOT DRUNK, HE'D PROBABLY SEE PEOPLE. While you are talking, snake watches bottle, leans over and gulps the whole bottle down. You try to rescue bottle but it rapidly goes down snake's throat. Snake hangs its head. RAJAH! DID YOU SWALLOW ALL THAT BEER? Snake looks up at you, opens mouth and lets out a belch. And if this doesn't lay them in the aisles, pack up your show and go home. JUST FOR THAT, RAJAH, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO ANOTHER TRICK. PAUL, TIE THOSE TWO SILKS TOGETHER AND THEN TIE THIS ONE TO THEM AND WE'LL SEE IF RAJAH CAN



silk out of your hand. swallowing rapidly. HERE, HOW CAN WE DO THE TRICK IF YOU SWALLOW THE SILK? WELL, IF YOU ARE THAT HUNGRY, YOU MIGHT AS WELL EAT EVERYTHING. You are mad at the snake and stuff the other two silks down his mouth, against his will, leaving end of one silk hanging out. You and the snake act sulky toward each other and after he listens to you muttering at him for awhile, he rises up and whispers in your ear. HE WANTS TO KNOW IF I'LL FORGIVE HIM IF HE STILL DOES THE TRICK. RAJAH, YOU CAN'T DO THE TRICK WHEN THE SILKS AREN'T EVEN TIED TOGETHER. While you say this, shake your head from side to side. Turn snake so back of his head is to audience and he shakes his head up and down saying yes. Alternate, you shaking head sideways and he moving his up and down. Do this several times. It doesn't sound like it but it is a funny bit of business, carrying on a silent argument with the snake. Finally he whispers in your ear. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY DO IT, RAJAH. HE SAYS HE CAN TIE THE SILK HE SWALLOWED FIRST BETWEEN THE OTHER TWO AND I SAY HE -----CAN DO IT. Just as you are about to say he can't do it, you pull out silk and show first one tied between other two and finish with snake taking rapid bows. As you reach wings, take a bow yourself and say CONGRATULATIONS, RAJAH, I HOPE ALL YOUR CHILDREN GROW UP TO BECOME MAGICIANS, TOO. As you are talking, release cover of peanut brittle can which has been attached to inside of basket and as you finish talking, let three of Rajah's children jump out of basket over heads of audience trying to escape from the horrible fate of becoming magicians. That's all - and I would appreciate any gags or bits of business some of you may have.

P.S. You do not need an assistant. Just have the Instanto Rope already cut (you can discard the knot), have the beer bottle where you can easily reach it and you can have the first two silks already tied.



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