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You have to be careful while going through John Breeds' **LOTZ of MAGIC for KIDZ**. I mean, there you'll be, happily reading another clever and hilarious bit of routining for another brilliant and easy-to-build kid show prop when John will sneak in some of the most practical advice on kid show



performance I've ever read. Take the following gem tucked quietly away in "The Great Escape,"

John's fresh take on the Ropes through Body magic plot:

"Actually, I do not call up [the third onstage helper] until near the end, as it's not good theatre to have someone up front during the period when they are not taking part in the action."

Similarly, in the "Mains Buzzer Opener" sequence, he hides this clever piece of advice: "This sequence of combined mime, prop gag and bits of business involving individuals watching adds up to a powerful attention-getter. It also shows you getting on with what you've been booked to do – entertain – rather than plaintively and increasingly desperately shouting at the top of your voice for quiet."

Both routines are great. Both methods are diabolical. Two statements I can make for every entry in these pages. But it's the little, seemingly insignificant thoughts that I encourage you, the reader, to pay close attention to as you peruse what follows. While mere sentences tucked meekly away

in the prose, they hold in them a lifetime's worth of children's entertainment experience. John Breeds clearly knows his stuff, and he's packed this book full of ingenious pieces of advice, all there for you to discover in this inspirational scavenger hunt.

I can tell John knows his stuff when examining every ounce of entertainment he extracts from each prop in a given effect. I urge you to not let a single one of these routines pass by without careful consideration of how he mines each moment for maximum laughs and reactions from young audiences. Look at this instance in his "Hickory Dickory Dock" routine: "At this moment you are bent over the Cheese Cupboard, when you cause Hickory to bob up and down, and hit you on the nose."

The mouse cutout could simply pop into view, receiving joyous Look, Don't See cries from the children, but John takes it further, adding an even bigger laugh with the hit-on-the-nose bit. Once again ... the routine is great. The method is diabolical. I'll even add that the DIY aspect is meticulously described and actually achievable. But amidst all this inspiration, don't overlook the countless bits of business and verbal playfulness he adds to every prop; let those instances inspire your own routines and performances as well.

I know you'll be thrilled with the magic, comedy, and information in *LOTZ of MAGIC for KIDZ*. You're about to take a trip into one of the greatest minds in the kid show magic business!