

LOTZ OF MAGIC FOR KIDZ

by John Breeds

216 page book. £38 available from

www.johnbreeds.com

Reviewed by Quentin Reynolds

John Breeds, inventor of the Visible Magic Painting, brings to market his second book for children's and family entertainers.

Like myself, John believes that a good show for children should be properly structured with strong magic and endless fun. Not for him the notion that lots of screaming and shouting necessarily constitutes good entertainment. Fortunately for us the book is literally crammed with examples from his professional repertoire.

John has updated the classic Mental Epic as Pro Epic, routined it for a family audience, and changed the handling for an increasing level of amazement, whereas with the old version the final revelation was the weakest. Some of the tricks require assembly and full illustrated instructions are given, even where to source the components. If you are totally ham-fisted, it shouldn't be hard to find a local model maker hobbyist and you will have props that no one else has. I came across the old YES NO game in William Larsen's *Conjuring For Children* but never had much success with it. I wish I'd known John's version as he has completely routined it into a few minutes of solid laughs.

If you ever wanted to do the now popular comedy vent mask bit, John has a routine that is fun and can be made up with a couple of items most magicians will find at home. No mask needed. John has a knack of taking tricks not normally associated with children's shows and routining them into featured effects. Many of the routines will also fit into your adult stand-up show.

There's a fun Just Chance (Bank-Nite) routine with socks pegged onto a rope where the birthday child always gets the big prize and there is no force or any kind of contrived process. Cover The Spot is a chapter on the old carnival game where five discs have to cover a red spot. An extra money-spinner for your outdoor or charity shows, all details given.

There's so much more. Tricks for both younger and older children, close-up routines, my highlights being an adaption of a RINK trick published in *The Ganson Book*, and a clever routine using of the old Rabbit/Duck optical illusion. A puzzle with a rope was new to me and it can be routined with the G W Hunter Puzzle Knot. Sprinkled through the book are gags, lines and amusing stories. It's a real compendium of entertainment and I highly recommend it to all children's and family entertainers.