



Disappearing Tricks: Silent Film, Houdini, and the New Magic of the Twentieth Century

By Matthew Solomon

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This work revisits the golden age of theatrical magic and silent film to reveal how professional magicians shaped the early history of cinema. The author treats cinema and stage magic as overlapping practices that together revise our understanding of the origins of motion pictures and cinematic spectacle.

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Review

"A truly important and impressive book, the most thoroughly researched and broadly conceived history of the interaction between magicians and cinema that anyone has offered or is likely to offer." -- Tom Gunning

"Along with intriguing insights into the early development of film, "Disappearing Tricks" is a reminder that magic and movies involve playing with perceptions and making the appearance of reality seem malleable."-- "ExpressMilwaukee.com"

"Conjuring up an amazing trick of his own with this engaged scholarship, Solomon provides a fresh, fascinating display of theory applied to film history. This is one of the most succinct, scintillating books of the year. Essential."--"Choice"

"A truly important and impressive book, the most thoroughly researched and broadly conceived history of the interaction between magicians and cinema that anyone has offered or is likely to offer."--Tom Gunning, author of "The Films of Fritz Lang: Allegories of Vision and Modernity"

"Students of magic history, film history, the intersection of both, and of Houdini's film career in particular, will all find much to enlarge their insight and understanding of these subjects."--"GENII"

About the Author

Matthew Solomon is an associate professor of cinema studies in the Department of Media Culture at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.

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