

## August 29~The Program is Wild

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This is based on an idea told to me by my dear friend Camilo Vazquez and is attributed to Fred Kaps.

From a pack of blank cards remove eight and perform Takagi's "The Wild Blanks";<sup>72</sup> but instead of replicating a signature, a different picture—cards, coins, dice, etc.—appears magically on each card. Someone then chooses a picture, say the coins, whereupon you do a coin trick. This is continued with other pictures, resulting in a "Wild Act", or as the French would put it, an act *à la carte*.

You draw a magic wand on one of the cards, and it is with this card that you effect the "printing", theatrically speaking. The pictures that appear might be a deck of cards (prompting a card trick), coins (coin tricks), thought waves (a mental trick), a bunny or top hat (the "Tamariz Rabbits"), balls (a Sponge Ball routine or the "Three-Ball Transposition"), dice (Dai Vernon's "Climax for a Dice Routine"), etc.

Use a deck of about twenty double-blank cards. On the top seven draw seven pictures of your props. Cap everything with a double-blank card.

Holding the blank deck with the setup on top, spread the cards in your hands showing all the cards to be blank. Turn the deck over and using a handling that appears similar to that just done, show this side to be blank, too; but as you reach the lower third of the deck, push off all the cards above the bottom double-blank, and show both sides of it to finish the display. You can use any moves you know to show the deck completely blank (All Backs routines are a good source for techniques), but don't overdo it. Simply handing a few cards out to spectators, and casually showing the rest on both sides might be more convincing than many a fancy move.

Square the deck, turn it over and deal the top eight cards onto the table, flashing both sides of the first double-blank card. You can use the Takagi procedure (or some other you prefer) to show the eight cards all blank as you deal them, pictures downward, into rows on the table. Regardless of what handling you use, take the double-blank card and draw a magic wand on it.

Tap each of the other cards with the wand card and reveal the pictures. Then: "*Choose any item, and I'll perform an illusion with it for you.*" That's a nice introduction to any close-up program. At the end you may give the card with the wand to someone who has assisted you: "*To put magic in your life.*" (Some of you won't resist the temptation of putting a sticker with your contact information on the back of this card.)

To ensure that you finish on a particularly strong note, keep a "bonus" item in reserve, to close your "*à la carte*" act. Simply touch the wand card to your pocket or to a bag that contains the necessary instrument and take it out: "*And for a finale...*"