

Letter from the Editors

Welcome the third issue of *The Journal of Performance Magic*. The journal comes out of *The Magic Research Group* here at The University of Huddersfield. This edition begins with Elizabeth Miller's and Joseph P. Zompetti's rich analysis of Penn and Teller's 'anti-magic' and examines how the performers appear to be subverting a tradition of which they are very much part of. The second article, by Martin Reinhart explores how magic and science overlapped in the period between 1860 and 1930. The final article of this issue, *The Source of Magic* by Sean Wilcock, discusses magical thinking, technology and the irrational, and we would like to invite short responses from our readership;

Call for Short Responses to *The Source of Magic*

One of the advantages of publishing an online journal is that we are not constrained by academic publishing conventions. We would like to open up the journal to short pieces that might struggle to find a place in traditional printed journals.

As we noted in our call for papers on *Technology and Magic*, Performance Magic has a long and complex relationship with technology - using, resisting, denying, interpreting, challenging, enchanting, and demystifying technological advances. We feel that there is much still to be said about this relationship and, as one way of initiating discussion on this topic, we would like to use Sean Wilcock paper *The Source of Magic* as a jumping off point. We feel that the paper raises many questions for Performance Magic studies and would like to invite writers to submit short pieces responding to the paper.

We don't wish to be prescriptive, we simply ask for responses to Wilcock's fascinating paper, but as an illustration we personally found these topics of interest:

- What are the links between trends in Performance Magic and trends in fantasy and science fiction writing?
- How does Wilcock's discussion of distance and magical objects relate to Performance Magic?
- How does Wilcock's discussion of language relate to the development of Performance Magic?

Please email your responses to; jpmeditors@hud.ac.uk

Once again the editors would like to thank the team behind The University of

Huddersfield Press for making this journal happen, and the support of the Drama Department for making this and the Magic Research Group a reality. We would also like to thank our editorial board for their continued advice and support as we develop this publication.

We would also like to welcome Madelon Hoedt as guest editor for our next issue; *Magic and the Body* – for further information please see the *Calls for Papers* at the end of this issue.

As ever, we welcome any comments on the work of the journal; please email them to; jpmeditors@hud.ac.uk

You can find more information about our research group's events on our website at; <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/magic/>

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The Journal of Performance Magic

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