

10 Below Zero

Andrew Normansell

\$35

BRITISH MAGICIAN Andrew Normansell is a working entertainer and magic consultant whose previous discs on stand-up magic were well received. His latest disc is a collection of nine close-up tricks—mostly cards—performed on a set which has been dressed to look icy and cold in keeping with the title of the collection.

"Tequila Sunrise" is a color-changing deck routine that progresses incrementally by changing the backs of four cards before changing the whole deck. "Four Gone Conclusion" is essentially the discovery of a selection and its three mates. "Golden Triangle" is a visually intriguing routine in which a signed coin vanishes and is discovered inside a matchbox.

My favorite piece on the disc is next. "Funky Little Number" is a presentation for the Magic Square but there's a twist in which the magician is seen to have predicted the amount of change in the spectator's pocket. This presentation is the gem of the disc, in my opinion.

"Reverse Osmosis" is a three coin production and vanish sequence that is reminiscent of work by Troy Hooser and Paul Wilson, among others. It's quick and pretty, but standard fare. Likewise, "King Con" is a two-phase trick—a spelling trick followed by "magician cuts to four of a kind." There's nothing wrong with these effects, but there's not much new here.

"Souvenir" is a presentation of the Hamman "Signed Card" plot, with a variation on the Ortiz "Dream Card" presentation. This version is unsatisfying because what Mr.



Normansell has added to the routine is a kicker that cries out for an examination—which cannot be permitted. The script attempts to justify this situation, but it rings hollow. "Signature Piece" is an ungaffed presentation for the "Anniversary Waltz." This is a practical, easy handling which may be of interest to magicians who haven't already encountered or developed a similar handling of their own. Finally, "Rapid Transit" is a simplified handling of Vernon's "Travelers," in which four signed cards magically fly to four pockets. Mr. Normansell has created this handling in which a little bluff and acting is used to replace some of the palming.

The explanations follow each performance and are presented as conversations between Mr. Normansell and producer David Forrest. Some explanatory segments have been inserted as needed to further clarify some of the specific moves mentioned during the explanations. Production values are excellent, as has been the case with all BBM products I've received.

While I thought a couple of the routines were notable, they were outnumbered by the less innovative material.

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