



BULLETS AFTER DARK

John Bannon

Available from:

www.bigblindmedia.com

Price: £24.99

First of all I must tie my colours to the mast and admit that I am a big John Bannon fan. Ever since I read his books *Impossibilia* and *Smoke And Mirrors* I have had a huge admiration for his way of thinking and for his impressive ability to find elegant and workable solutions to magic plots. When so much published magic can seem to be thrown together and perhaps display an appalling lack of real insight and knowledge, in complete contrast John Bannon's material provides

a solid body of ideas and methods, and so it is a total delight to be able to review this latest DVD from BBM who have caught the maestro in full flow.

Bullets After Dark is a two disc set featuring three hours of John's routines and thoughts. John is a wonderfully relaxed performer (unlike the 'spectators' who he is obliged to perform to on this DVD, most of whom look almost totally immobilised with fear, despite the fact that most of them are good card magicians themselves) and his explanations are lucidly expressed and thus clearly understandable. His methods, on the whole, do not require difficult sleight of hand. He never puts in a move for the sake of it, and his style, in terms of handling, is one of understatement rather than overt dexterity. The result is that his magic is very accessible to most performers interested in card magic.

And card magic is what it is in entirety. John performs and explains 10 routines, some of which comprise of two or three effects blended together, plus he

also explains an excellent up-in-the-hands full deck false cut. The magic is a mixture of his version of classic effects such as Doctored Daley (his take on The Last Trick Of Dr. Daley), clever use of established principles such as in The Einstein Overkill and Origami Prediction, and great methods for popular plots such as with his Power Of Poker. I am not a great lover of cards, cards and yet more cards, but there is something about John's material and the way he performs and explains it, that can make even someone like me want to watch the whole thing from start to finish. It really is very good.

As usual with BBM DVDs we get a certain amount of intrusion with deliberately wobbly camera work, a very stylised overall setting for the DVD which involves gun shots, and the rather silly looking guys sitting with dark glasses on, but all of this fails to knock John out of his polished and smooth style. As well as the actual routines, we are also treated to John's thoughts on a whole range of questions, some on general

magical topics, others on themes directly pertinent to the effect the viewer has just seen, and as always, I found John's answers to be both illuminating and considered. He is an intelligent man and so what you get when he speaks is a coherent answer which shows a huge depth of understanding and knowledge.

John Bannon is not a professional magician in the sense that he earns his real money in the United States as an attorney, but in every other way he is totally professional. He creates really fooling card magic using straightforward methods and presents it all in charming, relaxed style, and as such I find him a real pleasure to watch. In a range of DVDs which has already included some strong titles, in my opinion this is one of the very best that BBM has released so far. **ML**

WHAT'S HOT: great card magic from a relaxed and highly gifted performer

WHAT'S NOT: rather 'silly' looking assistants

Star Rating: ★★★★★