Christner's — Fri Oct 16 — 30-minute set

Sebastian Gerhardt · script for Kostya

Running order: Ring Watch Wonder · Super Lemon · 3 Pile · Four Card Tear · Magic Square → Toxic+ · Cube in Bottle

#	piece	approx.
1	Opening + Ring Watch Wonder	4:00
2	Super Lemon (Cube in Bottle introduced)	4:00
3	3 Pile	5:00
4	Four Card Tear	5:00
5a	Magic Square	6:00
5b	Toxic+	3:00
6	Cube in Bottle (close)	3:00

Times are estimates until the timed run.

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1 · Opening + Ring Watch Wonder

Watch on, ring on, cash in wallet, envelope.

Hello! Good evening everybody, I know that we all just met, but for those of you that started early on the wine; my name is Sebastian, and I am so happy to be here tonight. Tonight is a special night for a few reasons, the first being, as Kostya said, I was supposed to stop waking up 8 years ago. Brain Cancer. They gave me 6 months to live at 22 years old. It was a crazy journey, plot twists, betrayals, love, loss... I'm actually working on the script for the feature length film of the whole experience, and I don't want to spoil the ending for all of you... but I live. As of 3 years ago I am officially cancer free. *[pause for applause]*

... But that's not why I'm excited for tonight. The reason I'm so excited for tonight because of this room. I've been blessed to have performed at this restaurant for over a decade. This restaurant is the best. Dave and Alice named their cat after me. This place feels like home. And as magical as the food and the

ambience are, my favorite part is the people. Because if you're here, to experience an Evening of Magic, then I already know 3 things about you. Everyone in this room tonight has given three things of themselves to be here this evening.

The first thing you've all given, is your **time**. *[watch off, into the envelope]*

The second thing you've all given, is your **love**. *[ring off, in]* Take a look around this room at the people you've come with. There's a lot of love in the air.

And, lastly, you all bought **tickets**. *[cash from wallet, in]* This is not a cheap date night. But from everything I've seen, I think the Beatles had it right, when they said **the love you take is equal to the love you make.**

[Flick the envelope so it flattens, then tear it to shreds.]

And what you'll all find as you head home later tonight, is that your **love** will still be there. You'll still have **time**. And somehow, one way or another, the **money** always finds its way back. *[the objects have reappeared]*

Are we ready to have an amazing night?! … That's what I like to hear!

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2 · Super Lemon

[Pull the Cube in Bottle out of the shoulder bag. Hold it up. Pick someone, lock eyes.]

{name}, you don't need to worry about that just yet; you just need to enjoy the show.

[The bottle stays where the whole room can see it until the close.]

It makes you wonder how it got in there.. but the real question is why did somebody do that? We might never know, so in the meantime we're going to have to use our imaginations; so let's play with that for a second. I need all of you to imagine that I [have] a piece of fruit in my hand right now. Really see it. I want you all to imagine that you're holding that piece of fruit out in front of you right now. Seriously do it so I know we're all on the same page.

[Point to an audience member] What fruit did you think of?

Audience member: An orange!

Wow. That's crazy, {name}. Because I actually brought one piece of fruit with me this evening; and you're not going to believe this.. but it's actually... a lemon!

A lemon is a magician's favorite fruit. I don't know why, that's just what they taught me at Hogwarts. They said if you ask someone to name a fruit that they'll always say lemon. Obviously that is not the case, or maybe Hogwarts wasn't ready for someone like {name} to be at a show. So I'm going to have to take this a step further.

I want all of you to hold your hand out like this, and imagine that you're holding a lemon in your hand. All of you, seriously, hold out your imaginary lemon. Imagine the weight. Imagine the texture of the lemon skin against your fingertips. Can you feel it? That's good. If you can't that is totally okay, what I want all of you to do now is imagine that in your right hand you're holding a knife, so knife in your right hand, lemon in your left. Are you all with me so far? Perfect.

Now I want all of you to imagine that you're taking that knife and you're going to cut into the lemon. I want you to imagine the smell of the citrus popping out and smelling as you cut… I want you to imagine the lemon juice running down your arm. Imagine taking your lemon, putting it to your lips and sipping that juice. I want you to imagine tasting the sour as it hits your tongue. Ooh! Did any of you taste the sour? Raise your hand if you did. Isn't that wild?!

Here's the thing, if this hasn't worked for you so far there is no need to worry; none of this has been real. It's all been inside of your minds. By a show of hands, who here saw the knife? The knife isn't real, this is a fork. And by a show of hands, who here saw the lemon? The lemon isn't real either. The knife wasn't real, the lemon wasn't real, The only thing that was real, was that {name} thought of a {fruit}! Right?! Let's hear some applause for {name's} active imagination! *[pause for applause; the ball of paper has their fruit printed on it]*

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3 · 3 Pile

Played to three people at their tables; no one comes on stage. During the pre-show walkaround, guests are told they'll be asked later for card players.

Now that we're having fun, do we have any card players with us this evening? Great!

In a few minutes you're all going to understand why I don't go to casinos.

[Walk up to each of the three in turn and hold out the deck; each cuts off a pile.]

[to person one] Alright, for this next one I am going to need you to reach over and cut off a pile of cards. Now, I don't care how many or how few you take; but we are going to be doing this with 3 people, so I need you to leave cards for everybody else. Sound fair?

[Person two cuts a smaller pile; person three takes the rest. All three look at the card held against their chest, commit it to memory, show their neighbours, and shuffle their piles. Conversational from here.]

Person one: three questions.

What's your favorite season? Do you like Summer, Spring, Fall, Winter?

Ah, so it's a {red / black} card, right?

Great, so now we know it's either a {clubs / spades or hearts / diamonds}… if you had to choose, would you rather do Sushi or Tacos?

Ahhh, so it's a {suit}.

Now, my final question, this is to help me narrow down the value Ace through King… Who do you think would win in a fight? Superman or Batman?

- *If Superman:* Alright, she says Superman. So with that in mind I have two things to say. 1: You're wrong. 2: Was your card the {card}?
- *If Batman: [They're absolutely right; fist bump, then name the card.]*

Perfect! Let's give her a big round of applause for playing along.

Person two: what the card isn't. *[I could just tell you your card, but that wouldn't be any fun; for you, I'll tell you what your card isn't. They fan their cards like a poker hand; I call off every card that isn't theirs until three are left.]*

I feel like I've been here for a while, I don't want to spend all night here. Would you mind if I come right back?

Person three:

You have a card in mind, right? *[yes]* It's the {card}, right? *[yes]*

[back to person two]

And we're back. Your card wasn't {card}, and it wasn't {card}, right? Could I have you show everybody the {card}.

Close:

Let's get a big round of applause going for our friends, and if any of you enjoyed that, I'm hosting a little friendly poker game at my house after the show. It's only a $500 buy-in, you could win some serious cash. *[grin]*

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4 · Four Card Tear

Four cards per guest, handed out during the pre-show walkaround (about 26 guests).

Three people just made decisions in front of all of you. That took guts. Now let's see what happens when *everybody* makes decisions — and I mean everybody. Four cards in front of you. This one, we all do together. Fair warning — it's going to get chaotic. That's the point.

Here's the whole game: do exactly what I do. Watch my hands. Ready?

1 — Four cards. *[everybody got four? Good.]*

2 — Mix 'em. Any way.

3 — Tear. All four down the middle. Doesn't have to be pretty.

4 — The one that matters. Mix your halves. Take *one* off the top. **This** is your piece. Don't show anyone. Fold it, pocket it. That's the only piece that matters — everything else, you're about to lose.

5 — The chaos. Trade a half with your neighbor. Trade another. Throw one on the floor, I don't care. Keep going until you're holding just *one* half.

Everybody down to one piece? Every single one of you took a different path. And before we look — if yours doesn't match, congratulations, you're a beautiful rebel who did it wrong on purpose, give yourself a round of applause.

Okay — take the piece out of your pocket. The one you set aside before any of it. Put them together. *[beat]* They match.

{N} people — **{N}** different paths. And every one of you ended up holding exactly what was yours from the start. *[beat]* Turns out you can't lose the thing that's actually yours.

[to the guest picked during the walkaround] You — did yours match?

- *If yes:* Of course it did. Come up here — I need your help with something.
- *If no:* Perfect. Even better. Come on up — I've got something special for the one person brave enough to admit they messed it up.

5a · Magic Square

The volunteer from the Tear is on stage for this. Pad and jumbo Sharpie.

Let's try something — I want to run a little experiment. Everybody pull up the stopwatch on your phone. Not the timer — the stopwatch. Thumb over the button. On three, we all hit start and say "go" — three, two, one… *go.*

[start mine, openly; hand it to the volunteer still running] Hold that for me. Don't stop it — just hold it.

Now — whenever you feel like it, in the next few seconds, hit stop. Let's see if this whole room can stop at the *same exact moment.* …Now. You're at… fourteen? Anyone else at fourteen? Close — you don't lose for being close.

You know what — let's make it harder. Let's go to the **milliseconds.** *[to the volunteer]* And you — you've been holding mine this whole time. Longest run in the room. **You** stop it. Whenever you want.

Don't say it. Don't show me. Just look at the last two digits — the milliseconds. *[beat]* Memorize them. Got it? … Say it in your head. Say it again.

Now press the side button. Lock it. Nobody sees that but you. Not me, not the room — not until you say it out loud.

Hand it back — I don't need it. You've got the number.

Alright — everybody shout out what you stopped on! *[take several, brisk, while filling the grid]*

[board filled; to the volunteer] What did *you* stop on? Seventy-one.

Now watch. These four — seventy-one. These four — seventy-one. Every logical combination of four on this board… seventy-one. *[fold it up, hand it over]* This is yours to keep. A little reminder that things add up. *[beat]* You did that perfectly.

5b · Toxic+

Phone back out while the room still has theirs out. They do the math on their own phones.

So — one last experiment before I let you get to dinner. I want to show you that everything in this room — every number, every choice, every different path — adds up to exactly one place. Keep those phones out — and *you* do all the math, I don't touch a thing. Give me a number — you, sir. And you. And you in the back. Everybody put in your two numbers… now add… now multiply…

okay, put in {..}… now {..}… now just tap, tap, tap… everybody in? good…

Now look at your screen. *[beat]* Every one of you started with completely different numbers — from all over this room. And every single one of you just landed on the *exact same thing.* Today's date. This hour. This minute. *[beat]* **{N}** different lives, **{N}** different paths — all of it adding up to *right here.* Not *someday.* Not *once things finally work out.* **Right now. This room. This moment.**

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6 · Cube in Bottle (close)

[Pick up the bottle; find {name}.]

{name}. I told you not to worry about this. You've been worrying about it for half an hour.

Somebody went to a lot of trouble to get this in here. And then they never solved it. They left it exactly like this, like they wanted one moment to stay put.

[A cube goes out for the audience to mix. Conversational while it goes round:]

- Does anyone know how to solve a Rubik's cube? That's not the job: give it a few turns and pass it on.
- Ernő Rubik, a professor, didn't know it would become the best selling toy of all time, and didn't know how to solve it — didn't even know it could be solved.
- Does anybody know the world record for solving one?

[The cube comes back and goes into a paper bag; the cube that comes out matches the one in the bottle.]

How crazy is it that our moment in time perfectly matched theirs?

[Encore: the mixed cube goes into the bag, the room counts down, and the bag bursts open on a solved cube.]

Let's try this one last time for real, everybody count down from three; Three! Two! One!

Please enjoy your dinner.