

A workshop with John Carney.

Come prepared. Leave with direction.

Thank you for your interest in the workshop. My hope is that you leave with useful ideas, a fresh perspective on your magic, and a clearer sense of your own potential.

01 What to expect

A lecture demonstrates and explains a set program of routines. A workshop is a group lesson and discussion, shaped by your questions and the material you bring. It is a chance to get practical coaching on technique and presentation, and to find your next steps.

One workshop will not instantly make anyone a great magician. That takes years of dedication, practice, and responsibility for your own learning. What we can do together is identify problems, explore possibilities, and give your future practice a better direction.

02 Bring a notebook

Keep notes that are specific to your needs: what you noticed, what you want to change, and what you need to practice. A notebook is useful well beyond the workshop. It helps turn an interesting idea into something you can act on.

Take notes during everyone's coaching, not just your own. Another person's question may reveal a principle that applies to everything you do. We often face the same problems with attention, timing, clarity, and naturalness.

03 Bring practical questions

If a move or routine is giving you trouble, bring it up. I am interested in ideas we can apply to magic in the real world, rather than arguments about abstract theory. I may not have every answer, but I can often offer insight or point you in a useful direction.

Before you arrive, identify where you get stuck. For example: Is a movement awkward? Is an effect unclear? Does a moment feel rushed? A specific question gives us a useful place to begin.

Bring your magic.

We will work from there.

04 Prepare one short routine

Please keep your performance to one routine of no more than five minutes, so there is time for everyone. Bring something you are working on, with the props you need to perform it.

Performing is optional. Those who prefer to observe will be respected. But if you choose to perform, I may be able to suggest improvements to your technique or presentation. Working on a specific routine opens a discussion of principles that can help the whole group.

You do not need to be perfect. With a teacher and an audience watching, it is natural to get nervous, lose your place, or make mistakes. We are looking for places where we can solve problems and move forward, in a supportive environment.

My role is to guide, improve, and encourage. Praise alone may feel good, but it does not always help you learn. Honest coaching should give you something useful to work on, without tearing you down.

05 Bring cards, coins, or other props

Think about what you want to work on and bring the relevant props. Hands-on experience helps you understand the advice. You may not master a technique that day, but you can lay the groundwork for productive practice afterward.

06 A quick preparation checklist

- A notebook and something to write with.
- A few specific questions about your own magic.
- One routine of five minutes or less, if you wish to perform.
- The cards, coins, or other props needed for your questions or routine.
- A willingness to listen, experiment, and learn from other people's coaching.

After the workshop, choose a small number of changes to work on first. Return to your notes, practice deliberately, and give the ideas time to become part of your performance.

Thank you for attending. I will do my best to make it a valuable experience. If you know someone who would benefit from the workshop, please share this primer with them. See you soon!

John