Persi Diaconis

Professor of Mathematics & Statistics, Stanford University

"Mathematics and Magic Tricks: A Look behind the Veil"

A Public Lecture

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Wednesday November 30 7:30pm

Cubberley Auditorium 485 Lasuen Mall Stanford University
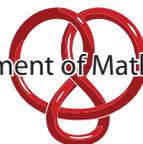
The way that a magic trick works can be just as amazing as the trick itself. I will illustrate with performance-level magic whose workings involve a look at combinatorics, number theory, and higher algebra. This talk is aimed at a broad public audience; no prior "mathemagical" knowledge required.

Persi Diaconis is the Mary V. Sunseri Professor of Statistics and Mathematics at Stanford University. A recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and a member of both the National Academy of Science and the American Philosophical Society, he was also a professional magician.

Friends of Stanford Mathematics/ Mathematics Research Center Public Lecture

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Stanford University—Departments of Mathematics & Statistics

Wednesday, November 30
7:30pm; Cubberley Auditorium

"Mathematics and Magic Tricks: A Look behind the Veil"

The way that a magic trick works can be just as amazing as the trick itself. I will illustrate with performance-level magic whose workings involve a look at combinatorics, number theory, and higher algebra. At the same time, these esoteric ideas have practical applications to making codes, the way cell phones work, untangling DNA, and robot vision. Both the magic and real-world applications lead back to mathematical problems, some well beyond our current understanding. This talk is aimed at a broad public audience; no prior "mathemagical" knowledge required.