Where Is She?

Designed by Paul Osborne

EFFECT: The magician promises to duplicate one of the classics of magic often seen on the city streets, or carnivals, with a novel twist. The old "Three Shell" game done with a beautiful young lady. On a small platform sits a table with three large derbys resting on it. The derbys are raised and under one is the young lady's head. The magician explains that the object of the game is to find the young lady. He puts all three derbys on the table, with one of them covering the girl's head. Then he mixes the hats up by sliding them across the table and asks the audience to find the lady. Each time this is done, naturally, the audience is wrong. The magician explains that what they have witnessed was just an illusion and could have never actually happened. As he says this he rips off the table cover and there is nothing to be found - the girl has completely vanished!

METHOD: This offbeat illusion makes use of the familiar thick base method of concealment. Our front elevation shows the basic set up of the prop with the girl's head sticking out of one of three holes in the table top. Our top view shows the top of the table with the three cut outs with a cut away view showing the traps in the floor of the base. The side elevation shows the table with the drape removed, notice the velcro tabs that hold the drape on until the "moment of truth".

The hats are made of elastic, paper mache or fiberglass and must, naturally, be large enough to fit over the girl's head. It is suggested that the hats be of different color, and covered with felt or flocked. Our hat measurements are 8" diameter by 9" tall.

In presentation the girl sticks her head up through one of the holes, the table is with drape as shown in our front elevation. The magician demonstrates the hats and puts them on the table covering the girl's head. Once covered the girl ducks down below the table top as the hats are shuffled on the table. Once all the derbys are in place the girl raises up inserting her head under the appropriate hat. This is continued until it's time for the pay off at which time the girl opens the traps and enters the base. The magician rips the drape off and the table is seen to be without girl! This is one of those illusions that an entire act can be built around. I hope you'll realize it's full potential and ad it to your line up soon!