

The Christmas Lottery

(Routine by Peter Gardini)

Effect

On display are six numbered envelopes or Christmas boxes. The performer states that inside each envelope or box is a prize. A six sided die is given for examination and then returned to the performer. Five volunteers are selected and each in turn rolls the die. Whatever number the die falls at is the number of their envelope or box. If a number is thrown which has already been taken then the die is rolled again. The performer is left with the envelope or box that remains.

Each person in turn opens their envelope or box and takes out a small present and a card which says “you have the gift of eternal life if you ask Jesus into your life.” The Performer then opens their envelope or box and their card says “You have the gift of eternal life because you asked Jesus into your life.” The kicker to the effect though is that the performers card is laminated and on the back of the laminated card is a cheque or a banknote for a high amount.

You will require

6 numbered envelopes or boxes

5 cards with the words “**you have the gift of eternal life if you ask Jesus into your life.**”

1 laminated card for the performers prize.

5 small prizes.

1 fake die.

1 genuine die to match the fake die.

A cup or shaker to shake the die in.

A receptacle such as a small tray with sides to roll the die into.



To make the fake die

Obtain two genuine clear red die. This allows you to patter about how gambling cheats used to use dice called ‘Tapper’ These fake dice had tiny drops of mercury inside which enabled the cheats to tap the dice to make them land at a particular number. To overcome this problem the clear die was invented. This enable people running gambling houses to see right through them to show that they were genuine and didn’t contain drops of mercury.

Take one die and make it into a fake by converting the number two side into a number 5. Use a twist drill the same diameter as the spots and with care add three extra holes to the number two side. Be careful not to make the holes too deep. Using a cocktail stick dipped in white modellers enamel paint, drop just enough paint into each hole to make it match the other holes already there. Allow the paint to dry. In the picture above we have shown two fake dice. The one on the left has two number threes which was made by adding an extra pip to the number two but it makes it a bit too obvious to a keen observer how it works. The one on the right on the other hand has two number fives. Only one of the number fives will ever be visible as the number two is always on the opposite side to the number five on a genuine dice. Remember, opposite sides of a die add up to seven.

Routine

Have the six numbered boxes or envelopes on display and hand out the genuine red die for examination by a member of the audience. Have the fake red die palmed in one hand. When the die is returned it is a simple matter to drop the fake into the cup or shaker while retaining the genuine die in the hand.

Patter about the Christmas lottery and how only some people win a prize but that in this game everybody gets to win a prize.

Choose five spectators who then take it in turns to roll the die. Each spectator gets the envelope or box which matches their number. If a number comes up which has already been taken then the die is rolled again until a number comes up which is new. The performer is left with the last envelope or box which should be in our case number two.

The spectators then open their envelopes or boxes one at a time and take out their card and prize. The performer then opens their and shows that they were left with the biggest and best but in this game everyone wins so no sad faces.

Extra notes

This is a nice routine as it fills a stage with people without having to have masses of props.

If the performer was feeling flush then the spectators prizes could be genuine lottery tickets filled in for that day or week.

Each of the cards could be laminated with a blank lottery ticket on one side. This would make the effect look a bit more professional and polished.

Thanks to Jack Delvin for the inspiration for this effect.