

## ***Ex Libris*** by Joaquin Ayala, Ph.D.

Hello everyone and welcome to the Ex Libris article for December 2020! At long last after trudging through this tumultuous year we have reached the end! I know last month I mentioned reviewing a biography, but I had not gotten a chance to finish reading it yet, so I will revisit that early in the new year.

This month I have decided to 'go home' – to Spain, that is (at least for me) and have a look at a book from a magician that is arguably one of the most influential magicians in the history of magic.

The book is *The Five Points in Magic* by **Juan Tamariz**. This was originally published in 1982 by **Frakson Magic Books** (Spain) as a 55-page, comb bound softcover booklet in 8.5" x 11" size. It was revised and subsequently re-published in 1988 by **Frakson Magic Books** as an 85-page hardcover booklet with a dust jacket and black & white photo illustrations. The latest edition was published in 2007 by **Hermetic Press**.

This book is only 85 pages long, but it contains some very important information for the performer – this is primarily a theory book. This focuses specifically on the eyes, voice, the hands, the feet, and the body. Each of those five points have their own section or "chapter" in the book, and there are details on how to enhance each of those things to their fullest potential across various venues from close-up to parlor to stage to even the streets.

There are some effects detailed in the book for each of the points, and these are mainly used to help illustrate the points in actual practice.

The idea behind the five points as a whole is being able to connect with your audience in a direct and clear manner, and on a more personal level no matter the size of the audience and no matter the size of the venue. Using these techniques will allow you to do that. Furthermore, these techniques are applicable to more than just magicians – any sort of performer can benefit from the study and use of these techniques.

That is all for this month – I do hope you all have enjoyed the articles for this year and I really look forward to continuing to share my thoughts on more books in the new year. For now, I wish for you all to stay safe, stay healthy, have a, Happy ChristmaHannuKwanzikas and a most prosperous New Year! Keep the magic alive!

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