

Episode 761

THE SKEPTIC ZONE PODCAST

www.skepticzone.tv

7 May 2023

Episode 761 - 7 May 2023



Celestia Ward



Brian Dunning



Adrienne Hill



Tim Mendham

We Can Reason Canada

The Book of Tim Investigations

Australian Skeptics Newsletter with Adrienne Hill

UFO Car Wash with Brian Dunning

TROVE looks at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini



Richard Saunders



1
00:00:13,920 --> 00:00:09,049
welcome to the skeptic Zone the podcast

2
00:00:16,900 --> 00:00:13,930
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:24,670 --> 00:00:16,910
[Applause]

4
00:00:30,669 --> 00:00:26,750
yes it's the skeptic Zone podcast

5
00:00:33,590 --> 00:00:30,679
episode number 761 for the 7th of May

6
00:00:36,350 --> 00:00:33,600
2023 Richard Saunders coming to you from

7
00:00:38,990 --> 00:00:36,360
Calgary Alberta Canada at the weekend

8
00:00:41,330 --> 00:00:39,000
reason convention I have just given a

9
00:00:43,970 --> 00:00:41,340
talk and I got nobody booed which was

10
00:00:46,369 --> 00:00:43,980
very encouraging I'm with I'm with

11
00:00:48,470 --> 00:00:46,379
Adrian Hill hello Adrian hey how's it

12
00:00:51,049 --> 00:00:48,480
going good and Celestia wood hi hey

13
00:00:53,090 --> 00:00:51,059

Richard hey from squaring the strains

14

00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:53,100

that's right yep out here in Calgary

15

00:00:58,670 --> 00:00:55,020

I've been enjoying the wonderful

16

00:01:02,270 --> 00:00:58,680

hospitality of Adrian Hill skeptic Zone

17

00:01:04,009 --> 00:01:02,280

Ace reporter and uh I do want to share

18

00:01:05,810 --> 00:01:04,019

with your listeners there was one moment

19

00:01:09,050 --> 00:01:05,820

that happened during your talk that I I

20

00:01:10,550 --> 00:01:09,060

know that during Adrian's talk that I

21

00:01:13,190 --> 00:01:10,560

wish I had been recording from the back

22

00:01:15,230 --> 00:01:13,200

of the room I was sitting with you and

23

00:01:19,370 --> 00:01:15,240

Adrian announced to the room of

24

00:01:22,370 --> 00:01:19,380

calgarians here yes that Richard had not

25

00:01:24,590 --> 00:01:22,380

really been into Canadian maple syrup he

26

00:01:27,170 --> 00:01:24,600

had he had all always used Australian

27

00:01:30,410 --> 00:01:27,180

maple syrup and an entire room of

28

00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:30,420

Canadians turned around and went oh

29

00:01:36,050 --> 00:01:33,180

the blasphemy I had to walk out in shame

30

00:01:38,510 --> 00:01:36,060

I did but then they all found out you

31

00:01:40,969 --> 00:01:38,520

had been converted to the Canadian maple

32

00:01:43,550 --> 00:01:40,979

syrup so your conversion was witnessed

33

00:01:47,510 --> 00:01:43,560

and celebrated

34

00:01:49,550 --> 00:01:47,520

a religious a semi-religious experience

35

00:01:51,530 --> 00:01:49,560

so if I was going really well yeah it's

36

00:01:53,569 --> 00:01:51,540

been a blast we had a pub night last

37

00:01:57,170 --> 00:01:53,579

night very successful more than double

38

00:01:59,330 --> 00:01:57,180

what we expected and a lot of spoons a

39
00:02:02,450 --> 00:01:59,340
lot of spoons bent and some origami made

40
00:02:05,749 --> 00:02:02,460
and a quiz show or that show a trivia

41
00:02:07,850 --> 00:02:05,759
night it was very good and today I'm

42
00:02:11,390 --> 00:02:07,860
relieved and relaxed now because I did

43
00:02:13,369 --> 00:02:11,400
my talk me too me too so I was just so

44
00:02:15,170 --> 00:02:13,379
worried yeah I've got a couple hours

45
00:02:16,850 --> 00:02:15,180
before I'll get mine out of the way but

46
00:02:19,130 --> 00:02:16,860
hopefully I'll be teaching everybody a

47
00:02:22,070 --> 00:02:19,140
little bit about how to apply good PR

48
00:02:23,510 --> 00:02:22,080
principles to skeptical stories and

49
00:02:25,850 --> 00:02:23,520
don't forget to listen to squaring the

50
00:02:27,410 --> 00:02:25,860
strange of course absolutely absolutely

51
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:27,420
coming up on this week's episode of the

52
00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:29,340
skeptic Zone we report from the weekend

53
00:02:33,589 --> 00:02:31,440
oh we're doing that right now we report

54
00:02:35,869 --> 00:02:33,599
from the weekend reason conference with

55
00:02:37,910 --> 00:02:35,879
Adrian Hill and Celestia Ward it's a

56
00:02:39,830 --> 00:02:37,920
self-fulfilling prophecy you see you're

57
00:02:43,309 --> 00:02:39,840
a psychic after that it's the Australian

58
00:02:46,190 --> 00:02:43,319
Skeptics newsletter read by Adrian Hill

59
00:02:49,250 --> 00:02:46,200
Adrian Hill absolutely and then it's the

60
00:02:51,830 --> 00:02:49,260
book of Tim and this week him interviews

61
00:02:53,330 --> 00:02:51,840
me about investigations he turned the

62
00:02:56,150 --> 00:02:53,340
tables on me he turned the microphones

63
00:02:58,610 --> 00:02:56,160

then to uh round off the show oh no

64

00:03:00,650 --> 00:02:58,620

before that we have UFO car wash with

65

00:03:02,390 --> 00:03:00,660

Brian Dunning Brian Dunning and I were

66

00:03:03,770 --> 00:03:02,400

abducted by a UFO and we took the

67

00:03:06,290 --> 00:03:03,780

opportunity to talk about his new

68

00:03:07,610 --> 00:03:06,300

documentary that's coming up but yes to

69

00:03:09,530 --> 00:03:07,620

round off the show we go back to the

70

00:03:11,449 --> 00:03:09,540

Trove archives where we look at the

71

00:03:13,729 --> 00:03:11,459

relationship between Sir Arthur Conan

72

00:03:15,949 --> 00:03:13,739

Doyle and Harry Houdini

73

00:03:18,050 --> 00:03:15,959

how about that but now my friends it's

74

00:03:20,449 --> 00:03:18,060

time for us to run around the corner

75

00:03:23,030 --> 00:03:20,459

head down the hall and do you think

76
00:03:25,009 --> 00:03:23,040
there's any of that velvet was it was it

77
00:03:27,050 --> 00:03:25,019
red velvet red velvet cake Yes red

78
00:03:29,210 --> 00:03:27,060
velvet cake with blueberries on top

79
00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:29,220
there's some of that left we'll find out

80
00:03:33,660 --> 00:03:31,680
soon but why we do that we hope you

81
00:03:48,009 --> 00:03:33,670
enjoy the skeptic Zone

82
00:03:51,470 --> 00:03:48,019
[Music]

83
00:04:01,149 --> 00:03:51,480
thank you

84
00:04:04,009 --> 00:04:01,159
[Music]

85
00:04:05,750 --> 00:04:04,019
hello everyone this is Adrian Hill from

86
00:04:08,330 --> 00:04:05,760
Canada here to read the highlights from

87
00:04:11,690 --> 00:04:08,340
the Australian Skeptics newsletter this

88
00:04:13,970 --> 00:04:11,700

is newsletter number 172.

89

00:04:15,770 --> 00:04:13,980

you can subscribe to this newsletter and

90

00:04:17,629 --> 00:04:15,780

get it delivered to your inbox every

91

00:04:20,949 --> 00:04:17,639

other week complete with links to all

92

00:04:25,370 --> 00:04:20,959

the stories just visit

93

00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:25,380

www.skeptics.com dot a u

94

00:04:30,050 --> 00:04:27,780

but now let's see what Tim Mendham has

95

00:04:32,090 --> 00:04:30,060

for us this week

96

00:04:34,909 --> 00:04:32,100

hi all says Tim

97

00:04:37,310 --> 00:04:34,919

details from skepticon 2023 are being

98

00:04:39,590 --> 00:04:37,320

posted a call for papers is out for

99

00:04:41,870 --> 00:04:39,600

various formats we look forward to

100

00:04:43,610 --> 00:04:41,880

seeing you in Melbourne on December 2nd

101
00:04:45,950 --> 00:04:43,620
through 3rd

102
00:04:48,350 --> 00:04:45,960
more immediately we have all the usual

103
00:04:51,409 --> 00:04:48,360
issues of altmed dangers expert

104
00:04:55,550 --> 00:04:51,419
escapades and how good is the plague

105
00:04:58,310 --> 00:04:55,560
double thumbs up emojis not included

106
00:04:59,230 --> 00:04:58,320
not to mention how you should tap into

107
00:05:03,050 --> 00:04:59,240
the

108
00:05:06,950 --> 00:05:03,060
Paranormal and let your dog make all of

109
00:05:08,830 --> 00:05:06,960
your important Life Choices paw a normal

110
00:05:11,270 --> 00:05:08,840
really Tim

111
00:05:15,830 --> 00:05:11,280
does that mean I have to ask my dog

112
00:05:17,689 --> 00:05:15,840
Jewel about Life Choices interesting and

113
00:05:20,689 --> 00:05:17,699

as always you can go to our Facebook

114

00:05:22,249 --> 00:05:20,699

page for more interesting stories read

115

00:05:28,610 --> 00:05:22,259

on Tim

116

00:05:34,730 --> 00:05:31,850

update skepticon 2023 call for papers

117

00:05:36,770 --> 00:05:34,740

the Victorian Skeptics organizers of

118

00:05:39,529 --> 00:05:36,780

this year's Australian Skeptics National

119

00:05:42,529 --> 00:05:39,539

annual convention or skepticon have put

120

00:05:44,510 --> 00:05:42,539

out a call for papers skepticon 2023

121

00:05:47,029 --> 00:05:44,520

will be held at the brain Center

122

00:05:49,249 --> 00:05:47,039

Melbourne University on December 2nd

123

00:05:51,170 --> 00:05:49,259

through 3rd full details are gradually

124

00:05:54,909 --> 00:05:51,180

being rolled out on the skepticon

125

00:06:00,650 --> 00:05:58,189

who's pseudoscience problem

126
00:06:02,330 --> 00:06:00,660
in trying to ensure everyone has access

127
00:06:04,490 --> 00:06:02,340
to health care the World Health

128
00:06:08,230 --> 00:06:04,500
Organization promotes Homeopathy

129
00:06:14,570 --> 00:06:08,240
traditional Chinese medicine and quote

130
00:06:14,580 --> 00:06:20,029
warning to pregnant women over TCM

131
00:06:25,129 --> 00:06:22,610
researchers from Shanghai examined the

132
00:06:27,830 --> 00:06:25,139
health of babies born to 16 000 women

133
00:06:31,249 --> 00:06:27,840
across the country babies born to women

134
00:06:33,110 --> 00:06:31,259
who underwent traditional treatments

135
00:06:35,510 --> 00:06:33,120
while pregnant were twice as likely to

136
00:06:37,450 --> 00:06:35,520
have birth defects compared to mothers

137
00:06:40,029 --> 00:06:37,460
who did not

138
00:06:44,330 --> 00:06:40,039

foreign

139

00:06:47,510 --> 00:06:44,340

of Barbara O'Neill's salty prognosis

140

00:06:50,210 --> 00:06:47,520

a pithy and telling response to band's

141

00:06:52,969 --> 00:06:50,220

naturopath Barbara O'Neill's diatribe

142

00:06:55,090 --> 00:06:52,979

against salt believe it or not she

143

00:06:58,249 --> 00:06:55,100

doesn't know what she's talking about

144

00:07:00,230 --> 00:06:58,259

[Music]

145

00:07:05,090 --> 00:07:00,240

pint of science

146

00:07:07,550 --> 00:07:05,100

May 22nd through 24th 15 cities across

147

00:07:10,249 --> 00:07:07,560

Australia plus 26 countries around the

148

00:07:12,950 --> 00:07:10,259

world are to take part in pints of

149

00:07:15,350 --> 00:07:12,960

Science in Australia that means science

150

00:07:17,570 --> 00:07:15,360

engagement primarily through a national

151
00:07:19,490 --> 00:07:17,580
festival that comprises a range of

152
00:07:21,770 --> 00:07:19,500
events looking at all disciplines of

153
00:07:23,689 --> 00:07:21,780
science including interesting and

154
00:07:26,350 --> 00:07:23,699
relevant talks on the latest science

155
00:07:32,330 --> 00:07:26,360
research that are accessible to all

156
00:07:37,730 --> 00:07:35,270
how science and politics are bringing an

157
00:07:40,249 --> 00:07:37,740
end to ufology

158
00:07:41,110 --> 00:07:40,259
quote what ufologists want more than

159
00:07:43,129 --> 00:07:41,120
anything

160
00:07:45,409 --> 00:07:43,139
besides actual proof of

161
00:07:47,689 --> 00:07:45,419
extraterrestrials is for serious people

162
00:07:50,629 --> 00:07:47,699
to pay serious attention to them end

163
00:07:52,129 --> 00:07:50,639

quote the problem being of course that

164

00:07:54,529 --> 00:07:52,139

once you get really serious

165

00:07:56,450 --> 00:07:54,539

investigations by real scientists you

166

00:07:58,490 --> 00:07:56,460

get real results

167

00:08:00,529 --> 00:07:58,500

on a side note I hear from Richard

168

00:08:03,529 --> 00:08:00,539

Saunders that the rough edit of quote

169

00:08:06,110 --> 00:08:03,539

the UFO movie they don't want you to see

170

00:08:07,800 --> 00:08:06,120

end quote by Brian Dunning is looking

171

00:08:09,890 --> 00:08:07,810

very impressive

172

00:08:11,990 --> 00:08:09,900

[Music]

173

00:08:14,029 --> 00:08:12,000

we are working on the June issue of the

174

00:08:16,189 --> 00:08:14,039

skeptic Magazine with a look at the

175

00:08:18,710 --> 00:08:16,199

legal and financial goings-on of the

176

00:08:21,170 --> 00:08:18,720

anti-vaccination movement in the

177

00:08:24,170 --> 00:08:21,180

meantime the March issue is out and

178

00:08:25,909 --> 00:08:24,180

about and if I was really Canadian I'd

179

00:08:28,369 --> 00:08:25,919

say oh in the boot

180

00:08:31,129 --> 00:08:28,379

if you haven't subscribed yet now is the

181

00:08:34,130 --> 00:08:31,139

time to do so you can sign up for a hard

182

00:08:36,350 --> 00:08:34,140

copy or digital Edition or both since

183

00:08:39,050 --> 00:08:36,360

the digital is offered free to those who

184

00:08:40,909 --> 00:08:39,060

take up the hard copy version contact

185

00:08:46,210 --> 00:08:40,919

the editor if you're not sure of your

186

00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:49,250

items of Interest

187

00:08:55,490 --> 00:08:51,660

New York city mayor discusses Haunted

188

00:08:58,389 --> 00:08:55,500

Mansion the city that never sleeps even

189

00:09:01,790 --> 00:08:58,399

after death apparently

190

00:09:05,150 --> 00:09:01,800

a list of the 10 most expensive horror

191

00:09:07,490 --> 00:09:05,160

movies ever made which goes to show that

192

00:09:09,230 --> 00:09:07,500

high budget doesn't guarantee high

193

00:09:12,949 --> 00:09:09,240

quality

194

00:09:15,290 --> 00:09:12,959

Brits believe dogs are psychic

195

00:09:16,730 --> 00:09:15,300

guessing a few Canadians might think

196

00:09:18,829 --> 00:09:16,740

that too

197

00:09:21,110 --> 00:09:18,839

more than eight in ten British dog

198

00:09:23,990 --> 00:09:21,120

owners think their pet has psychic

199

00:09:27,590 --> 00:09:24,000

powers a new study reveals and 65

200

00:09:31,190 --> 00:09:27,600

percent say they let their paranormal

201
00:09:35,930 --> 00:09:31,200
Pooch make some decisions for them oh

202
00:09:39,410 --> 00:09:35,940
dear this might explain a lot until next

203
00:09:42,050 --> 00:09:39,420
time this is Adrian Hill who has to run

204
00:09:45,170 --> 00:09:42,060
upstairs get in my car and go to the

205
00:09:48,070 --> 00:09:45,180
airport to pick up Richard Saunders so

206
00:10:06,889 --> 00:09:50,730
thank you

207
00:10:19,430 --> 00:10:08,310
again

208
00:10:53,889 --> 00:10:21,530
[Music]

209
00:11:00,590 --> 00:10:57,920
and now a reading from the book of Tim

210
00:11:03,410 --> 00:11:00,600
[Music]

211
00:11:09,170 --> 00:11:03,420
with Tim Mendham

212
00:11:11,569 --> 00:11:09,180
[Music]

213
00:11:13,490 --> 00:11:11,579

hi my name is Tim Mendham I'm the editor

214

00:11:16,009 --> 00:11:13,500
of Australian Skeptics magazine the

215

00:11:18,829 --> 00:11:16,019
skeptic and I'm also executive officer

216

00:11:21,009 --> 00:11:18,839
of Australian skeptic sink

217

00:11:23,090 --> 00:11:21,019
first of all I'd like to interview

218

00:11:25,610 --> 00:11:23,100
someone you may have heard of Richard

219

00:11:28,190 --> 00:11:25,620
Sanders hello yes yes originally we can

220

00:11:29,690 --> 00:11:28,200
talk about investigations yes okay I

221

00:11:32,030 --> 00:11:29,700
thought I'd surprise you on this one

222

00:11:33,650 --> 00:11:32,040
thank you it's rare I'm a visitor in the

223

00:11:34,850 --> 00:11:33,660
book of Tim but here you go the

224

00:11:36,470 --> 00:11:34,860
interesting thing is that from the very

225

00:11:37,850 --> 00:11:36,480
first issues of the skeptic magazine

226

00:11:40,069 --> 00:11:37,860

very first activities it was always

227

00:11:41,269 --> 00:11:40,079

about investigations right someone would

228

00:11:44,150 --> 00:11:41,279

you'd hear about something and then

229

00:11:45,850 --> 00:11:44,160

you'd follow it up right okay now Mr

230

00:11:48,949 --> 00:11:45,860

Sanders you are actually

231

00:11:51,410 --> 00:11:48,959

you're correctly are you chicken Colonel

232

00:11:53,269 --> 00:11:51,420

Sanders yes you were actually the chief

233

00:11:54,710 --> 00:11:53,279

investigator for Australians you have

234

00:11:55,870 --> 00:11:54,720

been for some time actually when you're

235

00:11:57,710 --> 00:11:55,880

not being president

236

00:11:59,449 --> 00:11:57,720

when they're doing other things actually

237

00:12:02,389 --> 00:11:59,459

but I mean it's interesting the range of

238

00:12:03,470 --> 00:12:02,399

Investigations we've had oh yeah and

239

00:12:05,930 --> 00:12:03,480

they change

240

00:12:08,090 --> 00:12:05,940

I mean I've never investigated a psychic

241

00:12:09,650 --> 00:12:08,100

surgeon for example yeah I've seen

242

00:12:11,930 --> 00:12:09,660

demonstrations of it but done by

243

00:12:14,630 --> 00:12:11,940

magicians on people like that yeah I've

244

00:12:15,590 --> 00:12:14,640

I've only seen magicians do it yeah but

245

00:12:16,910 --> 00:12:15,600

the interesting thing is of course we

246

00:12:18,910 --> 00:12:16,920

have a hundred thousand dollar challenge

247

00:12:21,230 --> 00:12:18,920

which is for people who come to us

248

00:12:22,850 --> 00:12:21,240

claiming a particular power and then we

249

00:12:24,530 --> 00:12:22,860

can test them and we've done hundreds of

250

00:12:26,269 --> 00:12:24,540

those we have yeah yeah

251

00:12:27,949 --> 00:12:26,279

a notice actually the very first issue

252

00:12:29,930 --> 00:12:27,959

of the magazine they refer to the famous

253

00:12:31,550 --> 00:12:29,940

James Randy Dick Smith's test the water

254

00:12:33,170 --> 00:12:31,560

diviners they said they had over 100

255

00:12:35,269 --> 00:12:33,180

people applying

256

00:12:36,470 --> 00:12:35,279

but a lot of them weren't diviners a lot

257

00:12:39,050 --> 00:12:36,480

of them were psychics and things they

258

00:12:41,150 --> 00:12:39,060

were all applied when Dick laid out the

259

00:12:42,889 --> 00:12:41,160

uh the challenge I'm out Dick Smith yeah

260

00:12:44,389 --> 00:12:42,899

yeah so it was interesting so there's

261

00:12:45,889 --> 00:12:44,399

been quite a lot of people going through

262

00:12:47,690 --> 00:12:45,899

tests then there are people that we

263

00:12:50,150 --> 00:12:47,700

approach yes right and that's more the

264

00:12:53,030 --> 00:12:50,160

investigations thing yeah well yes yes

265

00:12:55,550 --> 00:12:53,040

in fact right now I'm going to do a

266

00:12:57,590 --> 00:12:55,560

little report for you about

267

00:12:59,750 --> 00:12:57,600

uh something that just happened last

268

00:13:02,150 --> 00:12:59,760

night did you were you aware that there

269

00:13:04,069 --> 00:13:02,160

was a revelation worldwide revelation of

270

00:13:05,629 --> 00:13:04,079

new knowledge imparted to us last night

271

00:13:06,710 --> 00:13:05,639

no I didn't realize that there you go

272

00:13:09,170 --> 00:13:06,720

Richard

273

00:13:11,509 --> 00:13:09,180

was it exciting it was it was by a group

274

00:13:13,970 --> 00:13:11,519

called creative Society

275

00:13:16,730 --> 00:13:13,980

amongst other claims is the cure for

276

00:13:18,710 --> 00:13:16,740

cancer excellent we've always wanted one

277

00:13:20,509 --> 00:13:18,720

of those so that's the sort of thing

278

00:13:22,129 --> 00:13:20,519

that we we look into when these claims

279

00:13:23,690 --> 00:13:22,139

come along and so some of them are

280

00:13:25,430 --> 00:13:23,700

actually sort of a bit sort of like

281

00:13:27,170 --> 00:13:25,440

desktop or sort of armchair

282

00:13:28,430 --> 00:13:27,180

investigations but others that we

283

00:13:29,750 --> 00:13:28,440

actually go out and see people yeah

284

00:13:31,610 --> 00:13:29,760

right and you've done quite a few of

285

00:13:34,129 --> 00:13:31,620

those in your time yeah yeah from Palm

286

00:13:35,990 --> 00:13:34,139

readers to well mostly water diviners I

287

00:13:38,990 --> 00:13:36,000

guess but also one of my favorites is

288

00:13:42,290 --> 00:13:39,000

weeping walls yeah you know what I was

289

00:13:44,470 --> 00:13:42,300

invited by a TV crew many years ago to

290

00:13:48,230 --> 00:13:44,480

go to a house where the Weeping and

291

00:13:52,069 --> 00:13:48,240

I I saw them turning it into such a

292

00:13:54,590 --> 00:13:52,079

circus and the people involved was were

293

00:13:56,150 --> 00:13:54,600

a bit too passionate for my liking so I

294

00:13:58,310 --> 00:13:56,160

didn't go to that one that was the one

295

00:13:59,870 --> 00:13:58,320

where they had a their teenage son got

296

00:14:01,550 --> 00:13:59,880

killed in a car crash yes her memory

297

00:14:03,889 --> 00:14:01,560

something like that you went twice I

298

00:14:06,650 --> 00:14:03,899

believe to that because it's initially

299

00:14:09,290 --> 00:14:06,660

was announced and then later on yeah no

300

00:14:11,030 --> 00:14:09,300

it had a Resurgence I was approached at

301
00:14:12,650 --> 00:14:11,040
least twice by the TV networks yeah but

302
00:14:14,870 --> 00:14:12,660
I never went to the house it's possible

303
00:14:16,550 --> 00:14:14,880
our friend and challenge coordinator Ian

304
00:14:18,829 --> 00:14:16,560
Bryce did I'll have to ask him about

305
00:14:20,389 --> 00:14:18,839
that I've got it in the archives or the

306
00:14:22,190 --> 00:14:20,399
story about the Weeping walls it's also

307
00:14:23,870 --> 00:14:22,200
been published in the magazine yeah so

308
00:14:26,030 --> 00:14:23,880
you know we published everything they

309
00:14:28,310 --> 00:14:26,040
weren't writings people were drawing

310
00:14:29,870 --> 00:14:28,320
initials on the wall in oil and as I

311
00:14:31,009 --> 00:14:29,880
said to one of the TV reporters if their

312
00:14:33,290 --> 00:14:31,019
initials are written on the wall

313
00:14:36,110 --> 00:14:33,300

someone's written them you know I mean

314

00:14:37,970 --> 00:14:36,120

it wasn't real too well

315

00:14:39,889 --> 00:14:37,980

anyway yeah but um I love doing

316

00:14:42,050 --> 00:14:39,899

investigations but they the true

317

00:14:43,430 --> 00:14:42,060

investigations don't come along as often

318

00:14:44,689 --> 00:14:43,440

as I thought they would be when I joined

319

00:14:46,310 --> 00:14:44,699

I mean it's not every night we're going

320

00:14:47,389 --> 00:14:46,320

to a haunted house or something I think

321

00:14:49,129 --> 00:14:47,399

one of the interesting things you look

322

00:14:52,129 --> 00:14:49,139

back at these old issues of the magazine

323

00:14:53,629 --> 00:14:52,139

like volume one number one and the I've

324

00:14:56,090 --> 00:14:53,639

just had a look through the last the

325

00:14:58,370 --> 00:14:56,100

first 10 years of the magazines and

326

00:15:00,170 --> 00:14:58,380

there's a lot of occasions there where

327

00:15:01,730 --> 00:15:00,180

they visited people and they did I think

328

00:15:03,650 --> 00:15:01,740

it was in the early days of the Skeptics

329

00:15:05,930 --> 00:15:03,660

yeah Skeptics were a bit of a novelty

330

00:15:08,449 --> 00:15:05,940

right and the people who were making

331

00:15:10,009 --> 00:15:08,459

claims were a lot more naive I think

332

00:15:11,689 --> 00:15:10,019

yeah even just we're talking about only

333

00:15:12,949 --> 00:15:11,699

decades ago but I think they were very

334

00:15:15,110 --> 00:15:12,959

different well I've certainly

335

00:15:17,750 --> 00:15:15,120

investigated people who I would

336

00:15:20,389 --> 00:15:17,760

tried to politely say were in my opinion

337

00:15:22,250 --> 00:15:20,399

naive yes yeah the genuine the the

338

00:15:23,629 --> 00:15:22,260

people who genuinely think they've got

339

00:15:25,189 --> 00:15:23,639

the special powers so the interesting

340

00:15:26,870 --> 00:15:25,199

the claims are often pretty naive you

341

00:15:29,389 --> 00:15:26,880

think all right okay debunk in five

342

00:15:30,710 --> 00:15:29,399

seconds half of those things they're a

343

00:15:33,110 --> 00:15:30,720

bit more difficult these days they're a

344

00:15:34,550 --> 00:15:33,120

lot more technical a lot of them yeah I

345

00:15:36,470 --> 00:15:34,560

mean you

346

00:15:38,329 --> 00:15:36,480

it's been such a long time since I've

347

00:15:40,430 --> 00:15:38,339

been on a proper field investigation

348

00:15:42,710 --> 00:15:40,440

partly because of covert I guess

349

00:15:44,629 --> 00:15:42,720

but they can be very very complex things

350

00:15:46,430 --> 00:15:44,639

to try and unpick and that's that's why

351

00:15:48,590 --> 00:15:46,440

you know we're not afraid to seek the

352

00:15:50,930 --> 00:15:48,600

advice of specialists in a certain field

353

00:15:52,730 --> 00:15:50,940

of technology or physics or something

354

00:15:54,170 --> 00:15:52,740

like that yeah I just thought I'd be

355

00:15:56,750 --> 00:15:54,180

interesting to point out that we do do a

356

00:15:58,430 --> 00:15:56,760

lot of field work we're not just sitting

357

00:16:00,350 --> 00:15:58,440

in front of a microphone as I've said

358

00:16:03,050 --> 00:16:00,360

many times on on the skeptic Zone and

359

00:16:05,269 --> 00:16:03,060

and when I'm interviewed uh don't call

360

00:16:06,410 --> 00:16:05,279

us armchair Skeptics we're not we go out

361

00:16:08,629 --> 00:16:06,420

and see Frozen

362

00:16:11,030 --> 00:16:08,639

yeah okay well thank you Mr Sanders

363

00:16:17,660 --> 00:16:11,040

that's great okay I'm going back to get

364

00:16:24,350 --> 00:16:20,829

[Music]

365

00:16:26,329 --> 00:16:24,360

oh Russ yeah oh I'm glad I found you in

366

00:16:29,030 --> 00:16:26,339

line these clouds are really freaking me

367

00:16:32,210 --> 00:16:29,040

out I hate having to stand in line and

368

00:16:33,710 --> 00:16:32,220

boy these giraffes do not smell good no

369

00:16:35,210 --> 00:16:33,720

they do not and they have such short

370

00:16:37,009 --> 00:16:35,220

necks but I'm hearing we need to get on

371

00:16:38,810 --> 00:16:37,019

this side gotta get on the ark because

372

00:16:40,189 --> 00:16:38,820

it's about to rain God is about to

373

00:16:42,949 --> 00:16:40,199

destroy Humanity

374

00:16:44,449 --> 00:16:42,959

hey oh sorry sorry are you Noah yeah I

375

00:16:46,430 --> 00:16:44,459

know we look like humans but we're

376

00:16:48,110 --> 00:16:46,440

actually yes we're podcasters we are

377

00:16:49,430 --> 00:16:48,120

podcasters so it's different have you

378

00:16:51,710 --> 00:16:49,440

heard of Ono Ross and Kerry we

379

00:16:53,449 --> 00:16:51,720

investigate spirituality claims of the

380

00:16:54,710 --> 00:16:53,459

Paranormal stuff like that and you have

381

00:16:56,329 --> 00:16:54,720

a boat and say the world's gonna end so

382

00:16:59,090 --> 00:16:56,339

seem like something for us to check out

383

00:17:01,129 --> 00:16:59,100

we would love to be on the boat we came

384

00:17:09,650 --> 00:17:01,139

two by two what do you think owner Ross

385

00:17:09,660 --> 00:17:27,949

foreign

386

00:17:32,210 --> 00:17:29,330

I don't know what's happening I think

387

00:17:34,549 --> 00:17:32,220

we've been abducted by a UFO I'm with

388

00:17:35,810 --> 00:17:34,559

Brian Dunning

389

00:17:38,390 --> 00:17:35,820

back

390

00:17:44,690 --> 00:17:38,400

I went in too far and we're trying to

391

00:17:50,990 --> 00:17:48,529

and this is an intelligent car wash

392

00:17:53,029 --> 00:17:51,000

it says we hope to stop it's okay and

393

00:17:54,950 --> 00:17:53,039

the door's shutting in front of us the

394

00:17:58,970 --> 00:17:54,960

door shut behind us we don't know what

395

00:18:02,330 --> 00:18:00,409

this is a bit of a strange experience

396

00:18:04,730 --> 00:18:02,340

Brian but you're you're used to strange

397

00:18:07,070 --> 00:18:04,740

experiences aren't you I suppose so

398

00:18:10,549 --> 00:18:07,080

um I don't know what that means but yes

399

00:18:15,049 --> 00:18:12,650

it's all happening around us it's a it's

400

00:18:16,150 --> 00:18:15,059

a little bit surreal now I had the great

401

00:18:18,350 --> 00:18:16,160

uh

402

00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:18,360

pleasure last night of seeing a preview

403

00:18:23,330 --> 00:18:20,940

of your movie the UFO movie yes they

404

00:18:25,730 --> 00:18:23,340

don't they don't want you to see and I

405

00:18:27,350 --> 00:18:25,740

hope I hope that you're quite quite

406

00:18:29,630 --> 00:18:27,360

pleased with it I'm very pleased with it

407

00:18:31,850 --> 00:18:29,640

yes I'm it's the best work I've ever

408

00:18:33,650 --> 00:18:31,860

done and it's in the hands of

409

00:18:35,870 --> 00:18:33,660

professionals doing the color and the

410

00:18:37,909 --> 00:18:35,880

sound and all that stuff that's you know

411

00:18:40,070 --> 00:18:37,919

going to be professional quality I'm

412

00:18:42,830 --> 00:18:40,080

super super happy about it what's your

413

00:18:45,890 --> 00:18:42,840

main aim why why would you put together

414

00:18:49,810 --> 00:18:45,900

another UFO movie I'm trying to get the

415

00:18:52,430 --> 00:18:49,820

people who are UFO True Believers to

416

00:18:54,049 --> 00:18:52,440

inform their beliefs a little bit better

417

00:18:57,470 --> 00:18:54,059

with real science

418

00:19:00,049 --> 00:18:57,480

that's the basic thing yeah

419

00:19:01,610 --> 00:19:00,059

um it's not a debunking movie because

420

00:19:03,169 --> 00:19:01,620

that's just going to turn people off and

421

00:19:06,110 --> 00:19:03,179

it won't have any audience

422

00:19:07,789 --> 00:19:06,120

uh it's not a you know it's not a pure

423

00:19:10,370 --> 00:19:07,799

skeptic movie it's certainly not a

424

00:19:12,549 --> 00:19:10,380

credulous movie yeah it's intended to

425

00:19:14,690 --> 00:19:12,559

inform your opinion with better science

426
00:19:17,510 --> 00:19:14,700
whoever you are whatever your feelings

427
00:19:19,850 --> 00:19:17,520
on UFOs are I

428
00:19:22,010 --> 00:19:19,860
you know having seen it and just I tried

429
00:19:23,750 --> 00:19:22,020
to watch it critically and coldly but I

430
00:19:26,650 --> 00:19:23,760
loved it it was really informative great

431
00:19:28,850 --> 00:19:26,660
people in it yeah I mean these wonderful

432
00:19:30,870 --> 00:19:28,860
scientists and commentators like our

433
00:19:32,570 --> 00:19:30,880
friend Mick West yeah

434
00:19:34,490 --> 00:19:32,580
[Music]

435
00:19:36,970 --> 00:19:34,500
I think we're about to take off I think

436
00:19:39,710 --> 00:19:36,980
circus

437
00:19:41,630 --> 00:19:39,720
friend uh but you you discovered some

438
00:19:43,730 --> 00:19:41,640

wonderful astronomers along the way yeah

439

00:19:44,870 --> 00:19:43,740

especially yeah and

440

00:19:47,450 --> 00:19:44,880

those

441

00:19:50,450 --> 00:19:47,460

a couple of astrobiologists one

442

00:19:53,450 --> 00:19:50,460

astrophysicist in the movie got of

443

00:19:55,130 --> 00:19:53,460

course Hal bidlock representing talking

444

00:19:57,650 --> 00:19:55,140

about

445

00:19:59,810 --> 00:19:57,660

missile events that happened back in the

446

00:20:02,090 --> 00:19:59,820

1960s that they're still talking about

447

00:20:02,990 --> 00:20:02,100

today in Congress

448

00:20:04,909 --> 00:20:03,000

um

449

00:20:06,169 --> 00:20:04,919

God yeah I'm spacing out there's so many

450

00:20:08,270 --> 00:20:06,179

people in the movie I think there's I

451
00:20:10,549 --> 00:20:08,280
think there's 10. I think that's right

452
00:20:12,950 --> 00:20:10,559
sounds about right to me how can people

453
00:20:14,510 --> 00:20:12,960
at this stage still find out about the

454
00:20:16,610 --> 00:20:14,520
movie in the progress go to the

455
00:20:18,409 --> 00:20:16,620
ufo.movie

456
00:20:20,150 --> 00:20:18,419
and there's a place to put in your email

457
00:20:22,730 --> 00:20:20,160
it's just it just comes from me there's

458
00:20:24,590 --> 00:20:22,740
a tons of spam and whatever unsubscribe

459
00:20:27,650 --> 00:20:24,600
whenever you want but that's where all

460
00:20:30,590 --> 00:20:27,660
the updates get posted to the UFO dot

461
00:20:33,049 --> 00:20:30,600
movie email list that's the clue folks

462
00:20:35,270 --> 00:20:33,059
white I'm not sure what I think we are

463
00:20:37,190 --> 00:20:35,280

really being abducted by our UFO here at

464

00:20:39,049 --> 00:20:37,200

the moment it's it's quite surreal there

465

00:20:41,049 --> 00:20:39,059

are flashing lights and I've got a

466

00:20:44,090 --> 00:20:41,059

scratch I didn't know about

467

00:20:47,630 --> 00:20:44,100

well that can only be explained one way

468

00:20:49,610 --> 00:20:47,640

I think so midnight abduction

469

00:20:56,409 --> 00:20:49,620

it's over I think it's over thank you

470

00:21:00,710 --> 00:20:58,789

are you looking for a science-based

471

00:21:03,169 --> 00:21:00,720

medical podcast to answer all your

472

00:21:05,450 --> 00:21:03,179

questions about health check out the

473

00:21:07,610 --> 00:21:05,460

body of evidence whether you're curious

474

00:21:11,090 --> 00:21:07,620

about the potential benefits of Omega-3s

475

00:21:12,830 --> 00:21:11,100

or the potential risks of vaping we take

476

00:21:15,230 --> 00:21:12,840

a look at the body of evidence to

477

00:21:18,529 --> 00:21:15,240

separate the noise the hype the lies

478

00:21:20,450 --> 00:21:18,539

from actual scientific rigor we do it

479

00:21:21,830 --> 00:21:20,460

with comedy Skits the only logical thing

480

00:21:24,049 --> 00:21:21,840

to do is for me to take off all my

481

00:21:25,850 --> 00:21:24,059

clothes and run into the street no

482

00:21:29,570 --> 00:21:25,860

remember the first rule of podcasting

483

00:21:33,590 --> 00:21:29,580

always keep your pants on with jingles

484

00:21:37,789 --> 00:21:36,049

by you know discussing what the evidence

485

00:21:41,029 --> 00:21:37,799

has to say on the topic at hand or

486

00:21:42,770 --> 00:21:41,039

unless that is a pill but yeah it has it

487

00:21:43,970 --> 00:21:42,780

has the side effects of bloating gas and

488

00:21:46,430 --> 00:21:43,980

greasy stool which makes it very

489

00:21:49,130 --> 00:21:46,440

unpleasant the body of evidence find it

490

00:21:51,850 --> 00:21:49,140

at bodyofevidence.ca or on your favorite

491

00:21:55,010 --> 00:21:51,860

podcast app the body of evidence

492

00:22:00,289 --> 00:21:55,020

medicine that tastes funny and science

493

00:22:09,530 --> 00:22:01,900

thank you

494

00:22:09,540 --> 00:22:13,970

[Music]

495

00:22:20,529 --> 00:22:17,510

now it's time to once again dive back

496

00:22:23,029 --> 00:22:20,539

into those pages at Trove at

497

00:22:24,529 --> 00:22:23,039

trove.nla.gov.au the online resource

498

00:22:27,610 --> 00:22:24,539

from the Australian government in the

499

00:22:33,289 --> 00:22:27,620

National Library of Australia which is a

500

00:22:35,810 --> 00:22:33,299

a reservoir a reservoir of our digital

501
00:22:36,909 --> 00:22:35,820
history when it comes to newspapers and

502
00:22:40,250 --> 00:22:36,919
magazines

503
00:22:43,010 --> 00:22:40,260
and many other printed uh printed

504
00:22:45,710 --> 00:22:43,020
reports and other materials like Diaries

505
00:22:47,029 --> 00:22:45,720
and so on now over the past couple of

506
00:22:50,210 --> 00:22:47,039
weeks we'll be looking at various

507
00:22:53,270 --> 00:22:50,220
references to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle the

508
00:22:56,270 --> 00:22:53,280
creator of Sherlock Holmes this week

509
00:22:58,190 --> 00:22:56,280
inspired by A question put to me by

510
00:22:59,930 --> 00:22:58,200
Maynard a couple of weeks ago we're

511
00:23:02,210 --> 00:22:59,940
going to look at the relationship

512
00:23:04,610 --> 00:23:02,220
between the Arthur Conan Doyle a

513
00:23:08,270 --> 00:23:04,620

proponent of spiritualism and a

514

00:23:12,110 --> 00:23:08,280

paranormal and Harry Houdini the famed

515

00:23:18,529 --> 00:23:12,120

magician and escape artist and critic of

516

00:23:22,970 --> 00:23:20,149

now we've certainly looked at Harry

517

00:23:25,850 --> 00:23:22,980

Houdini before in the Trove segment when

518

00:23:28,310 --> 00:23:25,860

it came to his adventures here in

519

00:23:31,850 --> 00:23:28,320

Australia and according to some reports

520

00:23:35,090 --> 00:23:31,860

he was the first person to fly an

521

00:23:38,529 --> 00:23:35,100

airplane in this continent Harry Houdini

522

00:23:41,810 --> 00:23:38,539

apart from anything else was a very good

523

00:23:43,669 --> 00:23:41,820

uh self-promoter and of course Harry

524

00:23:45,529 --> 00:23:43,679

Houdini was famous for exposing the

525

00:23:48,770 --> 00:23:45,539

fakers the scammers and the charlatans

526

00:23:50,230 --> 00:23:48,780

when it came to things like seances and

527

00:23:53,230 --> 00:23:50,240

in the

528

00:23:57,110 --> 00:23:53,240

1920s they were rather theatrical

529

00:24:00,289 --> 00:23:57,120

affairs with uh mediums causing things

530

00:24:03,169 --> 00:24:00,299

like bells to ring and things to appear

531

00:24:05,890 --> 00:24:03,179

and trumpets to sound

532

00:24:09,830 --> 00:24:05,900

however he did have a friendship

533

00:24:12,110 --> 00:24:09,840

apparently not a lasting friendship with

534

00:24:16,010 --> 00:24:12,120

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and I've

535

00:24:19,909 --> 00:24:16,020

discovered a paper here a report in the

536

00:24:23,510 --> 00:24:19,919

guardian online by Lind Gardner this is

537

00:24:26,330 --> 00:24:23,520

dating back to 2015. Harry Houdini and

538

00:24:29,930 --> 00:24:26,340

Arthur Conan Doyle a friendship split by

539

00:24:34,430 --> 00:24:32,630

might seem an odd couple but a shared

540

00:24:38,770 --> 00:24:34,440

interest in the afterlife made for an

541

00:24:43,789 --> 00:24:38,780

unlikely Bond and bitter Rift

542

00:24:47,930 --> 00:24:43,799

and actually this story is by way of

543

00:24:51,110 --> 00:24:47,940

talking about a play was uh put on at

544

00:24:54,430 --> 00:24:51,120

the time in 2015 about these two men

545

00:24:57,529 --> 00:24:54,440

but briefly the two were drawn together

546

00:24:59,690 --> 00:24:57,539

by their Mutual Fame I guess they met up

547

00:25:01,070 --> 00:24:59,700

and their shared interest in

548

00:25:04,850 --> 00:25:01,080

spiritualism

549

00:25:06,590 --> 00:25:04,860

on one side of the coin or the other and

550

00:25:08,270 --> 00:25:06,600

The Story Goes On to talk about them

551
00:25:11,510 --> 00:25:08,280
coming to uh

552
00:25:15,110 --> 00:25:11,520
blows their friendship torn asunder when

553
00:25:18,970 --> 00:25:15,120
Houdini did not accept things like Sir

554
00:25:21,230 --> 00:25:18,980
Arthur Conan Doyle's wife was a medium

555
00:25:24,649 --> 00:25:21,240
and I've discovered a wonderful

556
00:25:27,190 --> 00:25:24,659
photograph of the two men in the 1920s

557
00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:27,200
both looking Splendid

558
00:25:33,769 --> 00:25:30,480
so Arthur towering above Harry Houdini

559
00:25:36,350 --> 00:25:33,779
was it was not very tall at all but

560
00:25:39,970 --> 00:25:36,360
let's go back to those archives uh the

561
00:25:43,909 --> 00:25:39,980
Australian newspapers and see what the

562
00:25:49,490 --> 00:25:43,919
reporters writers at the time made of

563
00:25:57,850 --> 00:25:54,529

[Music]

564

00:26:00,890 --> 00:25:57,860

so we turn to the pages of the munji and

565

00:26:04,669 --> 00:26:00,900

Northwestern representative what a great

566

00:26:06,270 --> 00:26:04,679

name for a newspaper from the 2nd of

567

00:26:08,649 --> 00:26:06,280

February 1925.

568

00:26:12,289 --> 00:26:08,659

[Music]

569

00:26:15,409 --> 00:26:12,299

Houdini attacked by Conan Doyle

570

00:26:17,750 --> 00:26:15,419

Houdini the magician says he is thinking

571

00:26:20,450 --> 00:26:17,760

of taking legal action against Sir

572

00:26:22,430 --> 00:26:20,460

Arthur Conan Doyle because of attacks by

573

00:26:23,630 --> 00:26:22,440

saratha in an article in the Boston

574

00:26:26,510 --> 00:26:23,640

Herald

575

00:26:29,769 --> 00:26:26,520

the article was an answer to Houdini's

576

00:26:34,730 --> 00:26:29,779

criticism of the Boston medium margarine

577

00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:34,740

whose genuineness Houdini questioned Sir

578

00:26:38,990 --> 00:26:36,720

Arthur Conan Doyle defended the medium

579

00:26:41,930 --> 00:26:39,000

whom he had visited during his American

580

00:26:44,390 --> 00:26:41,940

travels Houdini has reportedly declared

581

00:26:46,549 --> 00:26:44,400

that his 35 years experience in the

582

00:26:49,070 --> 00:26:46,559

investigation of mediums had never

583

00:26:51,289 --> 00:26:49,080

revealed a genuine spiritual

584

00:26:53,570 --> 00:26:51,299

manifestation

585

00:26:55,850 --> 00:26:53,580

now a couple of years later in the

586

00:27:00,310 --> 00:26:55,860

evening news from Rockhampton in

587

00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:00,320

Queensland on the 8th of January 1927

588

00:27:05,690 --> 00:27:04,080

dispute over Houdini trickery or occult

589

00:27:09,130 --> 00:27:05,700

power

590

00:27:13,130 --> 00:27:09,140

and this is not long after the uh the

591

00:27:16,789 --> 00:27:13,140

unfortunate death of Harry Houdini

592

00:27:19,310 --> 00:27:16,799

sir a Conan Doyle's opinion a question

593

00:27:22,070 --> 00:27:19,320

which is interesting spiritualistic

594

00:27:23,330 --> 00:27:22,080

circles today says the Westminster

595

00:27:27,350 --> 00:27:23,340

Gazette

596

00:27:30,110 --> 00:27:27,360

of November 13. concerns the enigmatic

597

00:27:33,769 --> 00:27:30,120

personality of Houdini the handcuffed

598

00:27:36,409 --> 00:27:33,779

King who died on October 30. it is held

599

00:27:38,930 --> 00:27:36,419

by one section that his performances

600

00:27:41,510 --> 00:27:38,940

were originally Conjuring tricks

601
00:27:45,830 --> 00:27:41,520
another section believes his tricks were

602
00:27:48,110 --> 00:27:45,840
accomplished by psychic force it is

603
00:27:50,690 --> 00:27:48,120
claimed by this party that Houdini's

604
00:27:54,850 --> 00:27:50,700
escape from locked chests nailed up

605
00:27:57,890 --> 00:27:54,860
boxes prison cells Etc were made by

606
00:28:00,049 --> 00:27:57,900
dematerialization a psychic phenomenon

607
00:28:04,490 --> 00:28:00,059
by which the body of an individual

608
00:28:06,049 --> 00:28:04,500
disappears in a physical form and is to

609
00:28:08,870 --> 00:28:06,059
a great extent

610
00:28:10,549 --> 00:28:08,880
freed from the limitations of the

611
00:28:13,610 --> 00:28:10,559
physical world

612
00:28:16,789 --> 00:28:13,620
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said the subject

613
00:28:18,409 --> 00:28:16,799

was not one he could treat lightly but

614

00:28:19,970 --> 00:28:18,419

probably he would write a considered

615

00:28:22,130 --> 00:28:19,980

opinion on the matter

616

00:28:24,710 --> 00:28:22,140

the two views

617

00:28:27,110 --> 00:28:24,720

I do not wonder that when a man is

618

00:28:30,110 --> 00:28:27,120

nailed into a box and thrown into the

619

00:28:33,049 --> 00:28:30,120

sea and not only survives the ordeal but

620

00:28:36,590 --> 00:28:33,059

escapes from confinement there should be

621

00:28:39,409 --> 00:28:36,600

some talk of dematerialization said Sir

622

00:28:42,049 --> 00:28:39,419

Arthur if Houdini's tricks really were

623

00:28:45,169 --> 00:28:42,059

tricks then he stands as the champion

624

00:28:47,630 --> 00:28:45,179

trickster of all time if the phenomena

625

00:28:50,090 --> 00:28:47,640

depended on psychic power then it opens

626
00:28:52,490 --> 00:28:50,100
up the question how far a man is

627
00:28:55,010 --> 00:28:52,500
Justified in concealing the source of

628
00:28:59,149 --> 00:28:55,020
his power by making frenzied public

629
00:29:01,149 --> 00:28:59,159
attacks upon that source and I'll just

630
00:29:03,529 --> 00:29:01,159
quickly pause here to say I've seen this

631
00:29:05,510 --> 00:29:03,539
uh quite a few times myself when

632
00:29:06,710 --> 00:29:05,520
somebody doesn't understand how a trick

633
00:29:09,409 --> 00:29:06,720
works

634
00:29:11,810 --> 00:29:09,419
or they're inclined to believe in the

635
00:29:13,730 --> 00:29:11,820
Paranormal then

636
00:29:18,710 --> 00:29:13,740
they will leap to all sorts of

637
00:29:21,289 --> 00:29:18,720
conclusions uh this we saw notably with

638
00:29:23,149 --> 00:29:21,299

people insisting that Yuri Gala could

639

00:29:25,669 --> 00:29:23,159

really bend spoons

640

00:29:27,950 --> 00:29:25,679

because they didn't know the trick

641

00:29:29,810 --> 00:29:27,960

or they'll throw red herrings and Straw

642

00:29:32,510 --> 00:29:29,820

Men arguments about

643

00:29:34,130 --> 00:29:32,520

a classic with urugello as and I don't

644

00:29:36,049 --> 00:29:34,140

know if anybody really seriously

645

00:29:38,389 --> 00:29:36,059

suggested this but Gala got a lot of

646

00:29:41,149 --> 00:29:38,399

mileage out of it he would claim that

647

00:29:42,710 --> 00:29:41,159

people said that he had laser beams in

648

00:29:46,070 --> 00:29:42,720

his belt

649

00:29:48,529 --> 00:29:46,080

or he had acid on his fingers uh

650

00:29:50,570 --> 00:29:48,539

ridiculous comments but he was able to

651
00:29:53,570 --> 00:29:50,580
say look see my belt hasn't got a laser

652
00:29:55,190 --> 00:29:53,580
and look my fingers don't have acid

653
00:29:57,830 --> 00:29:55,200
we read on

654
00:30:00,769 --> 00:29:57,840
Houdini always asserted that he was a

655
00:30:03,350 --> 00:30:00,779
trickster he was in fact a lifelong

656
00:30:05,690 --> 00:30:03,360
opponent of this spiritual movement a

657
00:30:07,909 --> 00:30:05,700
correspondent States he's seen in New

658
00:30:10,909 --> 00:30:07,919
York Houdini's instructions to magicians

659
00:30:12,710 --> 00:30:10,919
who intended to follow his work and in

660
00:30:15,110 --> 00:30:12,720
which he attributes his methods to

661
00:30:17,690 --> 00:30:15,120
Ledger domain particular muscular

662
00:30:20,810 --> 00:30:17,700
development and the skillful employment

663
00:30:23,870 --> 00:30:20,820

of Confederates

664

00:30:25,310 --> 00:30:23,880

a quick pause here to say uh yes all

665

00:30:26,570 --> 00:30:25,320

this makes perfect sense when you're

666

00:30:29,330 --> 00:30:26,580

doing a

667

00:30:31,789 --> 00:30:29,340

at heart a Conjuring performance an

668

00:30:33,590 --> 00:30:31,799

entertainment uh performance

669

00:30:36,289 --> 00:30:33,600

psychic power

670

00:30:39,590 --> 00:30:36,299

so a Conan Doyle States in his book

671

00:30:42,070 --> 00:30:39,600

quote our American Adventure end quote

672

00:30:46,389 --> 00:30:42,080

that Houdini although an avowed

673

00:30:49,970 --> 00:30:46,399

unbeliever gave unmistakable evidence of

674

00:30:52,010 --> 00:30:49,980

mediumistic qualities gifts which Sir

675

00:30:54,370 --> 00:30:52,020

Arthur said he endeavored to explain

676
00:30:57,289 --> 00:30:54,380
away on the most

677
00:31:00,710 --> 00:30:57,299
fredbear of excuses

678
00:31:03,409 --> 00:31:00,720
Mr Hewitt McKenzie of the and it's a

679
00:31:07,669 --> 00:31:03,419
shame that the next word starting with p

680
00:31:09,590 --> 00:31:07,679
is uh not clear at all so it's from the

681
00:31:12,590 --> 00:31:09,600
something College

682
00:31:15,289 --> 00:31:12,600
told a Westminster Gazette reporter that

683
00:31:18,049 --> 00:31:15,299
while he considered Houdini had distinct

684
00:31:20,289 --> 00:31:18,059
psychic power he did not think it was

685
00:31:23,570 --> 00:31:20,299
employed in his professional work

686
00:31:25,610 --> 00:31:23,580
seances are being held in an Endeavor to

687
00:31:28,669 --> 00:31:25,620
communicate with the spirit of Houdini

688
00:31:32,149 --> 00:31:28,679

in order that the question may be

689

00:31:34,630 --> 00:31:32,159

definitely settled to the satisfaction

690

00:31:36,950 --> 00:31:34,640

of spiritualists

691

00:31:40,070 --> 00:31:36,960

Houdini's Secret

692

00:31:43,310 --> 00:31:40,080

by the will of Houdini the late Handcuff

693

00:31:45,370 --> 00:31:43,320

King his Library valued at one hundred

694

00:31:47,630 --> 00:31:45,380

thousand pounds goes to the American

695

00:31:49,909 --> 00:31:47,640

Congressional Library

696

00:31:53,870 --> 00:31:49,919

his Illusions became the property of his

697

00:31:56,690 --> 00:31:53,880

brother TF Vice and the secrets of his

698

00:31:59,630 --> 00:31:56,700

famous escapes are to be destroyed

699

00:32:02,269 --> 00:31:59,640

the library is very rich in works of

700

00:32:04,850 --> 00:32:02,279

Witchcraft magic and spiritualism and

701

00:32:08,389 --> 00:32:04,860

also in Theatrical literature including

702

00:32:10,630 --> 00:32:08,399

the Diary of David Garrick which Houdini

703

00:32:13,850 --> 00:32:10,640

claimed to be the original manuscript

704

00:32:15,889 --> 00:32:13,860

and one of the few copies of Reginald

705

00:32:19,370 --> 00:32:15,899

Scott's discovery of Witchcraft

706

00:32:22,010 --> 00:32:19,380

published in 1584 and ordered to be

707

00:32:24,350 --> 00:32:22,020

burnt by King James the first he used to

708

00:32:27,529 --> 00:32:24,360

buy up from the dealers their whole

709

00:32:30,710 --> 00:32:27,539

stock of books on his pet subjects in

710

00:32:34,090 --> 00:32:30,720

the chief capitals

711

00:32:36,950 --> 00:32:34,100

an interesting Insight maybe into the

712

00:32:37,850 --> 00:32:36,960

thinking of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and

713

00:32:40,190 --> 00:32:37,860

again

714

00:32:42,169 --> 00:32:40,200

uh this is certainly something I've seen

715

00:32:44,930 --> 00:32:42,179

myself people who

716

00:32:48,049 --> 00:32:44,940

when baffled by a magic trick will leap

717

00:32:51,470 --> 00:32:48,059

to the Paranormal conclusion rather than

718

00:32:54,110 --> 00:32:51,480

oh I was fooled by a clever magic trick

719

00:32:58,190 --> 00:32:54,120

or should I say Conjuring

720

00:33:00,409 --> 00:32:58,200

and now in 1933 on the 22nd of March

721

00:33:03,230 --> 00:33:00,419

from the Evening News Rockhampton

722

00:33:05,389 --> 00:33:03,240

Queensland and this is now after the

723

00:33:08,330 --> 00:33:05,399

death of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

724

00:33:12,529 --> 00:33:08,340

the illusions of Houdini tricks that

725

00:33:15,350 --> 00:33:12,539

amazed Conan Doyle friendly enemies

726

00:33:17,090 --> 00:33:15,360

there can have been fewer stranger

727

00:33:20,750 --> 00:33:17,100

friendships than that between saratha

728

00:33:24,110 --> 00:33:20,760

Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini by all the

729

00:33:27,230 --> 00:33:24,120

rules Doyle the spiritualist and Houdini

730

00:33:30,110 --> 00:33:27,240

The Illusionist and escapologist should

731

00:33:32,810 --> 00:33:30,120

have been sworn enemies their beliefs

732

00:33:35,630 --> 00:33:32,820

were hostile and they argued for Years

733

00:33:39,470 --> 00:33:35,640

yet there was a real affection between

734

00:33:41,210 --> 00:33:39,480

the two men who were curiously childlike

735

00:33:44,110 --> 00:33:41,220

in some respects

736

00:33:49,190 --> 00:33:44,120

some good stories about them are told in

737

00:33:51,889 --> 00:33:49,200

Houdini and Conan Doyle by Bernard m l

738

00:33:53,690 --> 00:33:51,899

Ernst and Hayward Carrington a book

739

00:33:56,269 --> 00:33:53,700

which will appeal equally to

740

00:33:58,669 --> 00:33:56,279

spiritualists and Skeptics

741

00:34:01,430 --> 00:33:58,679

while Houdini showed Doyle that he could

742

00:34:04,250 --> 00:34:01,440

reproduce phenomena by trickery Doyle

743

00:34:07,190 --> 00:34:04,260

was insisting that Houdini himself was

744

00:34:09,970 --> 00:34:07,200

the greatest medium of all time

745

00:34:13,010 --> 00:34:09,980

one day Houdini suspended a slate

746

00:34:16,310 --> 00:34:13,020

perpendicularly by wires in his room and

747

00:34:18,889 --> 00:34:16,320

placed a cork in a plate of white oil

748

00:34:21,649 --> 00:34:18,899

after Doyle had inspected everything

749

00:34:24,649 --> 00:34:21,659

Houdini asked him to go into the street

750

00:34:27,470 --> 00:34:24,659

and write a message on Note Paper Doyle

751
00:34:29,629 --> 00:34:27,480
walked three blocks away turned a corner

752
00:34:32,210 --> 00:34:29,639
wrote something on a piece of paper and

753
00:34:35,329 --> 00:34:32,220
put it back in his pocket he returned to

754
00:34:37,849 --> 00:34:35,339
Houdini who had a third person present

755
00:34:41,329 --> 00:34:37,859
to see that he did not leave the room

756
00:34:44,690 --> 00:34:41,339
after Doyle had returned Houdini placed

757
00:34:48,109 --> 00:34:44,700
the cork on the table as if by Magic it

758
00:34:53,389 --> 00:34:48,119
stuck there and then commenced writing

759
00:34:59,390 --> 00:34:55,430
now just briefly that's a phrase from

760
00:35:00,829 --> 00:34:59,400
the Bible which is a a warning of

761
00:35:05,089 --> 00:35:00,839
misfortune

762
00:35:07,310 --> 00:35:05,099
we read on Doyle was astounded for this

763
00:35:09,349 --> 00:35:07,320

was the message he had written in the

764

00:35:11,750 --> 00:35:09,359

street and had not removed from his

765

00:35:14,089 --> 00:35:11,760

pocket this was the sort of thing which

766

00:35:17,569 --> 00:35:14,099

made Doyle attribute Supernatural powers

767

00:35:21,050 --> 00:35:17,579

to Houdini The Illusionist strenuously

768

00:35:22,190 --> 00:35:21,060

denied it but he never explained his

769

00:35:25,490 --> 00:35:22,200

illusions

770

00:35:28,150 --> 00:35:25,500

and finally from 1933 on the 29th of

771

00:35:31,670 --> 00:35:28,160

April in the Western Star and roma

772

00:35:35,390 --> 00:35:31,680

Advertiser in Queensland Conan Doyle and

773

00:35:37,849 --> 00:35:35,400

Houdini in 1920 a remarkable friendship

774

00:35:40,790 --> 00:35:37,859

sprang up between zaratha Conan Doyle

775

00:35:43,250 --> 00:35:40,800

and Houdini and continued during the

776

00:35:46,010 --> 00:35:43,260

last decade of their lives the chief

777

00:35:49,010 --> 00:35:46,020

Link in that friendship was spiritualism

778

00:35:51,790 --> 00:35:49,020

of which the Arthur Conan Doyle was an

779

00:35:55,569 --> 00:35:51,800

Earnest champion and Houdini the famous

780

00:35:59,030 --> 00:35:55,579

escaper and skeptical opponent

781

00:36:02,390 --> 00:35:59,040

in quote Houdini and Conan Doyle and

782

00:36:05,390 --> 00:36:02,400

quote Mr Bernard m I Ernst president of

783

00:36:07,849 --> 00:36:05,400

the parent assembly of the Society of

784

00:36:10,490 --> 00:36:07,859

American Magicians and Mr Harwood

785

00:36:12,890 --> 00:36:10,500

Carrington member for the society for

786

00:36:15,230 --> 00:36:12,900

psychical research give a detailed

787

00:36:17,990 --> 00:36:15,240

analysis of the relationship based

788

00:36:19,670 --> 00:36:18,000

chiefly on their correspondence zaratha

789

00:36:22,069 --> 00:36:19,680

Conan Doyle consistently tried to

790

00:36:24,170 --> 00:36:22,079

persuade Houdini that his so-called

791

00:36:27,410 --> 00:36:24,180

tricks must be due to psychic or

792

00:36:29,870 --> 00:36:27,420

Supernatural Powers Houdini reiterated

793

00:36:32,990 --> 00:36:29,880

that they were tricks and nothing more

794

00:36:36,849 --> 00:36:33,000

achieved by purely physical and rational

795

00:36:39,890 --> 00:36:36,859

means and that the performances of

796

00:36:43,010 --> 00:36:39,900

mediums could be explained in the same

797

00:36:46,370 --> 00:36:43,020

way he also consulted Doyle as to the

798

00:36:49,910 --> 00:36:46,380

relative Bona fides of the mediums he

799

00:36:52,130 --> 00:36:49,920

should seek out and put to the test in

800

00:36:55,190 --> 00:36:52,140

the end neither could convince the other

801
00:36:58,550 --> 00:36:55,200
of the rightness of his beliefs

802
00:37:01,670 --> 00:36:58,560
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote to Houdini

803
00:37:04,550 --> 00:37:01,680
my dear chap why go around the world

804
00:37:08,690 --> 00:37:04,560
seeking a demonstration of the occult

805
00:37:11,470 --> 00:37:08,700
when you are giving one all the time Mrs

806
00:37:14,510 --> 00:37:11,480
guppy a well-known medium could

807
00:37:18,349 --> 00:37:14,520
dematerialize and so could many folks in

808
00:37:22,069 --> 00:37:18,359
holy writ and I do honestly believe that

809
00:37:25,010 --> 00:37:22,079
you can also my reason tells me that you

810
00:37:29,390 --> 00:37:25,020
have this wonderful power for there is

811
00:37:32,630 --> 00:37:29,400
no alternative though I have no doubt

812
00:37:35,050 --> 00:37:32,640
that up to a point your strength and

813
00:37:38,089 --> 00:37:35,060

your skill are value

814

00:37:40,849 --> 00:37:38,099

Houdini's judgment on Doyle is summed up

815

00:37:43,750 --> 00:37:40,859

in a note in his memoranda he is

816

00:37:46,069 --> 00:37:43,760

good-natured very bright but a

817

00:37:48,890 --> 00:37:46,079

monotoniac on the subject of

818

00:37:52,010 --> 00:37:48,900

spiritualism being uninitiated in the

819

00:37:54,650 --> 00:37:52,020

world of mystery never having been

820

00:37:56,870 --> 00:37:54,660

taught the artifacts of country it was

821

00:37:59,150 --> 00:37:56,880

the simplest thing in the world for

822

00:38:00,650 --> 00:37:59,160

anyone to gain his confidence to

823

00:38:02,950 --> 00:38:00,660

Hoodwink him

824

00:38:06,370 --> 00:38:02,960

what a fascinating

825

00:38:11,870 --> 00:38:06,380

relationship between two very famous men

826

00:38:14,270 --> 00:38:11,880

of very differing opinions and I just I

827

00:38:17,870 --> 00:38:14,280

was just reminded reading this and and

828

00:38:20,390 --> 00:38:17,880

the last few uh the last few entries of

829

00:38:22,910 --> 00:38:20,400

the time I saw a trick almost 20 years

830

00:38:25,069 --> 00:38:22,920

ago and magicians will know this trick

831

00:38:26,930 --> 00:38:25,079

as the crazy man's handcuffs this is a

832

00:38:29,750 --> 00:38:26,940

trick with two rubber bands which appear

833

00:38:31,670 --> 00:38:29,760

to melt through each other

834

00:38:34,790 --> 00:38:31,680

the first time I saw that trick was that

835

00:38:37,430 --> 00:38:34,800

a skeptic's dinner here in Sydney my

836

00:38:40,250 --> 00:38:37,440

wonderful magician who sadly passed away

837

00:38:42,050 --> 00:38:40,260

some years ago Mr Steve Walker but

838

00:38:47,270 --> 00:38:42,060

anyway he did this trick in front of my

839

00:38:52,730 --> 00:38:47,280

eyes whereas and I for a moment thought

840

00:38:55,849 --> 00:38:52,740

to myself that cannot be that is simply

841

00:38:59,569 --> 00:38:55,859

impossible it cannot happen

842

00:39:03,109 --> 00:38:59,579

so maybe we can we can understand how

843

00:39:04,730 --> 00:39:03,119

some people are completely an athlete

844

00:39:08,030 --> 00:39:04,740

stumped

845

00:39:10,849 --> 00:39:08,040

when trying to find an explanation for

846

00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:10,859

the seemingly impossible which after all

847

00:39:18,170 --> 00:39:12,800

is one of the aims

848

00:39:21,710 --> 00:39:20,450

Harry Houdini and saratha Conan Doyle

849

00:39:23,810 --> 00:39:21,720

one of the

850

00:39:26,150 --> 00:39:23,820

fascinating reports

851

00:39:28,910 --> 00:39:26,160

series of reports listed in the

852

00:39:32,050 --> 00:39:28,920

Australian newspapers and magazines and

853

00:39:34,250 --> 00:39:32,060

discoverable at Trove at

854

00:39:37,550 --> 00:39:34,260

trove.nla.gov dot a u because when you

855

00:39:41,540 --> 00:39:37,560

go there you never know what you might

856

00:39:57,849 --> 00:39:43,510

[Music]

857

00:40:02,450 --> 00:40:00,109

thank you for listening to the skeptic

858

00:40:04,609 --> 00:40:02,460

Zone podcast I'm still here at the

859

00:40:06,829 --> 00:40:04,619

weekend reason conferences going very

860

00:40:09,829 --> 00:40:06,839

well and I must say the audience were

861

00:40:11,690 --> 00:40:09,839

very kind and laughed at some of my

862

00:40:13,370 --> 00:40:11,700

jokes during my talk

863

00:40:15,349 --> 00:40:13,380

thank you very much to all those people

864

00:40:18,829 --> 00:40:15,359

who continue to support the skeptic Zone

865

00:40:22,370 --> 00:40:18,839

at skepticzone.tv Via patreon or PayPal

866

00:40:25,250 --> 00:40:22,380

your contributions mean so much to the

867

00:40:28,430 --> 00:40:25,260

show and there would be no show Without

868

00:40:29,990 --> 00:40:28,440

You wonderful people out there

869

00:40:32,410 --> 00:40:30,000

yes

870

00:40:35,569 --> 00:40:32,420

that's fantastic

871

00:40:39,829 --> 00:40:35,579

coming up on next week's show I look

872

00:40:42,890 --> 00:40:39,839

via Trove at the fox sisters the famous

873

00:40:46,190 --> 00:40:42,900

sisters from the 1800s who fooled

874

00:40:46,970 --> 00:40:46,200

thousands by pretending to talk to the

875

00:40:49,130 --> 00:40:46,980

Dead

876
00:40:54,010 --> 00:40:49,140
all that and much more coming up on next

877
00:40:56,630 --> 00:40:54,020
week's show but for this week from

878
00:40:59,150 --> 00:40:56,640
oh boy

879
00:41:01,430 --> 00:40:59,160
but this week as the conference starts

880
00:41:09,010 --> 00:41:01,440
again this is Richard Saunders signing

881
00:41:16,030 --> 00:41:11,390
you've been listening to the skeptic

882
00:41:18,370 --> 00:41:16,040
Zone podcast please visit our website at

883
00:41:21,470 --> 00:41:18,380
www.skepticzone.tv for show notes

884
00:41:25,069 --> 00:41:21,480
contacts and to access the back catalog

885
00:41:26,990 --> 00:41:25,079
of episodes going back to 2008.

886
00:41:30,530 --> 00:41:27,000
you can follow the skeptic Zone podcast

887
00:41:32,870 --> 00:41:30,540
on Twitter at [skepticzone](https://twitter.com/skepticzone) visit our

888
00:41:34,190 --> 00:41:32,880

Facebook page or leave a review on

889

00:41:36,410 --> 00:41:34,200

iTunes

890

00:41:39,589 --> 00:41:36,420

you can also support the skeptic Zone

891

00:41:43,069 --> 00:41:39,599

via patreon or PayPal the skeptic Zone

892

00:41:44,750 --> 00:41:43,079

podcast is an independent production the

893

00:41:46,910 --> 00:41:44,760

views and opinions expressed on the

894

00:41:49,250 --> 00:41:46,920

skeptic zone are not necessarily those