



Mediumship Matters Podcast Transcripts

Season 5 Episode 16 - Physical Fakery

Physical Mediumship, Trance & The Fraud Debate

Hello and welcome to Mediumship Matters with me, Hannah Macintyre! As we approach the end of Season 5, I've been reflecting on the nature of physical and trance mediumship—what's real, what's questionable, and what we should be asking as developing mediums. Let's dive in!

My First Apparition Experience

When I first started working with spirit, I had a mind-blowing experience that I've tucked away for years. It was so intense that my brain seems to "box it up" and then occasionally let it burst out again, forcing me to process it.

- I attended an advanced mediumship circle, completely out of my depth.
- We were in a regular living room, dimly lit but not dark.
- Our circle leader went into trance—or so I thought.
- As I opened my eyes to grab a drink, I saw that she had disappeared. In her place was a tiny elderly Black woman with glowing eyes.
- I blinked. She was still there. I rubbed my eyes. She was still there.

For five full minutes, I watched this spirit speak through my teacher before she slowly faded and my teacher reappeared.

I never spoke about it until I got into my friend's car afterward and screamed, "WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!"

This is why I believe some forms of physical mediumship are real. I've seen it.

But here's the paradox:

- I've never seen an apparition outside of that controlled environment.
- I've never had a spirit randomly appear to me like that.
- And I've never had my own guides or loved ones show up in the same way.

So I sit with these experiences and question: What's real? And how much does expectation shape what we believe?

The Reality Check: When Trance Doesn't Feel Real

Years later, I attended a trance demonstration expecting to be amazed. The medium wasn't bringing through a guide—they were supposedly channelling my friend's deceased best friend. But something felt... off.

- The "spirit" got basic facts wrong.
- They claimed her friend loved tea, when she actually drank Prosecco.
- The message felt vague and disconnected.
- The only thing they had to say to me was: "You could be a medium if you wanted to be."
- At this point, I had already been a professional medium for years.

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It shattered something in me. If this was truly her friend, why were they getting things wrong? Yes, mediums can misinterpret information, but spirit doesn't forget their own habits.

That's when my logical brain kicked in:

"If this is truly spirit speaking, why can't they get the details right? Why do they need a human filter at all?"

How Fraud Has Shaped Our Expectations of Mediumship

I went to Arthur Findlay College and saw people mesmerized by Victorian photographs of physical mediumship—pictures where it's painfully obvious that the "ectoplasm" is cheesecloth.

And I started asking myself: How much of what we expect from mediumship has been defined by fraud?

When you look at historic cases:

- Fake psychics used secret compartments to "manifest" objects.
- They stole items from guests to "produce" them later as spirit gifts.
- They claimed to levitate tables while secretly using their feet.

So, when people today say, "Why doesn't mediumship look like it did in the 1800s?"—maybe the answer is because it was never real to begin with.

Physical Mediumship: Where's the Line Between Real & Ridiculous?

Recently, a listener sent me a video of a well-known physical medium "producing" brightly coloured gems from their eyes.

I couldn't get past one question:

"If spirit can make gemstones fall out of someone's eyes, why can't they just produce a simple, handwritten note from your grandmother?"

Why is it always grand gestures and theatrics but never simple, personal, undeniable proof?

The Dark Side of Physical Mediumship: Fraud Exposed

My friend and fellow medium Jeni Juranics recently attended a physical mediumship retreat with someone whose name I had already seen tied to fraud accusations.

- There's video evidence of this medium getting out of their cabinet, taking off their clothes, and waving them around to create "spirit breezes."
- When caught, their defense? "I don't remember—it was spirit doing it."

Jeni later witnessed things that left her devastated—the very teacher she had admired was blatantly deceiving people.

And this is where I struggle. I believe in spirit. I believe in energy. But I also believe that people can be manipulated.

"If you're a grieving mother, and you think you're holding your child's hand in the dark... but it turns out you were just holding the medium's spit-covered hand? That's beyond cruel."

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What Mediums NEED to Start Questioning

If you're a medium—developing or professional—please start asking:

- Why does physical mediumship require darkness?
- If spirit can move objects, why can't they simply write names clearly?
- Why are many “physical mediums” later caught committing fraud?
- Why does trance mediumship often sound the same—generic love-and-light platitudes?
- Why do trance guides rarely evolve their teachings?

I don't want to take anyone's joy away, but I do want to encourage healthy scepticism.

Final Thoughts: Being Brave Enough to Question

I want spirit to be real. I want these incredible manifestations to be possible. But I refuse to accept everything blindly just because I want it to be true.

Jeni was incredibly brave to publicly admit she was deceived. It takes strength to say, “I got caught up in something and now I see it for what it is.”

That's integrity.

As mediums, our first duty is to truth—not to performance, not to theatrics, and certainly not to fraud.

So, let's keep questioning, keep pushing, and keep seeking real connections with spirit.

What do you think? Let me know your thoughts, your experiences, and let's keep this conversation going.

Until next time—

Trust spirit, trust yourself, and keep evolving.

Love,

Hannah x

Keywords for SEO: Physical mediumship fraud, trance mediumship, real spirit communication, questioning mediumship, evidential mediumship, spiritual fraud cases, historic psychic fraud, how to spot fake mediums, mediumship development, questioning spirit messages.