

L.B.M.

RING #29

MAY 2001

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, ARKANSAS 72209 • (501) 455-6242

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



Important May 3 meeting to discuss magic ethics

One of the most important meetings Ring 29 has ever held will be the regular meeting for May 3. It will be held at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center, behind the cafeteria).

The meeting will be a forum on the ethics of magic. "A frank discussion of ethics is long overdue," said Ring president Damon Reinbold, "and we urge all members to be present in order to have as deep a discussion and as widespread an effect as possible."

BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH**, the subject was gospel and object lesson magic. Thanks to the performers for a grand night of magic and learning: Jim, Dennis, Randal, Paul, Grant, Margaret, Don, Pam, and Tony.

● **JAY SCOTT BERRY** drew two dozen member to his April 16 lecture. As he did two previous times, he performed an entertaining and rewarding lecture.

● **ANOTHER MAGIC LECTURE** is coming to Arkansas, but it is not sponsored by any ring. Two well-know magicians and producers of music for magicians -- Aaron Smith and Bill White -- will lecture May 5 at the VFW on Kanis Road, Call Mr. Magic for more details. A flyer was passed out at the April meeting. Cost is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

● **JAN SANKEY** will lecture at Ring 308 in Searcy May 17. Call Mr. Magic for more details. If you want a ride or to join a car caravan, let that be known.

● **NEXT WEEKEND** -- April 28-29 - "**Magic Day**" will be held at the Museum of Discovery. Go and/or take your kids on Saturday and Sunday if you are not performing. Call **Bill Fulton** at 663-9280 for more information, or call Mr. Magic.

● **THE MAGIC COOKBOOK**, put together by our own **Penni Springer**, has been printed and is now available, from Penni and at Mr. Magic. \$2 from each \$12 cost goes to the club. The book has some great recipes from club members. Pick up a copy for yourself and others for gifts.

● **MAXWELL'S Theatre of Magic** is now open in Hot Springs. Call (501) 623-6200 for more information.

A panel of veterans will lead the discussion, but active audience participation will be encouraged. Please make a special effort to attend and also bring other magicians with you. Let's have a great turnout.

Public show April 21 was a tremendous success

The long-awaited public show by members of Ring 29 was held last Saturday night and it was a big success.

It looks like the total number of people who were there was about 150.

We'll have a more complete report at the May meeting, and a wrap-up in the June newsletter. For now, everyone who had anything to do with the show should be proud. Here is a letter from Ring 29 president **Damon Reinbold**:

"What a wonderful show we all attended last Saturday night. And it is due primarily to the dedicated, hard work of several key people and lots and lots of other people.

"Of special mention is **Randal**, who not only secured the church for the performance, but also opened and closed the show. **Dan** and **Bill** did superb work behind the curtains; **Richard**, **Frank** and **Stephen** were responsible for the great tickets and posters; **Jon** as emcee kept the show moving; **Herb** produced popular balloon figures; **James & Christie** sold merchandise; **Jim & Christy** sold tickets; and many others who helped set up, take down and clean up and, of course, perform.

"It was a great first show in at least two decades and we thank everyone who helped make it a success. We learned a lot and plan to produce an even better show next year."

Damon

NEXT MEETING:

● **Thursday, May 3**

7 pm, BMC

"The Ethics of Magic."

Junior Magician Scholarship Fund is ready to take off

The Junior Magician Scholarship Committee met April 9th. An application form and information sheet were developed and will be available by the May meeting. If you have any questions, call any committee member: **Christy Henson, Mike Curtis, Bob Owen, Damon Reinbold, Jim Henson** or **James Kinsey**.

Damon has volunteered to perform an entire show, as a fund-raiser for the Fund. It probably will be in August.

The Scholarship Fund will accept donations of any amount. Send or give them to **James Kinsey**, treasurer.

MAGIC BRIEFS

● The **Copperfield Watch Party** at Mr. Magic April 3 was great fun for about three dozen folks. Most of the illusions he did in his Little Rock show. Overall it was good, except for that hokey final "Tornado of Fire" thing. Better get one of his videos which features his big illusions from over the years. Apparently he has given up.

● The **Cavalcade of Magic** in Eureka Springs attracted the following Ring 29 members: Jim & Brenda; Damon, Tony, Robert, Bob & Janie, Don, Margaret and, of course, Bill (Pitts, the conference director).

● Our **sympathies** to: **Danny Skinner**, whose grandfather died April 8; and

Bob Owen, who lost his brother-in-law (Jamie's brother) on April 14.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both of these Ring members and their families.

COMING MAGIC EVENTS CALENDAR:

- Apr. 28-29 "**Magic Day**" at Museum of Discovery. Call Bill Fulton for details.
- May 3 Regular Ring 29 meeting, BMC, 7 pm: "The Ethics of Magic"
- May 5 Aaron Smith & Bill White Lecture, VFW, Kanis Road
- May 17 Jan Sankey lecture at Searcy (call Mr. Magic if you want a ride)

MORE MAGIC BRIEFS

✓ We understand that at an establishment called **Kudzu's** in Memphis, that regularly their stage is turned over to magicians to perform. If you would be interested in going over on your own, or might like to ride with some fellow magicians, call Jim at Mr. Magic for more information and to discuss the possibilities.

✓ **Margaret** is in New York performing on Staten Island, doing kids shows and local television shows until May 15th. We wish her good luck.

Local effort being made for World Clown Association chapter; meeting set May 13

There are lots of clowns in Greater Little Rock -- and throughout the state, for that matter -- and there have been various attempts to form clown organizations over the years.

Currently there is an effort to form an Arkansas chapter of the World Clown Association. It will be at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, May 13th at Mr. Magic, on Stagecoach Road.

The purpose of the meeting will be to reconstitute the charter and to elect officers for the chapter. If you are interested in clowning -- with or without magic -- contact Jim Henson at 455-6242 for more details.

Those who attend will form the nucleus for leading clowning activities in at least this area, if not the state. Please pass this word on to others who might be interested.

Suggestion made for Ring to have some type of "yearbook"

At the April meeting, the suggestion was made for Ring 29 to consider having some sort of annual publication, such as a yearbook. The idea came from another Ring which had a copy of one they had done, at a recent convention.

The idea would be to have a "book" of some sort which would have a history of the club, along with photos and bios of all club members.

The general idea seemed to be acceptable to members who were at the meeting, and several people agreed to serve on a commit-

New members urged to arrange for club performance

The Ring 29 Board has decided to devote one or two meetings a year to the required five-minute performances of new members. If you're a new member but have not given your performance, please contact Jim Henson to schedule one.

If you're concerned or worried about your performance, don't worry. Members are very supportive and will give you lots of encouragement. They are the greatest audience in the world. It's a lot of fun and like everything, the more you do something the better and more comfortable you are with it. While everyone is not primarily interested in performing, it is at the heart of magic and thus it is felt that all new members should perform at least one trick as part of their member requirements.

Talk with Jim or any member for tips and suggestions and soon you'll be feeling good since you will have completed your membership requirements.

Knoll takes over "Healing with Magic" program; needs helpers

Richard Knoll has volunteered to take on Ring 29's "Healing with Magic" program and is looking for others to join him.

The program evolved from one which David Copperfield started many years ago. We understand he turned it over to the IBM to administer, so that it would receive wider acceptance and use.

There are printed materials, a video and lots of help. Mary Ann Campbell and Jim Henson are among those who were involved with the old Copperfield program.

If you are interested in the use of magic to help people in hospitals and other medical facilities, call Richard. He will likely call a meeting and plan training for the program. You will be trained so don't worry that you have to be an accomplished magician.

tee to look into it: Bill Fulton, Richard Knoll and Rebecca Roberts.

Ring 29 will have its 60th Anniversary in 2003 and that might be a good date and goal to shoot for. One suggestion which has been made is that instead of a bound volume such as a high school yearbook, that the publication could be a three-ring binder, so that new members could be added and that it would regularly be updated.

If you have any ideas about this project, contact any committee member or Jim at Mr. Magic.

Nominations for Ring officers will be made and accepted at May meeting

At the May meeting of Ring 29, nominations from the nominating committee will be announced, and any other nominations from the floor will be accepted.

If you are not there, you won't be able to defend yourself. Of course we would hope that anyone nominated would accept the privilege of serving. If you are willing to serve on the Board or on a committee, please contact Damon or any board member before May 1 (May Day).

Voting for new officers and board members will take place at the June meeting, as is the Ring custom.

Carlton adds twist to gospel trick he saw at last meeting

At the April Ring meeting, the theme was Gospel magic. **Dennis Schick** performed a trick using three styrofoam cups. The first one was labeled "Sin." He poured clear water into it from a bottle. Then he poured the clear "Sin" water into "Your Life" and said that sin makes you feel dirty, guilty, bad, etc. He then poured black, dirty water (formed with several drops of food coloring), from "Your Life" into a cup labeled "GOD." He said: "But when you ask God for forgiveness, he takes away the sin." When he turned that cup upside down, the "sin" had disappeared (using Slush powder, of course). The end.

Paul Carlton was there and thought wouldn't it be neat to have the dirty water turn back into clear water, since life goes on? So he looked around the house and found a "double" cup of one of his children. Using it as an insert, and putting clear water in one side and slush powder in the other, the dirty (or SIN water) would disappear, and the clear water would reappear when poured back into "Your Life."

Great idea, Paul. This is a good example of seeing a magic effect and adapting it to your use and style, and improving on it.

GOT MAGIC NEWS?

Call editor Dennis Schick at 374-1500
or Jim Henson at 455-6242

How I came to appear on my first television commercial

TO: Derrick Rose
From Dennis Schick:

Saw you the other day on your car commercial. How about some details? When you started, name of company, who produced (ad agency, etc.), any anecdotes about the experience, how many different commercials, where scheduled to run, how long will campaign run, all going to use magic, etc.?

How I came to appear on my first television commercial

By Derrick Rose also known by the stage name "Derrick Rose"

You all may have seen a couple of television commercials that I am performing on. They are currently running on KTHV Channel 11 and KATV Channel 7, mostly around their morning and evening news programs. If you have Comcast Cable you could see them on any channel at any time. What I have written below is, more or less, how I came to appear on them.

I was table hopping (performing magic from table to table, not jumping over them) at Shorty Smalls one Monday evening for John Cox, the general manager of Chenal Parkway Buick, Pontiac, GMC and his family. They were having a good time watching the magic and he asked me, rather off the cuff, if I would be interested in doing a television commercial for the dealership.

I said, "Does the Pope wear a beanie?" He said he would have his advertising agency get in contact with me later because they might want me in on some of their brainstorming sessions.

A couple of days later, Clint Albright, the owner of Albright Ideas called and asked if I was still interested in performing magic and being their on-air spokesperson for Chenal Parkway. Once again, I said sure, so Clint said they would be back in touch with me after the first of the year. I was pretty excited about it and for about two weeks bugged everyone to death and particularly Scott Davis by singing, "I'm going to on telebishon, I'm going to be on telebishon!" over and over and over. O.K. not really, I actually sang it for about three weeks.

Side note: My roommate is **Scott Davis**, a very talented and television-savvy performer, having performed live at one time or another on all three Little Rock television stations. He also produced and appeared in his own magic marketing video. I personally like his material so much that I use it often -- when he is not around.

So three or four weeks passed and I didn't hear anything. Just when I was beginning to think they had changed their minds about doing the commercial, I got a call. Clint called on a Thursday and asked if I could meet on Friday afternoon to run over scripts and could I be at the dealership the following Wednesday to shoot three commercials. I told him that I would first need to check with my mother but that I was pretty sure that it would be O.K. So I called Mom and she said that I could do the commercial as long as I didn't have to do any nude scenes.

We met for about 30 minutes to go over the scripts and to see what kind of magic I could do that would help sell the scripts. The first script really didn't have any slight of hand or magic to perform. All I had to do was place these imaginary words into my

top hat. I knew that expensive hat would come in handy on days other than New Year's Eve. In fact I've had people approach me to say, they didn't even need a magician to do that commercial. To shut them up I tell them that I actually made the words float around in the studio and jump in my hat.

In the second commercial I get to show off a little card manipulation when I back palm a card on the line "Finding a good deal on a car or truck can be illusive." Then a little later when I state "One dealer stands out" I make one card jump out of the deck, do 15 summersaults and land in my left hand. It only took between 3 and 42 tries to get it right. I really like videotape. It's not nearly as embarrassing as live TV when you mess up.

There is still one more commercial that is being edited right now. In this commercial I make the word "High Prices" disappear. The words are printed on a piece of paper conveniently the size of a dollar bill. I'm going to leave it up to you to figure out how I achieve this amazing feat without the use of television trickery.

So that is the story of how I got my first commercial. I hope I get to do more, but who knows? I've been blessed with an amazing amount of good fortune and I really appreciate all the support and positive comments that I receive from the members of Ring 29. Without the feedback and encouragement of my friends in Ring 29, I would never have performed professionally. I know you're all kicking yourselves now, but it really is your fault. If I quit performing today, I will have accomplished more as a performer than I ever dreamed possible.