

I.B.M.

RING #29

JUNE 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



Magic Storytelling is lecture for June 7 meeting

One of our own -- **Damon Reinbold** -- will be the special guest lecturer at the regular monthly meeting of Ring 29, Thursday, June 7. It will be at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place (Room 10 of the Baptist Medical Center).

Damon, Ring 29 president, and nationally-known magician and mentalist, will lecture on "Magic Storytelling and Mentalism." The lecture will cost a bargain \$5 per person, with half of that going to the Ring.

BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH**, the subject was the ethics of magic. A panel discussed the basic principles of the subject and the audience got involved, too. It was agreed that it was an interesting and provocative program, and that the subject should be returned to from time to time in the future.

● **TWO COMMITTEES** have been formed and chairmen have been named by president Damon:

(1) A Ring 29 "Merchandising & Publicity" Committee will be chaired by **Scott Davis**:

(2) An "Ethics Committee" will be chaired by **Jon Bucher**.

If you have an interest in either of these and would be willing to serve on one, please contact the chairman concerned.

● **THE INDEPENDENT LECTURE** by Aaron Smith and Bill White May 5 was poorly promoted -- and poorly attended -- but apparently was super. At least that is the opinion of Ring member **Robert Bedford**, who attended. See his first-hand report on the back. It's too bad more of our Ring members didn't know about it and missed it. From now on, let's all go all out to spread the word on behalf of all members.

● **ACCORDING** to an advance news release about Zoo Days -- June 9-10 -- one of the performers will be **Margarette A. Magician**. Watch the local newspapers for a schedule of all performers and go catch her act.

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

Don't assume that this will be just an ordinary program because Damon is a ring member. He is the "Expert from out of town," who just happens to be among us. He has received rave reviews wherever he performs. Come experience him live and in person. Don't miss this one!

Ring election this month; ballot is enclosed

The annual election of officers for Ring 29 is now underway and will conclude at the June regular meeting.

Enclosed is a ballot which you may either mail to Mr. Magic (sealed), or bring to the June meeting.

As you'll see, the Nominating Committee has submitted a slate of people for the open positions. But on the ballot there is room for write-in candidates, too. Exercise your right to vote.

New magic show comes to Eureka; replaces Bart

Follow the scorecard: **Kirby Van Burch** went under and closed his Branson theater after several years there. So **Bart Rocket** then closed his Eureka Springs theater and moved into the Van Burch Theater. And now Master illusionist **Robert Kalina** has taken over the old Bart Rocket Theater in Eureka Springs, and will perform "The Mysteries of Magic" there nightly. The theater is on Arkansas Highway 23, just south of the U.S. 62 intersection.

Kalina has 16 years experience and moved to Eureka from Kansas City. He has hired a dozen local residents for the show. Tickets will be \$16.50, \$15.50 for seniors, \$10.50 for children 12 and under and free for children 3 and under.

For more information call (501) 253-0111.

NEXT MEETING:

● **Thursday, June 7**
7 pm, BMC

"**Magic Storytelling & Mentalism**"

Annual dues now due

The annual dues to be a member of Ring 29 are now due. Annual dues is \$20. But if you pay your dues by August 1st, you can save \$5 by only paying \$15.

Mail your dues to Mr. Magic or bring them to the June meeting. Don't forget. Save \$5 and pay by August 1st.

MORE BITS & PIECES

● **PRESIDENT DAMON** thanks **Christy Henson** for chairing and working on the Junior Scholarship Committee.

● **OUR SYMPATHIES** to **Scott Davis**, whose grandfather died May 2nd.

● **ANDY STIRMAN** will be performing June 23rd in Clarksville at the Roller Company annual picnic. Also, Andy has moved into his new house so congratulate him on this big move.

● **CONGRATULATIONS** also to two of our junior members, who recently graduated from high school: **Rebecca Roberts** and **Gene Barry**. This is a major event in their lives and we wish both of them the best of luck in their lives. Be sure to keep magic in your lives, Rebecca and Gene.

● **EUGENE BURGER** will be in Memphis on July 13. We are trying to see if we can get him to come to Little Rock either the day before or the day after that. If you want to go to Memphis to see him, he will be at Rhodes College and the cost is \$20.

● **DON'T FORGET** that we still have copies of the **Ring 29 cookbook** for sale. The Ring gets to keep \$2 of every book sold. They make great gifts so buy several.

COMING MAGIC SPECIAL DATES:

June 7 Regular monthly meeting, 7 pm, Baptist Medical Center.

June 9-10 Zoo Days, with Margarette performing

July 13 Eugene Burger performs at Rhodes College in Memphis

Aug. 1 Deadline to pay dues in order to get a \$5 discount

Magic Show poster to be raffled

One of the Ring 29 Public Show posters which was signed by all the performers in the show, will be raffled at the Ring picnic in September. Tickets cost \$1 each or 4 for \$5. (Oops! That's 6 for \$5.) This is a highly collectible item so buy lots of tickets to increase your chances of winning.

Monthly Ring 29 report for The Linking Ring

by Bill Fulton

To paraphrase Frank Sinatra, Ring 29 had "a very good month." In April:

- We held our Annual Public Show in Little Rock April 21, with all profits going to the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

- We donated all ticket sales to the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock where we performed for them at two days of "Magic Days at the Museum," April 28-29.

All together over 40 members performed, made arrangements, provided advertising, or sold tickets. These events helped seal the brother and sisterhood for our Ring. Look for pictures and an article in an upcoming Linking Ring.

The May program was a panel discussion on Ethics for IBM members. The panel was composed of Dan Hecke, Scott Davis, Don Baer, and Jon Bucher. Each took a turn at discussing the ethics standards for IBM. There was a great deal of audience participation. Old and new members benefited from this discussion. We would advise other Rings to consider similar events.

We discussed how a performance is developed by a performer and why the presentation and patter belong to the performer. There were questions and discussions on the correct way to ask a performer if you could use some part of their act, plus the etiquette involved in even asking.

There was some discussion on setting fees and not undercutting other performers. Most of the performers were very open on this discussion and ready to help the newer magicians.

There were two solid lectures during the month: **Jay Scott Berry** and **Jan Sankey**.

Yes, April was very good to us.

Dennis discovers magic in Pigeon Forge; a review of the Terry Evanswood Show

Jan and I took a business trip to Raleigh, NC last week. It was a rushed 18-hour drive over two days and we decided to return over three days, and relax a little.

We stopped in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area on the way back, since it had been a number of years since we had been there.

At the hotel in Pigeon Forge I flipped through a magazine and noticed that "magic" was part of The Comedy Barn show, so I talked Jan into going. We got there about 10 minutes before the show began.

As the name implies, the emphasis in the show is comedy, with some other acts (music, juggling, etc.) thrown in to break up the comedy and slapstick. It was OK. Most people had a good time, I guess, but I came to see magic. The co-owner of the show is a magician, as is one of the performers, so I expected more and was disappointed.

Half-way through the second act, one of the magicians came out and performed three magic tricks, two of them the big-box variety. He also did a shorter version of the duck in a bucket routine, which Copperfield uses.

There is a magic store at one end of the lobby, in which a magician sells and teaches a limited number of magic tricks. He also has gags and novelties.

The best thing about the show was, at the intermission I was looking at a Discount Tickets Show List and noticed something called "Grand Illusions." It sounded like a magic show to me, so I asked. Sure enough, it was a morning show (10 am) by **Terry Evanswood**, at the Country Tonight Theater, close to our hotel. I bought a discounted ticket (\$3 off the \$18 ticket).

Saturday morning, Jan dropped me off at the theater and left to shop at the outlet mall. I asked how long the show was, and told her to come back about 12:15 for the two-hour show. The theater is huge, typical of the over-building mentality which hit Branson and has spread to other places. Even the headliner group rarely fills the theatre.

At the 10 am show last Saturday there were about 75 people present, but Terry did his complete show, and with enthusiasm. I talked with him at the intermission and he said they have 250-300 each show throughout the Summer. He said for me to stay afterward and he'd give me a tour back stage.

His two-hour show is a class act. It is fast-paced with everything from big-scale illusions to close-up coin and card magic. Here are some of his tricks I especially liked,

along with some other observations:

- He opens the show strongly by appearing from an empty vertical glass cabinet, then his female assistant appears the same way, but in a horizontal glass cabinet;

- He did the familiar Gene Anderson torn-and-restored newspaper trick, but it was the smoothest version I have seen. I especially liked his moves timed perfectly to music;

- Speaking of music, it adds much to the show and his choice of musical numbers is very effective.

- Several of his acts involved the audience, both adults and children. He put them at ease and even made reluctant participants relaxed and comfortable.

- Since he gets to use the extensive lighting at the theater, Terry's lighting guru takes advantage of it. Along with use of stage smoke, the atmosphere is nicely enhanced throughout the show.

- Care of big animals is expensive, so instead of tigers or other exotic beings, he uses a python, a duck and several lovable dogs instead.

- Magic history is woven throughout the program, including Houdini's original Metamorphosis; Oragami, of the Orient; the classic "sawing a woman in half" -- but with a twist: and the wet-dry sands of the desert.

- Speaking of history, he has a fantastic magic museum in one wing of the lobby. Plan to spend 20 minutes or more studying all the photos, memorabilia, costumes, antique magic toys and props, etc. I was privileged to take an audio tour of the museum. Ask Terry to let you do it, when you go.

- Amazingly, he does the entire show with only five people, including himself: two women and a man on-stage, and one light and sound technician. This allows him to hold his costs down and to keep in business. He has been in that theater three years and off the circuit five years. Before settling down in Pigeon Forge he performed on cruise ships, as well as in Las Vegas and throughout the country.

Plan to attend his show, which plays mornings throughout the Summer. And talk with Terry at intermission and after the show. He's a nice guy and loves to talk magic. He did a dollar bill switch during the show and then taught me his variation which I can use in my mis-made bill version.

All in all, it was a great magic experience.

(And when YOU attend a magic show this summer, take notes and write up a report.)

My Magical Trip to New York City

by Margaret LeClair

In order to conserve space, I will limit this report about my recent trip to New York, to just magic happenings, although I will be happy to talk about non-magic happenings with anyone willing to listen.

The trip started out with a bang and just kept getting better. The first thing was attending the monthly Ring 26 meeting. Of course, being from out of town I was selected to assist on stage a lot. I was immediately made to feel one of the family.

The next day I went to Tannen's. Reuben's and Abracadabra. Reuben's is the deli where all the magicians hang out on Saturday afternoons. That was fun.

After Abracadabra, I went to the SAM Annual Salute to Magic honoring John Calvert. It was a great show!

Sunday, April 29, was my debut on the New York City magic circuit. I performed at the Magic Night at Bourbon Street. A bit nervous, I did the simultaneous four-way cut with two decks of cards, full costume and all. It was well received.

Fast forward to the second weekend -- my first series of paid shows. The fact that I was

not from around there played very well, especially my Under the Influence routine.

I went to Monday Night Magic twice. Both times were excellent and also saw a magic show entitled "Return of the Time Traveler, Part 1" with a magician by the name of Igor. I got a chance to visit with him after the show and I'm going to have to make a return trip when he finishes "Part 2".

I also attended the Pat Page lecture in New Jersey. Excellent! He relies heavily on the K.I.S.S principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid) and it works.

At Michael Conick Booksellers I picked up a first edition of *The Royal Road to Card Magic* and a book written and signed by Frances Marshall.

Now, for the magical highlight of my trip. I went to a going-away party for Todd Robbins (now in Branson for four months) and spent most of the evening with the regulars from Monday Night Magic. Todd expects me to see him while in Branson and I'm going to do my best to make it.

The trip was very productive and a lot of fun. In fact, I am now working on another trip up there.

LR magician's prized guillotine stars in surprise disappearing act

Paper Trails, by Carrie Rengers

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 5/17/01

Randall Eller is a master at making things disappear, but he's not quite as proficient in making them reappear.

Eller is a Little Rock magician who performs across the state with his traveling guillotine -- his prize illusion. He travels in a van with the guillotine and several other illusions he uses in his act.

Last week, Eller visited Gibbs Magnet Elementary School, where he planned to attend a field trip with son Aaron and perform magic for two classes of second-grade students. "When I arrived at the school, both classes were already outside waiting to get on the bus, so I parked the van and left it running, and all I did was cross the street," Eller says. "I wasn't 15 feet from the van."

Eller commented briefly to a teacher that Aaron would ride with him. "Aaron and I turned around to get in my van, and it was gone," Eller says. "Whoever stole it slipped in right there, right under our noses." Eller wasn't impressed with the disappearing act. Devastated is more like it.

He lost costumes, illusions and all sorts of items "that just help make a show." Losing the guillotine hurt the most.

"It's not a guillotine like the French one. I call it a guillotine for lack of a better name."

It's actually a more-than-3-foot sword that is bolted to two pieces of wood with a handle at the top. There's also a stockade where a head can fit. When someone was in the contraption, Eller says, "The sword plunged through their neck -- safely, I might add."

Eller estimates the custom-made item to be worth as much as \$8,000.

He had liability insurance on the van, but couldn't afford business insurance for the belongings. Eller isn't sure what he'll do next except visit a man who was found with his van in El Dorado "to just kind of plead with him to let him know his situation." The man told police he got it from someone in Little Rock.

Eller's checkbook has been found in Louisiana, so it may not look good for his equipment. He still has hope, though, especially for his guillotine. "It's floating around," he says, "maybe somewhere here in Little Rock. If we could just find it."

MORE MAGIC BRIEFS

● **MASTER CARD MAGICIAN** Martin Nash is scheduled to lecture for Ring 29 in July. The date has not been confirmed yet. But his lecture should be outstanding and it should be on your "must-attend" schedule. Watch for details.

● **THE RING 29 BOARD** of Directors met May 15th at the Mr. Magic store. There were eight members present. Items discussed included:

- (1) Ring 29 lecture series.
- (2) Annual Convention in the Fall.
- (3) Debriefing of the Public Show
- (4) Election ballot
- (5) Fund-raiser for Junior Scholarship Program in August
- (6) New officers take over in July, with formal installation at the September picnic.

● **SEVERAL RING 29 MEMBERS** -- Jimmy Rhodes, Jr., Clayton Cavaness and Sam Boyce, were among some other magicians who performed the "Magic in May" Show, Saturday, May 12 at ASU/Newport. The word we have received is that the show was a tremendous success and that all the performances were outstanding.

● **RANDAL IS PERFORMING** at the Music Mountain Jamboree Theater (next to Magic Springs) in Hot Springs every Wednesday night at 8 pm. Ring 29 is planning on taking a group trip to see him on June 20. We will caravan from Mr. Magic at 6:30. The cost is only \$11 per person and you need to call Jim Henson at Mr. Magic to make reservations.

● **THE FIRST MEETING** of the World Clown Association's Little Rock Alley, was held on May 20 at Mr. Magic. Eight people attended and organized, elected officers and selected an alley name. If you are interested in clowning, call Don Baer, the president, or Jim Henson.

● **FORMER EDITORS** and staff members of *The Arkansas Traveler*, the student newspaper at the University of Arkansas, had a reunion in Fayetteville April 19. Among the attendees was Newport attorney and magician, Sam Boyce.

● **IN MID-APRIL**, Winky, an advance man clown for the Kelly Miller Circus, was in Salem performing for public schools. He performs magic shows emphasizing reading and use of school libraries.

● **A NEW SHOW** in Sevierville, TN is called "Explosion." It is at the Governor's Palace Theater and features some magic illusions as part of the multi-act show. Call (888) 439-111 for more information.

Fascination with magician no disappearing act

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an article from the Jackson, MS newspaper in April, sent to me by a friend.

by Cheryl Lavin
Chicago Tribune

Should you go to see David Copperfield, be sure to wear clean underwear.

One of Copperfield's tricks is to bring two women on stage and -- abracadabra -- exchange their panties.

"They smile afterwards," Copperfield says. "It's really quite hygienic, and I haven't been slapped yet."

Over the years, Copperfield, 45, born David Seth Kotkin, has made the Statue of Liberty disappear, walked through the Great Wall of China, levitated over Grand Canyon and, most recently, transported a lucky audience member to a tropical island.

He was a magical prodigy. At 12, Davino, the Boy Magician, became the youngest member of the prestigious Society of American Magicians. At 16, he taught magic at New York University's drama department.

At 18, he starred in his own stage show, "The Magic Man." His CBS specials, beginning when he was 21, have become ratings-boosting events even though *The New Yorker* once wrote, "He resembles entertainment the way Velveta resembles cheese."

But a lot of people like Velveta and they may be the same ones who attend Copperfield's shows, and make him No. 5 on this year's Forbes list of best-paid entertainers. He credits his success to the fact that he is "an honest magician, if there is such a thing."

Actually, the comparison Copperfield prefers is not to a cheese-like food product but to Hollywood's most successful director.

When asked if he would redo some of his most famous illusions, Copperfield replied, "Spielberg doesn't have to do another E.T."

Copperfield, who flies over the stage, but doesn't like to fly in an airplane -- because he's not in control -- spoke by phone last week:

Q: I just read that a downturn in the economy is good for magic. Have you heard that?

A: No, but I believe it. The heyday of Hollywood for musicals and fantasies was during the Depression in the '30s.

Q: If I walked into your four-level New York penthouse, the one with the 12 balconies, would I know it belonged to a magician?

A: I have a lot of antique arcade games, like Sibille, a mechanized fortune teller, like

the one in *Big*. It's pretty cool.

Q: Where does the name David Copperfield come from?

A: I took it from the Charles Dickens book that kids in America are forced to read. But I've had a much better life than he did.

Q: What happened with your former fiance', Claudia Schiffer? It was like, now you see her, now you don't. Did you make her disappear?

A: We did a mutual disappearing act.

Q: What is your life like? How much do you travel? Where do you live?

A: I do 500 shows a year. I'm on the road all but for five weeks a year. I like it. I've got a place in New York and a museum in the desert in Nevada, the International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts. My friends travel with me. My family goes with me. My parents were just with me all over Europe and Asia. My girlfriend (Belgian model) Amber (Frisque) travels with me.

Q: What do you think of other magicians?

A: I like them. We're all different, all doing our own thing. We're not copying each other. There are a lot of guys doing tricks with white tigers, ripping off Siegfried and Roy. That is totally uncool.

A Lecture Review (Thank you for not coming)

by Robert Bedford

I would like to thank all Ring 29 members for not going to the "Total Experience" lecture May 5. It wasn't just a good lecture you missed. **Aaron Smith** and **Bill White** were more than good; they were super GREAT!

Only my wife and I and another man from Missouri attended. (Yes, it didn't get much publicity, other than a casual mention at a regular Ring meeting by Margaret -- who wasn't even going to be there because she was in new York City. And yes, it was on an odd day at an odd time, and people didn't have much advance notice. But it was still a shock that more of you didn't attend. But thank you, anyway, for not attending!)

Even with only three of us were there, we got the full lectures, and more. And you missed great door prizes, too. (I'm really glad you didn't go because I got a pile of door prizes which you would have received.)

First Aaron Smith did his lecture on card tricks, showing us many moves. What a great teacher he is. I particularly liked a super push-through and a card reversal that ends up in a farrowed deck. I really enjoyed all the personal attention. (Thank you again for not going!)

Bill White played his piano like the one Michael Close played at the Little Rock convention. He is a composer and a great magician. His CDs are at Mr. Magic, too.

He did what I suppose you could refer to as "no-card card tricks." One of them I really liked dealt with a signed card and a change bag. But I liked all his tricks. He even did some of those tricks which fool most magicians, especially the change bag trick.

I've been looking for tricks to do other than card tricks, and his are just what I was looking for. His "Happy Camper" has a surprise ending, as does his Card Stab. (I

can't thank you enough for missing this great lecture!)

I can't remember everything they did, but for only \$10 I got the deal of a lifetime. Not only did we get great lectures, but I also got:

- Free lecture notes
- Three of Bill's CDs (World Magic, Life's Magic and White Magic)
- A change bag
- The trick Happy Camper

...and Aaron gave me not only lecture notes but also a few tricks like Unlikely Evidence, Mind Leaper, Silk-thru-Card, Phenomenon, Left-handed Gun and a booklet with five card tricks in it called Methodical. (Boy, am I glad you didn't attend!)

This is the first time I got a bunch of tricks that I didn't have Jim Henson put a cheaper price on them so that my wife wouldn't know how much I paid for them. (I hope she doesn't read this newsletter! It might be best that no one's wife knows about this price trick; you know, \$5 for a \$50 trick.)

I figure that for the \$10 lecture fee I got two hours of personal magic instruction and over \$380 worth of tricks! (I am so thankful that you didn't attend!)

Finally, Bill White has a "Talking Briefcase" that is tailored for his act. This one blew bubbles and confetti and -- acting as his "wife" -- even spoke in German.

But all kidding aside, let me emphasize: If you EVER get a chance to attend a lecture by these two magicians, DON'T MISS IT! In fact, I would strongly urge the Ring 29 board of directors to try to get them back as one of our official lecturers, and invite all the rings and magicians in the state!

If you want to know any more about this lecture, give me a call: 624-6334. (And, oh yes, thank you for not coming!)