

I.B.M. Ring 29

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# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

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

Meets 1st Thursday of nearly every month, Baptist Medical Center

DECEMBER 2002



## No meeting in December; Christmas Party is January 18

Because December is such a busy month for many of the Ring 29 members, it has been traditional that there is **no regular monthly meeting** in December.

For that same reason, the Ring Christmas Party also is not held in December, but in January. At press time details were still being worked on, but the tentative date is **Saturday, January 18**. Watch the next issue of this newsletter for all the details.

For now, circle January 18 on all your new calendars, and plan to attend one of the most fun Ring activities of the year. Yes, the entire family is invited!



*May the magic Dove of Peace land at your house this season!*

### THE MAGIC WAND

✓ **LAST MONTH**, a relatively small audience participated in an informative discussion on performing at specific functions such as schools and libraries. Seven members performed theme or object lesson illusions. Thanks to Bill Fulton for coordinating and leading the meeting.

✓ **THE LOCAL CLOWN CLUB** met one recent Sunday afternoon for its annual Christmas Party. There was lots of food, fun and magic. Even though the clown group is small, they make up for it in their enthusiasm. If you are interested in any aspect of clowning, contact **Don Baer** to find out when the next meeting will be.

✓ **JAMES KINSEY** is finally on the road to recovery. His condition is improving and treatment is underway. Jim Henson says, now that James is feeling better we just wish the doctor had made him better looking, too!

✓ **DANNY ARCHER**, who was scheduled to lecture at our convention but had to cancel because he had a mild heart attack, is doing much better and has tentatively scheduled a lecture for our club on February 26, a Wednesday. Watch for details.

✓ **IT'S NOT TOO EARLY** to mark your 2003 calendars for the annual **Cavalcade of Magic** in Eureka Springs in late Spring. If you are interested in attending and/or performing, contact Bill Pitts at (479) 484-7512. This is a small but lively regional convention with lots of personal contacts, lectures, performances, shows, etc.

### Ring 29 to hold Public Magic Show next April

At the November meeting, members of Ring 29 voted to hold a **Public Magic Show** in April, 2003. This will be the mid-point between the October magic conventions. **Richard Knoll** has agreed to chair the show and is putting together his committee. If you would like to help, contact him at **280-0434**. His E-mail address is **knollkr@aol.com**. Watch this newsletter for details in coming weeks and months. Let's make it the best one ever put on in the state (not counting the IBM Convention shows or the Copperfield shows, of course).

✓ **THE IBM CONVENTION** July 1-5 will be close by this year, in **Kansas City**. We should have a big delegation from our Ring, especially since we would like to court them to get the convention back to Little Rock. We are still told that the Little Rock Convention in 1999 was one of the best ones IBM has ever held. See Jim at Mr. Magic for more information.

✓ **DAN HECKE AND DAMON** will perform at the Grog Shop at the Historic Arkansas Museum **Dec. 8, 2 - 3 pm**. Take your family for the Sunday afternoon show.

### NEXT MEETING:

**Saturday, January 18**  
**Ring 29 Christmas Party**

### Convention committee debriefs and makes plans for next year

The Ring 29 Board and 2002 Convention Committee met just two weeks after the convention -- while it was fresh on everyone's minds -- and talked about what was good and not so good about the two-day affair.

The major conclusion was that it was an overall success, could be even better, and that everyone wanted to do it again next year.

A contract has been signed with the convention center, and the dates are **October 17-20**. It will return to the Hot Springs Convention Center, but the space will be one third larger with the addition of another room. Added to the convention next year will be a Friday evening Early Bird event.

We reviewed the convention last month. If anyone who attended has any ideas, please pass them on to any officer.

• **THE HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS Magic Show** will be held in Searcy by Ring 308, **Saturday, Nov. 30** at 7:30 pm.

Jim Henson plans to go if you want to hitch a ride. Some of you will get this in time to attend.

• **THE RING 29 CHRISTMAS** Party is still scheduled for **January 18**. Mark your calendars. Details are being finalized. Circle the date and watch for more information in the January newsletter.

• **MAXWELL'S THEATER** of Magic was open Thanksgiving Weekend. **DAMON & ELIZABETH** performed *Tales of the Wizard* at Maxwell's Theater, too. Maxwell will also be open Dec. 20-21; and Dec. 27-28. Call for reservations.

• **RANDAL** will perform Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 31 at the **Music Mountain Jamboree** in Hot Springs. Call for reservations.

# The 2002 Workshop Reunion

by Margaret LeClair

David Sandy did it again! The Workshop Reunion, October 8-12 in St. Joseph, Missouri, was, in a word, *Fantastic!* Another appropriate word to describe the event was "**Lots!**" There was lots of great talent, lots of great shows, lots of great learning and, of course, lots of great schmoozing!

Everyone agreed that the smartest thing that David did was to not schedule anything before 9 am. Considering that yours truly never made it to bed before 2:30 am or so, the later starts in the mornings was a good decision.

Registration got the workshop off to a good start as I met lots of friends, new and old, and was able to put faces with Internet friends I had developed.

The learning sessions were great. For Tim Hannig's session, they brought in about 100 children from local schools. He performed for them and afterwards held a question-answer session. He must have hypnotized them since they all left the room so quietly. I purchased his lecture notes and will learn more from them.

## Lecturers ran out of stuff

Most of us attendees had the same complaint: the lecturers did not have enough of their stuff to purchase for everyone who wanted it. I missed out on lecture notes for Doc Eason, Aldo Colombini, Dan Harlan and Mark Wilson. But I did get those for Tim Hannig, Dale Salwak, Tom Burgoon and Ali Bongo.

Dale's session was very abbreviated one afternoon at the Chavez School. Near the end of his session he asked for volunteers to demonstrate what we had just learned. Four people got up and did their routines. Then he wanted to show how a music change would affect the performance and asked for a woman to volunteer and do the routine. I did and got free lecture notes, proving that it pays to volunteer!

The Tom Burgoon and John Shryock sessions were good. Tom was funny as ever and gave some really good advice.

John taught some basic coin stuff, even a cool "floating coin." By the end of his session he was even trying to float a camera case.

Michael Ammar taught some thread work. This was one session I just sat back and enjoyed. I toyed with thread work once, but decided it just wasn't me.

One could call Doc Eason and Aldo Colombini "miracle workers." They were able to teach me some card stuff. It was

funny. After each one went through a routine, they would ask if there were any questions or if anyone was not getting it. I always raised my hand. But by the end of each session, I was actually able to do some card work.

Watching Doc do some of his bar magic was great. A group I was hanging out with decided to sneak out of Bob Sheets' lecture a little early so we could actually get good seats at the bar to watch him at work. It was worth it!

## Critiques added

The one thing David added to his workshop was a critiquing session. If anyone had a close-up or stand-up routine for which they wanted professional feedback, all they had to do was sign up. Well, since I had stuff to do a handcuff act I have been working on, I signed up as a stand-up.

I ended up being the only person to sign up for this session, so I was put in with the close-up people. Now I had a dilemma: in order to get honest feedback, I needed to dress in costume. (You who know me know the outfit I am referring to.) I expressed my concern to David, and he assured me that if I wanted total feedback, I should perform in costume. So I did.

There were three critiquing rooms. I found out afterwards that there were about 15-20 people in the other two rooms (with places for 40). In my room it was standing room only. It seems that the word got out about the "woman with the handcuffs and leather."

I got some great feedback from Doc Eason, Dale Salwak and others, a lot of which I have put in my act.

The evening shows were great. David did a great job booking top talent. The only thing which I think could have been better was to not have Danny Cole and Nikolai & Nina perform back to back. Both of them do quick changes throughout their routines. They are amazing. Nikolai & Nina did nine (9) costume changes during their act.

One of the funniest things happened as we were on the way to the evening show. I rode in a van full of people from Minnesota. They talked about how "brisk" it was outside. "Brisk, my foot," I said. "It's downright COLD!" They all laughed.

## Great contacts and friends

I made lots of great contacts and lots of friends. But on my return flight the airline lost one of my suitcases. Unfortunately it was the one that had three-fourths of my es-

cape act and half of my standard magic act. I had to cancel shows that I was counting on when I returned, to help off-set some of the expenses of the trip. I have been able to piece together shows when the need arises, and many people in the escape community have been generous in sending me stuff to use until I can replace what was lost.

David concluded The Workshop Reunion by NOT saying this would be the last one. He just said it would be the last one "for a while." Of course, one year he'll get the bug again and we all will have another chance to go. Don't miss it next time!

## **BITS & PIECES**

● **IN THE NEWSPAPER** recently were: **Bill Fulton** in the Nov. 17 *Democrat-Gazette*. He read palms at the annual Babes in Toyland benefit for the Children's Museum; and **Derek Rose** appeared in a recent issue of *Inviting Arkansas*, with a fantastic balloon hat, in full color!

● **WE RECEIVED** a mailing this week from Gary Frank of California. He has written a new book entitled "*TAMPA: England's Court Magician*." Tampa was the stage name of Ray Sugden, a contemporary of Thurston and Dante. For more information, contact Frank at P.O. Box 33156, Granada Hills, CA 91394. The hardback costs \$40.

● **MAGIC** has been featured in a couple of unusual instances on television recently. A magician is the main talent on a current **Cingular** commercial. And magic was at the center of a case on **CSI**, in which a woman disappeared during a magic trick.

● **WE UNDERSTAND** that **Andre Kole** is scheduled to be in Russellville on January 24, 2003, at the Community Baptist Church. The next day he is supposed to be in Springfield, MO at Southwest Missouri State. We'll keep you posted with more details if we hear anything more.

● **THE RING 308** newsletter recently gave three fundraising Web sites. Take a look at them and pass your thoughts on to any member of the board:

[fundraisingmagic.com](http://fundraisingmagic.com)  
[magicianmarketing.com](http://magicianmarketing.com)  
[millionairemagician.com/jk](http://millionairemagician.com/jk)

Check 'em out.