

I.B.M. Ring 29

Visit our Web:  
littlerockmagic.org

MAY 2004

# 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



1 of 4

## Damon to give last performance for Ring 29, May 6 at BMC

Damon will perform his stage hypnosis act assisted by Elizabeth, for the regular May meeting of Ring 29. It will begin at 7 pm in the usual

place, Sheffield Auditorium at Baptist Hospital. That is on the main floor, north of the registration desk.

It has been seven years since Damon performed this act for the club. It was great then and we expect a great show again. This would be a great meeting to bring a guest, especially one who is interested in magic and may be a potential club member.

As you know, Damon and Elizabeth will be moving to Santa Fe in a few weeks, and we won't see them as often after they move. If you have been saying for some time that you have meant to go see Damon, here is your (maybe last) chance.

### April auction was a big hit

April 1, the annual Ring 29 Auction brought out three dozen people and over 200 items.

A huge thanks goes to Gerry Bailey for once again doing an excellent job auctioning items. Thanks also to Joey Williams and Tyler Vodehnal for helping Gerry. Further, thanks to Mike Curtis, Christy Henson, and James Kinsey for organizing the Auction, for keeping up with the 222 items which were auctioned, and for all the bookkeeping.

### Members in the News

✓ Don Baer is performing many Saturdays at the openings for Arkansas Burger Kings.

✓ Joey Williams is performing at Western Sizzlin in Jacksonville

✓ Greg Maxwell is performing at U.S. Pizza Company in Jacksonville

✓ Randall Eller, Andy Stirman and Pam Madrez performed at the North Little Rock Centennial Celebration this past weekend.

Randall did a 30-minute performance Friday evening, and did a great job, in spite of a crowded stage with band equipment. Being the professional he is, he simply adjusted his act and fit it to the circumstances.

It was raining hard Saturday morning, so we don't know whether Andy and Pam were able to go on Saturday afternoon since this is being written and printed Saturday morning.

✓ Maxwell Blade's Theater of Magic will open at the end of May. Call for reservations.

✓ Pam Madrez has been busy as Patriotic Pamy performing at school shows such as Cloverdale elementary and will be performing at Family Day at the zoo for a Marine Battalion. She has also been performing as Mommy Magic at Daycares and doing singing telegrams.

✓ Bill Fulton performed at the Saturday, April 24 Earthday celebration at the Little Rock Zoo. The first half of the day went well, with families coming to Bill's table where he demonstrated some close-up magic and a little mind reading. The monsoons hit about 2 P.M. and everyone packed up their stuff and left.

Bill has always celebrated Earthday. He helped organize the first Earthday in Fort Smith where he was teaching. A year later the Arkansas Department of

### Dan Garrett will lecture in Searcy, Tues. May 18

Ring 308 in Searcy invites everyone to the Dan Garrett lecture in Searcy, Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. at the Ewing P. Pyeatt Building just west of the library on Pleasure Street. \$10 admission fee. Call John Patterson in Searcy if you have questions. (501) 268-7114.

Enclosed is a flyer which tells about Garrett, why you should attend and how to get there. Call Mr. Magic if you would like to ride with someone (or can drive). Just think of all the magic you could discuss and practice on the way up and back.

Education was looking for an Environmental Education Specialist and Bill was recommend for the position, got it, and moved to Little Rock. He has been reeking havoc at his state job ever since.

Bill will also be working as the Riverfest Fortuneteller on May 28-29. His tent will most likely be located on the President Clinton Ave. near the Channel 7 Riverfront Studio. Come by and see what the future holds.

✓ Several of our magicians performed at the public theater recently. Check out the article on page two written by Richard Knoll, one of the performers. A deep bow to these and others who continually spread the good news about magic.

Got magic news? Call Mr. Magic or send to newsletter editor Dennis Schick at dschick@arkansaspress.org

## Don't sell yourself too cheap. You're worth more.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is a recent E-mail exchange from two of our members. We pass it on for your information:

On 4/9/04, Bill Fulton wrote:

I got this from a teacher in Beebe. She wanted too much work for just a little pay (\$100). I gave her some of your phone numbers that were near her. She may already have sealed a deal with one of you. Scott Davis referred her to me. If you are willing to work for low pay all day long, this may be your thing.

If I had taken this gig, I would have performed one show for a larger group for a minimum of \$150 plus travel. If she had wanted several smaller shows, my price would have remained \$150/show. I explained to her that I was not a teacher and did not have the stamina to do 8 shows. However, if she had paid \$1,200, I would have done it.

From: (Beebe teacher):  
To: wfulton@aristotle.net  
Subject: need a magician

My name is XXXXX, and I teach 6th grade at Beebe Middle School. I am looking for a magician to perform during a medieval festival on April 23. Scott Davis gave me your name. Last year the students rotated in groups of 25 to eight different stations. Each group viewed a magic show which lasted about 25-30 minutes. I know you have a day job but I was wondering if you might be able to help us with this event. I would also need to know what your costs would be for the day. Beebe is about 32-35 miles from Little Rock. We would probably need you here from 9:00 until 2:30 or so. If you are not available all day (which would be my preference) would you be available for a one-time show to all 200 at the same time on that day? I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
XXXXXXX

FROM: Scott Davis  
When I referred her to Bill (she asked

for a medieval-themed act) I didn't realize that her budget was so minimal.

If \$100 is really her budget then I'd challenge everyone in our club to not dilute the market value of magic in our area. No matter what level of performer you are, you are worth more than \$100 for eight shows. You deserve better.

We'd hate to have the word spread around Central Arkansas that whenever you're having an event and you don't have much money to spend, hire a magician, they'll work for cheap. Our magic props, years of practice and time away from our families is too valuable.

Just my humble opinion. Our very specialized form of entertainment has a higher value. All of us deserve better.

Scott

www.scottdavismagic.com

### Magic at the Public Theatre

Several Arkansas magicians teamed up April 16-17 to bring Central Arkansas an evening of illusion, mystery and enchantment. Seven magicians (Bill Fulton, Joey Williams, Paul Carlon, Andy Stirman, Margaret LeClair, Richard Knoll, and Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.,) presented a variety of acts and illusions for the audience. Dr. Gladwin Connell was master of ceremonies

The shows were presented in the "Black Box" theatre known as The Public Theatre at 616 Center Street in Little Rock. With 65 theater-style seats, it offers the magic community a venue in which to perform.

The evening included escapes, doves, the mystery of storytelling, and illusions to the receptive audiences. All of this was enhanced with lighting and smoke effects, as well as music and audience involvement.

Following the final bows numerous comments, including, "the best show ever," were heard as the cast greeted the audience and signed posters.

by Richard Knoll

### COMING EVENTS:

**May 6 -- Ring meeting: Damon**  
**May 18 - Dan Garrett Lecture, Searcy**  
**June 29 - I.B.M. Convention**  
**Aug. - 1st Invisible Lodge Convention**  
**Sept. 24-26 Ring 29 Convention**

### Dennis Anyone?

It has been a busy three months for Ring 29, with three (count 'em, 3) lectures, a jam-packed auction and a half-day magic workshop.

- I attended the **Kids Magic Workshop** Feb. 29, with my grandson. Only about a dozen people attended, but they had a good time and learned a lot. **Sammy Smith** did much of the same stuff he did the last time he was here, but it is always great to watch him work, and he still gives helpful tips on performing magic. Since **Dan Wolf** was new to most of us, all his stuff was new. I bought his Card Cross which my minister son will get much use out of.

- I was pleased to be able to attend the **Michael Ammar** lecture April 6. It was a good crowd and he is a smooth performer. I heard several people say he did the same tricks he did the last time he was here, which I just don't understand. He could have been so much better. Why didn't he pass out rubber bands, for instance, and teach everyone how to do those tricks instead of just showing them? He missed a great opportunity.

- I took my grandson to the Saturday performance at **The Public Theater**. Overall it was good.

I liked the dueling cane opening. They could use the dueling banjo music next time.

Jimmy turned water into snow and tried a sword suspension (which needed help from a man in the audience to unhook).

Joey used a coin and bucket routine and predicted a forced card with an insurance policy.

Bill focused on ESP to make several predictions correctly, after the first one failed.

Paul did a nice bottle disappearance, a torn and restored newspaper and torn a dollar bill, only to make it reappear.

Andy did his professor's nightmare and his peanut butter and jelly routine.

Margaret got a "Big Kiss" by escaping from being cuffed in a mail bag.

Richard made a face on a drawing pad sing and animate, as the show closer.

Overall it was a good, but it might have been a bit smoother with another rehearsal or two. Go see it next time.

## Houdini Museum owner draws rath of Magic community for revealing "Metamorphosis" secrets

The following are two letters written by members of IBM 29.

Dear Editor of the Post Crescent:

My name is Paul Carlon. I am a professional illusionist from Central Arkansas. Last week, a magician friend of mine (Illusionist Brad King), informed me that David Copperfield recently was on the Today Show protesting the upcoming exposure of Houdini's classic illusion "Metamorphosis" by Terry Bergen, Executive Director of the Outagamie County Historical Society in Appleton, WI. Copperfield called Terry in protest and ever offered her other options. He told her that she would ruin the effect for current magicians and all future magicians. She refused his offer!

I am one of those magicians. I have spent many long hours practicing that very illusion and have had tremendous response from my audiences. My invested money and time have been greatly rewarded by the praise and recognition I have received for my performance.

I personally, along with many of my magician friends, also have written to Terry Bergen to ask her to not expose this illusion. However, none of us have received any kind of response!

I have enclosed one of these letters. It is a very well-written letter from a friend and magic partner. Sadly, no one has responded.

Ms. Bergen has a wonderful opportunity to honor an important man in our Art, but with that opportunity comes responsibility. She too, can take a place of honor among magicians worldwide by being respectful to our profession. On the other hand, if she exposes this illusion, it will not only disrespect our Art, but she could actually lose the respect of many magicians. Magicians and illusionists from around the world can potentially be her biggest support group and promoters. That would be great for Terry, the museum and your community. All we ask is that she not expose the Metamorphosis illusion.

I'm asking that you not only read but also print my letter and my friend's letter in your newspaper. Sincerely,

Paul Carlon. Arkansas magician

Dear Ms. Bergen:

I am aware that you have most likely been inundated with numerous E-mails and telephone calls regarding your decision to pursue the honoring of Harry Houdini. I am extremely proud to know that you have taken extreme time, care and personal monetary means in order to produce a factual exhibit regarding Mr. Houdini. As a performer of illusions, I have to be forward with you. Without persons such as Mr. Houdini and other great minds of this genre, it would be impossible in today's world to be successful and have the open-mindedness of audience members to be invited to a show in order to be "fooled," albeit through entertainment.

To honor means to "show respect" or "to give testimony of dignity" toward a person. As I understand, you wish to pay homage to the legacy of Mr. Houdini by illustrating some of his profession and art. The irony with the Metamorphosis portion of your exhibit is that you have virtually destroyed the dignity created by people such as Mr. Houdini. As you well know through your research and time studying this man and his art, you know Mr. Houdini's livelihood and joy was in procuring effects that baffled the minds of others.

Have you ever watched a movie with a magnificent twist for the ending? Have you ever read a mystery novel, which produced a wonderful flare of surprise in the last few pages? Have you ever received a wrapped gift that, upon opening, created an inner sense of appreciation and joy?

I have to assume that you have experienced at least one of these situations in your lifetime. What if you were watching that same movie or reading the same mystery novel and a friend gave away the whole plot halfway through them? Or what if you were informed what the gift was prior to opening it, or it was not wrapped well and you saw what you were about to open?

In all fairness, some people may be indifferent in how they respond. But any person being honest with himself or herself, has to admit that the glory of surprise has been depleted through premature ex-

posure. What you are attempting to do with Mr. Houdini's Metamorphosis is the equivalent of this premature exposure for countless audience members around the world. Yes, many people may seek the secrets of magic on the Internet or in library books. But the majority does not.

Why tell a child that Santa Claus does not exist if he or she wishes to believe it? To do this would spoil their belief in the magic of Christmas. You are spoiling the memory and magic of Mr. Houdini. They see someone who is mystical and awesome, only to have that beauty of character shattered.

In today's world, where ethics are a lost trait in many people, the world of magic takes pride in performing for the entertainment of millions of people yearly. This community of individuals comes together on the same level of ethical edification. They share illusions, they share performances of similar effects, and they do all this without "letting the cat out of the bag." The seriousness of releasing a secret of an illusion is testament to the very ethics of magicians that Mr. Houdini is about.

Ethics is a doctrine of morals. As a person who wants to honor the life and accomplishments of Harry Houdini, I formally ask that you subscribe to the same doctrine of morals he was a part of and revise the portrayal of the Metamorphosis in such a way as to celebrate the illusion, but not to give out the secret of how it works.

Mr. Houdini would love that his art has been shared with everyone, but I can assure you that he would be appalled with the indifference to the sanctity of his secrets being revealed to the world.

Thank you for taking time to indulge me by reading this correspondence. I would encourage you to at least respond to me so I can know that my opinion has been considered.

Collin Cheesman, Arkansas Magician

If you feel strongly about this subject, you, to write a Letter to the Editor to:

The Post-Crescent  
306 Washington St.

Appleton, WI 54912

pcnews@smgpo.gannett.com  
www.postcrescent.com

Don't miss **"The Last Palindrome"**



# A Magic Lecture by Dan Garrett



- S.A.M. National President (1994-95)
- M-U-M columnist "World Class Magic"
- *Linking Ring* cover Sept. 1988
- M-U-M covers Nov. 1985, Aug. 1994



- I.B.M. Territorial Vice-President
- Featured performer, lecturer & M.C. at many magic conventions
- Performed at Inaugural Dinner for George W. Bush, 2001
- Performed live in 2002 on *CNN Headline News*

All new material for many performing situations (strolling, platform/parlor, trade shows). Exciting effects which contain strong magic Dan uses in his current shows. Several items are "worth the price" (I've been told). Some of the magic includes a new sponge ball routine that fools magicians and takes only minimal skill, a fun torn-and-restored dollar bill routine with a borrowed bill with a hilarious "repeat," and a fascinating multi-change packet effect which may be performed impromptu, with a borrowed deck. Also learn a business card routine where the card visibly prints itself on a blank card initialed by a spectator (no switch!). They WILL keep your card when you do this one! The strongest trick in my current shows is "Torn and Reborn" which is an astonishing torn-and-restored card with an even more mind-blowing repeat. I can't believe I'm teaching this routine in my lecture! There's even more great stuff, but if you haven't been sold yet on this hottest lecture on the circuit, then fageddaboutit! (:;D) Dan also has some items from his new lecture on magic for kids entitled "The Wizard's Way" and other "Best of Dan Garrett" classics will be presented as time permits.

If you miss this lecture you won't be able to sleep with yourself again.

*"Dan is one of magic's most entertainingly creative minds..."* — David Copperfield

**What:** Lecture for Searcy Magic Society, Ring 308  
**When:** Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$10.00  
**Location:** From Little Rock take exit 42  
Turn left onto Main Street  
Turn left onto Pleasure Street  
Ewing P Pyeatt Building (½ block on left)  
West of the White County Public Library

Send More  
Dan Garrett

A Great Lecture

Dan Garrett

Any Way You Look At It!

For Information call John Patterson (501) 268-7114 or email [patterso@cswnet.com](mailto:patterso@cswnet.com)