

The
PERFORMER



Little Rock Magic Ring 29
Newsletter

November 2023

Editor: Marty Haughn



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LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...

Blayk Puckett is back with his third installment of Magic. This should get you started:

“AN EFFECTIVE EFFECT”

In two prior articles, I wrote about the details of our magic techniques and the thoughtfulness of our magic method. Of course these tools merely set the foundation for the top of the pyramid—the magical effect. It's our job to help guide our audience into whatever magical effect we want them to feel.

We can create all kinds of effects for our audience. We can make them laugh or be entertained, we could make them feel impressed or confused. But, as magicians, our highest aspiration would be to make them feel magic. I don't mean fooling them; this kind of magic is about more than not knowing how it's done. I'm not even talking about making them feel wonder or awe. Our ultimate aspiration is to evoke that rare and mysterious feeling of magic that makes you honestly question everything—complete with goosebumps! Juan Tamariz calls it a secular miracle, since “when reached, it should be strong enough to have the same impact as a miracle for the believers of any religion.”

If you're like me, you've only been lucky enough to personally feel this hair-standing-up-on-the-back-of-your-neck feeling a handful of times—perhaps not always from magic (you may have noticed that the more we learn about magic, the harder it is for it to give us this feeling). And if you've been doing magic long enough, you've probably seen it in your audience.

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I do not normally advertise something in this newsletter unless it is Ring Specific. However, I feel that some members may benefit from this information.

If you are a Facebook kind of person, there is a group in which I belong to, called “**Surplus Magic Exchange**”. It is a group where magicians can sell their used and barely used, if at all, magic.

I am bringing this up because Jim Henson has allowed me to sell the larger magic from the estate sale. Here is the interesting part, Jim does not know at what price I am selling items at, with his permission. Somehow, he seems to trust me!

If you are not a group member, do a Facebook search for the above name and join. Due to the recent rip-off of my long used Facebook page, I have had to resort to using my given name of Martin Haughn in the listings.

As always, all money goes back to the widows. Check it out, you may find that the prices are just right for the taking. As an example, one item I have posted has had two price drops. FREE SHIPPING!

Meeting Information

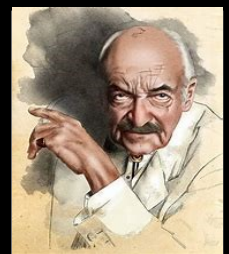
CHRISTMAS POT LUCK
December 9, 2023
Stagecoach Clubhouse
2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Annual Show January 13, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Jacksonville Community Center

“Someone creates a trick, many people perfect it, but its final success in front of an audience depends on the person who presents it.”

- Rene Lavand -



President's Report

Dane Dover

A PLACE CALLED HOME

I watch a TV show called "Building off the grid" the premise of the show is that people are ditching going to remote areas and building totally self-sufficient homes. Most are small cabin type of structures but there is a huge variety of homes built everything from hay bale homes, to homes built from mud, to homes built from shipping crates. But the one thing that is consistent is that when they are done it is home.

We as Ring 29 finally have a new home. We will begin meeting at Terry Library on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30. While we can't reserve the room too far into the future, we should be able to get the room most of the time. This is a nice meeting facility which allows us to finally have a new home. (Thanks to Dr. Chris for the suggestion and Mary Ann for doing the leg work of getting this started).

Speaking of homes we as a Ring have helped to make some Veterans homes have a little more food. As most of you are aware we did a fund-raising show in October to help "Feed the Vets" an organization that provides a free grocery store for Veterans that need food. We were able to present them a check for \$2,500. Not a bad start for an initial fund-raising effort. I would like to see this continue as an annual event. If you have ideas or want to volunteer to be on the committee, please let me know. We will begin working on this real soon.

Where do you feel most at home in Magic? Is it close-up, Stage, Mentalism? Please be prepared to perform at our annual Christmas get together Saturday December 9th 2:00 PM at the club house at Stagecoach Village.

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Little Rock Magic Ring gathered at the home of Jim Henson this month. The meeting was presided by President Dane Dover on November 2, 2023.

The meeting was brought to order to discuss any business. Our first order of business dealt with the recent Benefit Variety Show for Feed the Vets in Cabot, Arkansas. The event was a success and raised \$2500 for the food pantry. Dane offered the floor to Marty Haughn, one of the committee members who organized the show, to show off the over-sized \$2500 check to be presented to Deyonka Hickey, Founder/CEO of Feed the Vets. It met with approval by all in attendance. The presentation was held November 4, 2023 during the turkey drive supported by The Point 94.1 with host Rick Steel. Several volunteers from the nearby Guard Base, Air Force Base and fellow Veteran volunteers to collect turkeys from the giving community of Cabot and surrounding area.

Marty also handed Dane a "Living Document" containing everything we, as a committee, could have done better and listed several pages of recommendations for the next fund raiser event. We hope to have another event like this one in the very near future. Many thanks go out to the performers, Daniel Parrish, Gene Berry, Farmer Fin, Randall Eller, Blayk Puckett, Tom Burgoon and emcee, Jody Burchfield. Each of these entertainers volunteered their time to help raise awareness and money. Of course, I would be remiss in not mentioning the fantastic support of our sponsors, backstage staff, sound & lighting tech and video tech (thanks Richard).

Further business discussed the overwhelming approval of our new location for meetings at Terry Library. What a great facility with plenty of room to maneuver and perform. Lastly, Dane stated that he and former President Marty Haughn have been working to get back into the public eye in hopes of gaining new membership. Dane stated he had spoken to an organization who was interested in creating new programs. It was suggested/asked if Ring 29 could provide some magicians to hold classes on magic beginning in April. This is a great idea and will help promote our Ring. At this point, the business meeting was closed and turned over to Jim Henson and Marty Haughn.

For the past year or two Jim has been selling off the estates of local magicians who had passed. It has been a long haul and struggle but it appears to be coming to an end. To accomplish this, Jim arranged to make this month an auction month.

Marty and Jim had placed bundles of magic into boxes and each box was sold with a beginning bid of \$1! Fortunately we had a nice crowd who were willing to bid and sort of compete for what they wanted. Of course, it was all fun and games but every box was sold as were all the books. By the end of the night Jim collected nearly \$300 for the widows of these magicians. Fine work Ring 29!

That is it from Little Rock. Next month is our annual Christmas Pot Luck guaranteed to have plenty of fun, magic and way too much food! Be safe and stay magical everyone!

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we look back 17 years to the Ring meeting of November, 2006. The President at that time was Christy Henson and the Secretary was Tyler Vodehnal. The Ring met monthly at UAMS Hospital in Little Rock.

Ring 29's November meeting was themed "The Greatest Turkey Flop" in which magicians performed the greatest tricks they have messed up or any sucker effects. Over two dozen magicians along with two guests were present for the gathering.

Jim Henson served as MC for the evening's performances. Sid Salman began the meeting with a drug prevention trick, Uppers, and then he performed a "turkey flop" card trick with staples. Lance Howell performed a humorous routine with Rocky Raccoon in a trash can. Rocky, of course, was great at rolling over and playing dead. Mark Willis followed with his version of Torn and Restored Napkin. It was not a flop at all when it was restored at the end. Dr. Jim Suen entertained us with turning a \$2 bill into two \$1 dollar bills. Dan Hecke shared a "turkey flop" story regarding a Block Through Glass routine. He performed that routine for us and being the great magician that he is, there was no flop at the end. Next Dane Dover did a prediction trick with coins which he often performs in public to which he also had a story regarding a funny "turkey flop" with the trick. Derrick Rose performed Fine Print fooling one of the magicians who was happy when he thought Derrick had truly messed up. Gerry Bailey did a creative Ball and Vase routine using a wooden block in a coffee cup. Michael Wilkinson told a story about performing his quarter-in-coke-can trick with a "turkey flop" twist that truly amazed the non-magicians. Then he actually performed it for us: the quarter went through the Coke can and came out the other end with the coke can still unopened. Dr. Chris Westfall ended the evening with magic of the spirits. Matchboxes opened and closed by themselves, a match danced, and Glorpy even made an appearance. Jim Henson did a great job throughout the evening MC'ing with jokes, tricks, and a few flops of his own. He did a color change with a deck, an Appearing Flower, Ball through Tube, Poncho the Duck, and even a Baseball Prediction Trick.

We are presently meeting at a great auditorium at UAMS Hospital in Little Rock. Come visit us if you are traveling through."

How often have you had a "turkey flop" presentation where things just didn't go the way they should have. Most have probably experienced that sinking feeling when there is the realization that this trick is just not going to end as planned. That's when the mind scrambles for a solution or alternate outcome that will minimize the perception of failure. Experienced performers usually have favorite "outs" that can cover for a mistake but the rest of us are probably better off by just "taking it in stride" and moving on with a sense of humor about it. Audiences are usually forgiving of those who can laugh at themselves. Until next time, consider, according to Herbert Spencer, "The wise man must remember that while he is a descendant of the past, he is a parent of the future."

Estate Auction



ΔΔΔ: *An Effective Effect*

Blayk Puckett



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kind of magic is about more than not knowing how it's done. I'm not even talking about making them feel wonder or awe. Our ultimate aspiration is to evoke that rare and mysterious feeling of magic that makes you honestly question everything—complete with goosebumps! Juan Tamariz calls it a secular miracle, since “when reached, it should be strong enough to have the same impact as a miracle for the believers of any religion.”

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I've seen it a few times, but not nearly as many times as I'd like. While I always hope to entertain, make people smile, and build meaningful connections, my highest aim—since well, I am a magician—is to help others experience that magical feeling.

Most of us who take this craft seriously have been lucky enough to witness some of these experiences, from one side or the other—otherwise, we probably wouldn't have fallen so deeply in love with magic in the first place. Others aren't so fortunate. In a 2016 *MAGIC Magazine* article, Joshua Jay wrote that most people haven't seen a live magician in over a year, and more than a quarter of the people you meet have never seen live magic. So if we're going to be their one shot at witnessing a secular miracle this year, we have quite the responsibility. If we want to give them that gift, we probably can't just show them tricks. It's going to take a little more work than that.

ΔΔΔ: *An Effective Effect*

Blayk Puckett

Most members of our audience will be resistant to this feeling. For some, they just simply don't know what they're supposed to do or think—remember, this doesn't happen often for them (our closest friends and family don't have that luxury!). For others, they've been turned off by poor performers—those with an arrogant attitude or whose technique fails to fool a single person in their audience (just themselves).

With these obstacles in our way, we can't merely rely on tricks to give them the feeling of magic. We have to carefully guide them to this place. Our job isn't just to show them our magic; we also have to show them how to experience it.

There are several tools for making magic more impactful and more likely to reach the status of a secular miracle.

First is the atmosphere we choose to create. The audience doesn't think about magic as much as we do, so they lean on our attitude to understand how to interpret what they're seeing. If we treat it like a mere trick or a laughable gag, so will they. But if they sense that we care about what we're doing, they'll follow that cue.

Taking our magic seriously in this way doesn't mean we must have a serious or intense demeanor—for many performers, a lighthearted approach tends to be more effective for building connections, a second important tool for creating strong magic. Genuinely connecting with the audience, through your authentic personality and your compelling presentation, is crucial for achieving a deeper impact.

Naturally, a magical atmosphere and a personal connection to the audience unlock a third tool—emotion. When your audience feels emotion—joy, regret, surprise, uncertainty, love—their hearts become more open to the effect you've chosen to share. It's our job to carefully guide them to that emotion and, crucially, allow space for those emotions, without rushing past them or deflating them with a tempting one-liner.

Once you've established an appropriate atmosphere and personal connection, and once they become emotionally invested in you and your magic, the stage has been set for your effect. With these mystical ingredients, combined with your more foundational preparation—proper technique, attention to detail, and a thoughtful and elegant method—you stand the best chance possible to give your audience a miraculous and magical feeling¹.

$\Delta\Delta\Delta$: *An Effective Effect*

Blayk Puckett

To learn more about the magical effect, and the craft of guiding our audience to it, I'd happily recommend what just may be my favorite magic book, *The Magic Rainbow*. This is the third book of Juan Tamariz' trilogy of magic theory, a collection that encompasses his thoughts on technique, method, and effect.

Schedule of Events

2023

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
January 13, 2024	7:00 p.m. Jacksonville Community Center	Annual Christmas Show	N/A	
February	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
March	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
April	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
May	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
June	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	TBA		N/A	
August	TBA		N/A	
September	TBA		N/A	
October	TBA		N/A	
November 2	TBA		N/A	
December 9	Ring 29 Christmas Party	Best of the Best	N/A	Dane Dover

* The clubhouse address: 100 Stagecoach Village, Little Rock, Arkansas.

These are our normal meeting gatherings. Any additional activity throughout the month will be listed on the website beginning in August.

*IBM Little Rock Magic Ring 29
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All members of Ring 29 must first be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. I.B.M. Applications can be obtained from http://www.magician.org/membership_application.pdf.

Contact Mr. Magic or any Ring 29 Officer for information on joining the IBM or Ring 29.

Mailing Lists

In addition to this newsletter Members can receive last minute email information on meetings, events, and lectures. If you wish to be added to our email list, please contact *Treasurer Col. James Kinsey*.

www.littlerockmagic.net or www.littlerockmagic.org

Our website has been filled with a wealth of information to assist our members and potential members. New features are being added daily. Check out the Ring 29 Highlights video, the Magicians for Hire page, or the Ring 29 Event Calendar.

Using Ring 29 Email Group

To be added to our email group, contact James Kinsey or Marty Haughn

We now use GOOGLE GROUPS for our email service.

Ring 29 is proud to endorse and support Little Rock's world class Magic Vendor, "Mr Magic"
Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

501-580-2860