



The Performer

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF
LITTLE ROCK RING 29

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Ring 29 meets at 6:45 on first Thursday of the month at Baptist Hospital, Classroom #1
Call Mr. Magic or a Ring 29 Officer for any changes (See back page)

December 2017



Reminder

Details on upcoming lectures will be available soon

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In the News

December brings the magical season of Christmas. During this time of year we celebrate many things. Remember, although this should be year round, think of your fellow man and help someone in need, be it with food, spare change or just something as simple as a comforting conversation.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

In the Spotlight

January 13, 2018 is our annual Christmas Magic Show at the Jacksonville Community Center. I thought it would be nice to see how one of the performers prepares for a show.

On tap is a gentleman who performs regularly not only at our meetings but publicly as well. Let's see what can be learned and talk shop with **Magician Cedric Morley...** (Page 5)

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President's Corner



Jo Jones
President

Members of Ring 29,



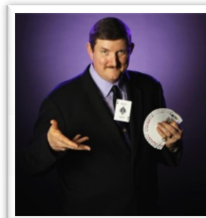
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We had a wonderful Christmas Party at Whole Hog off of Bowman Road. We had 13 present. We were short on attendance, but we had some great magic, lots of fun and laughter, wonderful fellowship, and thanks to Jim Henson, each family walked away with, not one, not two, not three, but four prizes, including some great books, videos and magic tricks! When you do not attend, you miss out big time!!! Thanks, Jim, for donating all of those prizes. We all had fun winning!

We are about to get very busy! The Ring 29 Annual January Christmas Magic Show is Saturday, January 13, 2018, at the Jacksonville Community Center. We will begin serving about 5:00 pm. We will be serving Bar-B-Que from Colby's. We are asking members to please bring desserts. We have a good show lined up. Please ask your family and friends to come join you for some amazing magic.

We will not have our regular meeting in January, but we will see you at the Christmas Magic Show.

We also have Greg Wilson and Tom Burgoon coming to present their lectures for us. One of the lectures will be in February and the other in April or May. James Kinsey will keep us posted on the details....cost, location, date, etc.



I hope that all of you will enjoy spending time your families and friends over the next few weeks. Remember the **Reason for the Season!**

Magically yours,

Jo



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Ring 29 Report



by Gary Fambrough
Secretary

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -

Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets the 1st Thursday of each month, 6:45 pm Classroom #1 at
Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, AR / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.net



It was that special time of year again this month in December. The Little Rock Magic Club met for our annual "Christmas" meeting at Whole Hog restaurant in West Little Rock on December 7th.

Festivities began with great BBQ catered by the restaurant. It's hard to beat the Whole Hog recipe for good food. We reserved the back room so there were plenty of tables and seats for all that came. Additionally, we had some notable attendees this month among our ranks with the likes of Territorial Vice President Larry Bean and Dr. Mary Ann Campbell. Always a pleasure to see them.

Jo Jones started the meeting off with announcements. Things were short and sweet with only 2 announcements. The first of which was that in February, we will have Gregory Wilson come lecture. The exact date has yet to be announced but look for details to come soon. Greg has quite a number of accolades to his name including FISM award winner and regular performer at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. You might have also seen him on Wizard Wars with Penn and Teller.

On April 17th, we have Tom Burgoon coming to lecture. Tom is another pro you won't want to miss. He is seen regularly on the CW's Masters of Illusion. He can be found at the Magic Castle in Hollywood as well throughout the year. If you enjoy walk-around magic, you should attend this lecture because that is one of his specialties.

After these short announcements, we were done with the official meeting and on with the performers.

Serving as Emcee for the evening was the honorable Jim Henson. As everybody knows, Jim is the proprietor of Mr. Magic, the largest magic store in the U.S. In between acts, Jim was kind enough to raffle off some of his inventory of tricks, books, and magic paraphernalia. Each family in the audience came away with at least 4 fabulous items for absolutely free! Thank you so much Jim!

First up was Derrick Rose with his magical rope routine. I'm not sure how but the rope went from one piece to two pieces, back to one piece, then to a continuous loop, then well... you get the idea. He should patent this thing!

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Next up was Dane Dover with his incredible knot remover. No matter how complicated the knot was, as soon as the rope and knot went through Dane's secret PVC knot remover, the knot was magically gone. Wish I had one of these for my shoe strings sometimes.

Dan Hecke was next with two volunteers, Larry Bean and Jo Jones. With Dan's magic instruction, Larry was able to successfully name a card chosen by Jo via mental telepathy. I'm sure it was only due to the rabbit ears (literally) that Larry donned. I think Jo would have made a cuter rabbit though.

I don't think Larry felt like he had enough stage time so he made another appearance as a performer. Using some mentalism tricks of his own, he was able to reveal a card chosen by an audience member. If that weren't enough, he performed a larger than life version of 3 card monte. More amazing than the size of his cards though was the memorization of the rhyme that accompanied the trick. Great job, Larry!

Last but not least was Jo with a Gospel magic trick that was nothing short of a miracle. She threaded multiple spheres onto a solid steel rod with each representing some aspect of our relationship to Christ and God. Ultimately, one of the spheres is magically removed. Could anything be more magical than the love of Christ for us? Awesome!

This wraps up the month of December. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the January Holiday spectacular! Until then, have a magical holiday season!

-- Gary Fambrough



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Check out the photos from December's meeting:



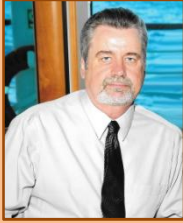
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Photos Courtesy of Gary Fambrough

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In the Spotlight



by Marty Haughn
Editor

CEDRIC MORLEY II



January 2018 is just around the corner and I can see the stage lights already! Yes everyone, it is almost SHOWTIME, once again! This is the "meeting" I look forward to every year.

This month we take a look at the pre-show life of a magician. Cedric is one of this year's performers for our Christmas show and I wanted to know everything he does in preparation to perform and, on through to the end of his performance. As we all can attest, show preparation isn't always that simple. Let's see how Cedric makes this daunting task seem easy...

The Interview

Cedric MorleyII

Age: Top Secret

Favorite Style of Magic: Parlor

Favorite Magician: Dai Vernon, Houdini, David Copperfield



MH: "Ok, you have been selected to perform in our annual Christmas show. Tell us how you determine what you will be performing for us."

CM: "It's a big deal the Christmas Party, so I wanted to pick something that is really cool, something that is unique. I actually bought what I want to use just before the fire and I have been working with it throughout the year but I don't know if I will have it ready by the Christmas party or not. To not give anything away, I chose something I wanted to be visual and can be seen on stage. I wanted to do something that was somewhat classic but a little bit different, something people have not seen yet."

MH: "Now that you have determined what will be performed, how do you prepare yourself for the performance?"

CM: "I try to practice as often as I can. Normally it is at night umm...but yeah, practice that is the main thing. You go through the routine either in your head or with the object in hand. I've read studies where that if you go through it in your head it actually helps you succeed later. Unfortunately, since we are out in the middle of nowhere a lot of my time is in my car so I have little time to really practice during the day. I generally practice my coin rolls and my ring rolls while I'm driving. It ends up with a lot of half dollars stuck between the seats."

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MH: "As all performers of any art know, there are several very particular pre-show preparations which need to be tended to days before a show. For you as a Magician, what are some of these tasks you feel are necessary to address and how do you resolve any issues with them?"

CM: "I'm currently working a resort gig and they have a sound system. I have used it a couple of times but I don't like it. They have a sort of reverb sound to it they like for their country music dancing so I bring my own sound system. For the pre-show prep I do sound checks as well as laying out everything I am going to use in the show in front of me. I then go through everything making sure it is all set up and complete. To help me out I use a set sheet with my basic routine. There are also variations I can use as there is no stage, more like a parlor and I am able to go to tables or even have someone come up to assist. I go through to make sure I get to everything. And, not knowing what kind of audience I will have each time, I bring more stuff than I need. I essentially bring two shows with me a kid's show and an adult show that way I can do what I want. So my set list will have two different things in it. Other than that, pre-show is making sure you look nice, say a little prayer and then do your best, every time. I pray that I put on a good performance for these people."

MH: "Let's say it is now the day before the show. What are you doing to be ready? Tell us how you may be feeling at the time."

CM: "I want to make sure I don't forget anything so today is uh...is 'maintenance day' for the van. Go through and make sure tables, chairs, sound system and everything is in there as we use the van for personal use as well and often times we have to remove some of the magic out to make room. But, other than that, my cases do not get opened until I get to back stage. At the resort I show up an hour before the show to set up and check everything. For birthday parties I'll arrive thirty minutes early but I have everything packed in the cases. I don't generally take those out and mess with them as they are ready to go."

MH: "Just before you are introduced and walk on stage, what is going through your mind at this point? Are you nervous?"

CM: "Well, I generally introduce myself. I've thought about writing an intro for uh... people to introduce me but...um...I just come out and introduce myself 'I'm Cedric, the other entertainer' and that gets some pretty good laughs. What is going through my mind...it's weird...um...I'm nervous when I'm...um...it's embarrassing to say but my pre-show thing is in the bathroom, you know, but that is where I go right before the show, ten, fifteen, twenty minutes before the show, I go down there to tuck in my shirt make sure the shirt looks good and the mic is up...that's where I'm nervous. I'll wash my face, splash a little water and go up and once I step onto the stage I'm on it, you know. Everything is awesome. You look out at the people and you know you are there to entertain them. I don't

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know...it's magic...it's my magic."

MH: "During the performance, How do you keep the nerves from exposing themselves and interfering with your routines?"

CM: "Umm...nerves used to be an issue with uh...and they still are when I work with newer stuff and I don't know how to explain how you direct it...you've got to know your stuff well enough that you can play with the people, that's all you are doing is playing."

MH: "Alright, you are in the middle of one of your routines and the nerves begin to take over, or worse yet, something had gone wrong with the trick. How do you deal with such a situation? Can you provide us a personal anecdote?"

CM: "It's funny, this is (the interview) more stage frightening than being in front of a thousand people! I had a trick go wrong on me where I didn't catch it in the pre-show prep. The trick dealt with a silk and two gimmicks and, unfortunately, one of the gimmicks fell out while on stage. The person already on stage couldn't do anything and the audience really didn't know anything had happened. Essentially, the routine had two "wows" in it and I ended up only having one. I just played it off like nothing went wrong and was successful. Besides, you are performing, how bad could it be?"

"...I was doing a birthday party recently... I had a little ADD boy that I was doing the egg bag routine with and I had him take out the egg because he was running all over the place...it seemed like the thing to do and he grabs it and I didn't realize he had been arguing with his friends whether it is real or fake or not and he drops it to the floor, throws it to the floor. And uh...he's going, "It's fake, it's fake" and runs off. Uhh...I just pick it up and say "Hard Boiled" give a cheesy grin and stick it back into the bag and everybody laughed and kept going. You just have to find some way to diffuse the situation, whatever it is, you know? Kids are going to be kids."

"When you do adult magic, you expect to have a little bit more prestige to it, with that I've not had a heckler try to mess anything up. The most nerve wrecking thing I had happen and it was more of a morals thing than anything."

"I was doing the Mental Epic. So, I was doing Mental Epic and my thing is at the resort, summer time, and I do a camping theme with it. I have them pick a destination, a favorite food, favorite activity and at one point this one lady's favorite food is Pudgy Pies. Everybody is like, what the heck is a Pudgy Pie? Including me, I'm kind of wondering what a Pudgy Pie is. And I guess the expression on my face changes long enough to where one person realizes I don't know what a Pudgy Pie is."

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"I'm supposed to have these things already written down...with the way that it works. So I go through...I make a big deal out of it, the Pudgy Pie thing. I have her describe it. She is from Wisconsin I guess, I don't even know what we call them here. Basically it is a grilled sandwich cooked over a camp fire in one of those Dutch oven things made for the sandwich."

"So a man says, 'If Pudgy Pies is written on that, I'll stick one-hundred dollars in that tip jar!'...and I'm thinking do I, you know, it is going to be written there, do I do it and take his money? At this point I feel like I'm just taking his money, but if I don't do it, I am disappointing an entire audience of people. So, he put a hundred dollars in at the end of the show...that was the coolest thing that ever happened. He held up his end of the bargain...we got to the point where I opened up the slip and there it was, he got up took out his wallet, looked at everybody and walked over stuck it in shaking my hand, giving me a big pat on the back and sat back down. It wasn't a heckling thing but my nerves shot up right then. Taking his money was one of the hardest things to do. I mean, he wanted it to be there too."

MH: "We've all had this happen at some point in a show where the sound system goes sour during a performance. I remember Jimmy Rhodes having such an issue and I had heard some of the audience say they thought it was part of his act by the way he handled things. How have you dealt with the loss of a sound system while still keeping the attention of your audience?"

CM: "I just keep moving. I've had it happen with music and the mic. My music is not my show. My tricks are my show. As long as you can control your show, you'll be good. I have only halted my show one time and that is when I was stung by a wasp five times. It was 110°. Someone brought me a cigarette and I put tobacco on it and a rag then went on with the show. The show must go on."

MH: "Let's say, for example, one of your tricks requires you to go into the audience. How do you determine who to talk to, ask to help or ask to join you on stage?"

CM: "Man, that is a really good question. I am still trying to figure that one out. It depends on the trick. If I'm doing sponge bunnies, I want to go out and find a 'Shirley Temple' little girl everybody is going to think is cute. She IS the star, I'm not the star. In other instances, if I can see out into the audience, I find someone who is having a good time."

MH: "Having someone join you on stage is often times a risk we take as we do not know how an audience member will react. Has there ever been someone who, once on stage or front and center, just did not handle the attention very well?"

CM: "Occasionally, yes. You'll get people who just freeze up there. For the most part, I don't have them doing a lot. Generally the routine is guided. So they are just up there to experience the magic closer."

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MH: "Everyone has a favorite trick/routine they just cannot leave out of a show. Without exposing how things are accomplished, can you tell us about your favorite and what makes it so favored by you?"

CM: "There has been one I've had in my show for years. I do it at the end of every show because it is a beautiful story, not my trick it is a marketed one. Anybody can do it and I highly recommend it because it is such a beautiful story, but it is Barry Mitchell's Mother of all Diamonds. It gets people's attention young and old. It just has a great moral to the story. It is in every show."

MH: "Here we are, the final question. We have a couple of young magicians, who coincidently may be performing in this year's show, what advice would you give them before their performance or to any other young magician wanting to go on stage?"

CM: ...long hesitation..."That's a good question, you know, to uh to give advice to a younger generation is a big thing. Because, sometimes, they really listen to those words and they need to be good and important words. I would say never give up, it doesn't matter what happens if they are on stage, good or bad...don't give up. I've seen magicians get up on stage and get nervous...you just gotta keep trying with it. Practice and don't let the nerves get the best of you."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cedric for taking time out of his busy schedule for this interview. The time spent with Cedric was not only informative but entertaining as well.

Best regards to everyone,
Marty

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Blast from the Past



by Mike Curtis
Historian



This month we will take another look back 60 years to the January, 1958 meeting of the Ring. The President that year was Walter F. Scott and the Secretary was John McCollough Smith. The Ring met monthly at the Albert Pike Hotel. Officers were installed at our January meeting. Members Pritchett, W.M. Smith, Caple, Paquette, Scott and J.M. Smith reported 12 shows were given in December for charitable, civic and business groups. Albert D. Houpt, newly elected vice president, was absent on account of hospitalization following surgery, but he was visited by local magicians who did effects for him, and they report his progress as satisfactory. Also missed pro Noland D. Blass and hope his travels will permit him to get back into the fold soon. The program was emceed by Mr. Zuko (Logan Pritchett) whose effects included stretching strings and card prediction by dark photography. John Paquette, president emeritus of our Ring, presented linking rings, silks and ropes and milk vanish. Dr. W.M. Smith did a manipulation of coins; Walter F. Scott, Don Alan's "Wot Happened." Jimmy Nolting, charter member, did rope routines. J.M. Smith presented coin effects. Joe Poch did safety pin through balloon. Frank Caple, who is rapidly approaching the status of full evening show professional, did the salt cellar thru table routine. After the formal program came the jam session and refreshments."

It appears this meeting was another one full of member participation that put on display some truly classical magic. Let's look forward to this year's annual Christmas party and the gems of magic that will be performed by our current members.

Until next time, remember, the past reminds us of what we should be doing better today.

Your humble historian, Mike Curtis.



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Editor's Note



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the kind words regarding the newsletter, I certainly appreciate it.

There is something I would like to ask everyone: If there is an interesting topic, story or special article you would like to either AUTHOR or REQUEST, please feel free to email me at mjhaughn@gmail.com and I will work on making it happen.

Additionally, I am looking for someone to interview or do a story on for the next newsletter. If you have a certain individual within the Ring you would like to see an article on, please let me know. I'll see about arranging it.

Until then, I would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and hope that the New Year brings you all happiness along with an enjoyable and profitable magical season!

Many thanks again for the opportunity to be your Ring 29 Newsletter editor.

Very Respectfully....
Marty & Tammy Haughn



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President: Jo Jones
jjones@astate.edu

Vice-President: Cedric
Morley II
870-307-3157
morleyfamilymagic@gmail.com

Secretary: Gary
Fambrough
501-6073151
Gaire13@gmail.com

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bob
White
501-749-9209
r.white709@comcast.net

Treasurer: Col. James
Kinsey
501-834-7456
jamesk39@swbell.net

Historian: Mike Curtis
501-517-0926
Djcmgc@aol.com

Webmaster: Bob Bullock
501-920-0718
bbullock20@comcast.net

Newsletter: Marty
Haughn
501-605-3605
mjhaughn@gmail.com



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Membership

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*.

LittleRockMagic.net

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.



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

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