

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)

March 2018

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In the News

Gregory Wilson was our lecturer this month and what a lecture it was. There was a lot of magic to be learned as well as a lot of sensible advice about how to talk to your audience and run your patter.

Next up on the calendar is Tom Burgoon. Like all our lectures, I look forward to the fun in April. Be there or miss out!

In the Spotlight

As many of you may have read from the Yahoo Group emails, James Kinsey was hospitalized after having had a heart attack. James was to be this month's interview and now will be next month's. Without an interview and time to gather one up, I wanted to have something to write about and decided to provide a review of our latest lecture by Gregory Wilson...Additionally, Dennis Schick has provided a review of "The Illusionists" (Page 5)

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President's Corner



Jo Jones
President

Members of Ring 29,

Hello Magician Friends,

We had a very good February Ring 29 meeting! Our guest mini-lecturer was Derrick Rose. He did a great job sharing his *Tear and Restore Napkin* routine with us. We had a good time practicing his techniques and trying to get him to share his jokes and patter. Thanks, Derrick, for sharing your magical talents with us!

Carlos Yang, one of our youngest members, served as emcee for the evening. He also did a great job! This was his first time to be emcee and you could tell that he had prepared and practiced in advance. Thanks, Carlos, for quickly agreeing to be emcee! Good job!

Thanks to those who performed magic for us: Aaron Acosta, Cedric Morley, Bob Bullock, Travis Caudle, Rob Merryman, Adrian Steelman, Carlos Yang, and Jo Jones. By the time you receive this newsletter, we would have already had Gregory Wilson for a lecture! I hope you were there to support Gregory and the Ring. Our next lecturer will be Tom Burgoon on April 17th.

Emcee for the March 1st meeting will be Adrian Steelman, our other youngest member. Come and show your support for these young magicians who are at all Ring 29 meetings and do whatever we ask them to do.

Our mini-lecturer will be Daniel Gladstone who will be sharing information about a monthly box of magic you can get for kids. They get a secret code in their box each month that enables them to watch the tricks being performed on a computer site so they can practice them correctly. Someone has come up with a great idea! Where was this when we were younger? Put Ring 29 meeting on your to do list for March 1st. This might be something your children or grandchildren might be interested in.

We are beginning to make plans for a close-up competition in May and an auction in June. In the meantime, start working on a routine for the competition and go through your magic tricks to some find magic you would like to sell. Watch for the newsletter and messages from James Kinsey for additional details, or better yet, come to the March and April meetings and get the information you need to participate in both events.

Dues are due! If you have not paid your dues, please send them to James Kinsey as soon as possible. Thank you! Thanks everyone for all of your support!

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

...**A**nd now back to our regularly scheduled meetings. Ring 29 met Thursday, February 1st at 6:45 pm for our first regular club meeting of 2018. We had a nice group of 16 members and guests present. Club President, Jo Jones, presided over the meeting and started off with announcements.

First up was mention of our wonderful Christmas program. A good time was had by all in January. Details about the meeting can be found in February's club newsletter on <http://littlerockmagic.net>.

Next up was the announcement everyone has been waiting for; Gregory Wilson will be lecturing in Classroom #1, Baptist Hospital, on February 12th beginning at 7pm! Cost is \$20 per person. The magic doesn't end there either. **Tom Burgoon will be lecturing on April 17th**, location to be determined.

Derrick Rose will be on the infield at Oaklawn the last three weeks of March and the first week in April. While you are there checking him out, drop by Maxwell Blade's new magic theater in Hot Springs. You won't be disappointed.

Finally, club business ends with an announcement that club membership fees are due. Make your checks for \$25 out to IBM Ring 29 at 8901 Merrymen Rd, Sherwood, AR 72120.

We open our magic portion of the meeting with a mini-lecture from none other than Derrick Rose. He's explaining a great routine of 'Torn and Restored Napkin.' This is a great routine you can perform anywhere. The best thing about it is almost any napkin can be used and can be found almost anywhere you want to perform this trick.

Following our lecture, the Emcee for the evening was Carlos Yang. I can't say enough about Carlos... he's a great showman and performer in his own right. Carlos opened up the night was a Star Trek improv routine that delighted everyone present.

Cedric Morley was first up with the Rubik's Stick. He said it was easier than the Rubik's cube but it is all light years beyond me. Next up was club webmaster, Bob Bullock, with some rubber band magic. He demonstrated Dean Dill's unlink presentation. Bob is a professional so it was no stretch for him. Aaron Acosta followed with a blank paper to bill transformation. I think he could make a fortune with this trick! Ever seen an Omni Deck? Well, Adrian Steelman performed the Omni Deck flawlessly. It went over like a lead brick which in this case is a good

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thing! Travis Caudle performed some modern sponge ball magic producing them right out of his cellphone's digital screen. I'd "call" that amazing! Carlos Yang made a signed quarter vanish and then reappear inside of a sealed box of cards which was sealed inside of a plastic baggie. You could say the quarter was signed, sealed, and delivered. Last but not least was Jo Jones with a great production box routine. Jo miraculously transformed a box full of air into a box full of multi-colored silks. Color me impressed!

That's it for this month's meeting. Already looking forward to March! Until then...

Have a magical month!

-- Gary Fambrough

NEWS FLASH!

Just wanted to provide a quick update on meeting minutes for Ring 29. The January (Christmas party) and February (regular meeting) minutes will appear side by side in the April issue of the "Linking Ring" magazine.

Incidentally, you can also find them each month in our newsletter available for download on the ring website at: www.littlerockmagic.net

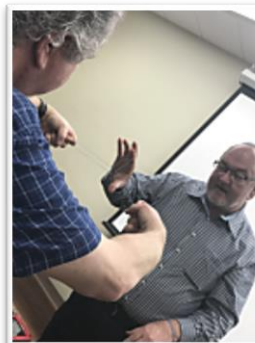
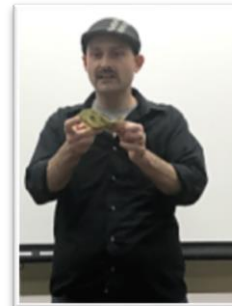
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Thanks,

Gary

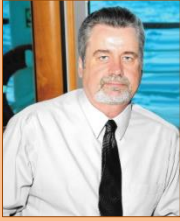
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February Meeting Performers



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In the Spotlight



by Marty Haughn
Editor

Let me begin with this...prior to the lecture I had been reading reviews and a little background on Mr. Wilson and to be honest, some of the reviews were not favorable. I am not one to fall into the trap of someone's rant about how terrible or unprofessional they find other magicians and this time was no different. The thought of complaining about or speaking of how terrible a fellow magician is well, not only unprofessional but is damaging to the craft. This leads me to the lecture.

Upon first meeting Mr. Wilson, I felt as though he was genuine and excited about the lecture. As all professionals should, he properly introduced himself and engaged in conversation with everyone he met.

Just before the lecture began, I took note of the full house in attendance and to me that spoke volumes to how good this lecture may be. To see that many Ring members and family ready to witness this magician's lecture was encouraging. Up to this point, and in my short tenure as a Ring 29 member, my favorite lecturer has been Diamond Jim Tyler...that is until this night.



Gregory Wilson

From the word go, the lecture went wild and so did the audience. We didn't begin with any magic but yet everyone was in stitches with the goings on. For those not in attendance, you missed one of the best beginnings of a lecture I have every witnessed.

Terry Steelman ("Adrian's Dad"☺) came into the room, realized there were no empty seats, then left to go find one. When he returned, he had lugged a large chair from the lobby of the hospital and was attempting to find a suitable location to place it. Well, this is where it all began. Mr. Wilson stepped to assist and had the front row open a large gap in the seating arrangement dead center of the row and insisted he become comfortable but to look around at everyone else who had school style chairs with a fold down desk top, *the lap of luxury*. The laughter began. From this point on, things got crazier and crazier as "Adrian's Dad" became the long term volunteer.



It began innocently enough with a poker chip ("*Angry Man*") appearing and disappearing only to be found, to his amazement, on Terry's shoulder. It got better when the chip disappeared again with no reappearance on the shoulder but

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"amazingly', fell from the sky! The look on Terry's face was priceless. Eventually, the story transitioned into the "*Polite Pick Pocket*" where a coin was doing the same thing as the chip only to be told it was being taken from the pocket. The next thing you know, things were quickly being borrowed from Terry's pockets and disappearing (into the audience) without Terry's knowledge, this included his stash of all things, cigarette butts! The antics continued even while Terry was sitting in his comfortable chair. Those same items which had been returned were disappearing again...back to the audience...including his jacket!

The laughter never stopped. Gregory Wilson was not only a good magician but a fantastic comedian as well. This, we all know, is the perfect combination for entertaining your audience. Now comes the best part. Everything he performed was demonstrated with complete instructions, as it would be expected during a lecture. All instructions were clear and detailed so there were no mistakes in how each trick was performed. Of course, some of the techniques are well known to magicians, but that didn't make things any less entertaining or interesting.

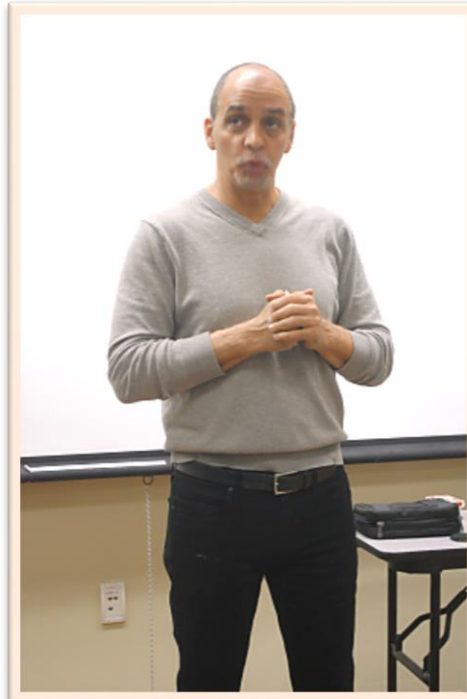
Derrick Rose became the next victim to fall prey to the "*Polite Pick Pocket*". This time the challenge was to remove Derrick's watch without him knowing it was taken. Problem was, Derrick was told this was going to happen. As it turned out, his watch was one of those with an unusual band which seemed to make things difficult. Mr. Wilson went into his patter as a "*Polite Pick Pocket*" and when things come to a close with Derrick, the audience noticed the watch was gone! It was a riot because Derrick had no clue. The lecture continued with more craziness with "Adrian's Dad" and now included Mike Jones.

I could go on and on but be it known, those who were not at the lecture missed a really good one. My top hat is off to Gregory Wilson for performing and teaching like the pro he is...a week after having had a heart attack! Simply amazing!

My review of the lecture has concluded, however, a request for more was provided by our own Dennis Schick. His suggestion actually dates to some thirty years ago and has come back around. The request is this: As magicians, we often have the opportunity to see other magician's shows. Having said that, it has been requested that when you attend a show, watch a show on television or attend an event which features a magician, please take a moment of your time and write up a review of the experience. Be honest but polite. I, for one, would be interested in knowing about upcoming shows anyone is doing and would be happy to provide a review of my own. Ok Dennis...it is on you now...you are up! Show them how it is done sir!

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More photos from the lecture



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Review of The Illusionists

by Dennis Schick

I went to the 5 pm performance of “The Illusionists — Live from Broadway” on February 3 at Robinson Auditorium. Our seats were in the fifth row, but we still appreciated the close-up camera and big screen. I’m glad we were that close and would have hated being in the back of the theater or the balcony.

It was a good magic show overall, especially for the layman. But I was a bit disappointed that it lasted only about an hour-and-a-half. Most movies are longer than that. Also, one of the magicians — An Ha Lin, “The Manipulator” — had only one main set. And while his producing cards was impressive, it went on too long. He should have switched to one or two other card effects, such as spinning cards out into the audience, like Jeff McBride does. He did do a short bit at the end to close the show, which was impressive.

The show opening was well done, with Colin Cloud — “The Deductionist” — going through some fancy manipulations with audience members to get a long number (2,318,506) which turned out to be the jaw-dropping prediction of that day’s date (2/3/18) and the exact time the effect happened (5:06). I also liked his later set during which he read the minds of several audience members. His appearance on “America’s Got Talent” last year made him familiar to the audience. (He still has weird hair, and even kidded about it.)

The whole show was emceed by comedy magician Jeff Hobson (“The Trickster”). He is a pro funny man and kept the show moving and the audience laughing. He had fun with an egg bag routine, as well as his version of torn-and-restored-thread (complete with verse and many puns).

The non-magician of the five-person cast, John Goodwin (“The Daredevil”), performed two stunt sets — one rather tame, hanging upside down while a fire burned through the rope holding him while he got out of handcuffs; and a more interesting crossbow stunt involving a girl assistant (and a surprise second girl reveal).

My favorite was Kevin James (“The Inventor”), who performed all his famous signature effects, including his commercial floating-tissue-rose-to-real-rose, and his snowstorm production, as well as his cutting-a-man-in-half-with-a-chainsaw illusion. I had seen all of these on television before (as well as had seen David Copperfield do the rose bit in Robinson). I also bought the rose trick at Mr. Magic.

All in all, it was a solid magic show, and probably satisfied most of the non-magician audience. I am curious if the 8 pm show was longer, and I wish they had a couple of big, stage illusions which their promotional video showed and which some people

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expected. Tickets were a bit pricey, and other magicians in Hot Springs and Branson give more for the money. But the full house still proves the general public loves live magic.

Thanks Dennis, very much appreciated.

I would like to add that my family and friends (row 17) attended the same showing and all were very entertained. If I were to have to choose a favorite from the group it would have to be Jeff Hobson and Kevin James...but I cannot leave out Colin Cloud.

To the other end of opinion, I was a bit disappointed that Dan Sperry did not perform. The program being sold in the lobby made it appear there were other magicians in the group but were not performing. I'll chalk it up to a rotation process based on schedules.

The program also mentioned two other shows: From the producers of The Illusionists, Circus 1903 is coming soon, and touring internationally "The Illusionists 1903 - Discovering the Golden Age of Magic" I hope they both make it to Arkansas!

-Marty

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Blast from the Past



by Mike Curtis
Historian

This month's report is a 40 year journey back to the March, 1978 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Bo Spray and the Secretary was Jim Henson. The Ring met monthly at Winfield United Methodist Church.

"At our March meeting we were honored to have two new members accepted into our Ring. After our business portion, we went into the magic program with Logan as Emcee.

Mike Curtis started the evening by calling new member Jim Schmidt to help by taking a blue deck of cards and picking one card at random. Mike produced a matching card from a red deck without knowing the card chosen. Mike also did the Hindu Bead Mystery using Al Houpt and Jeron Gray as assistants and, with Al's handkerchief (dirty of course), performed without flaw. He passed two ropes for examination and placed them around his neck and with a few magic words pulled the ropes though without injury. Next was Bob who started with a card trick and then proceeded to destroy his act by breaking some of the tricks he had on stage. Out of nowhere, he produced a Malini Egg Bag (really from under his pants leg) and made an egg disappear and a toy car reappear. Bob had a little trouble because he couldn't read the instructions fast enough to keep up with trick. Pastor Hughes and Jim Schmidt helped an unborn chicken Bob produced from the empty bag. The crummy act of the evening was performed by Bob by taking a deck with a chosen card and putting them along with a box of bread crumbs and two raw eggs into a paper bag. After a good mixing, the bag was torn and the previously chosen card was uniformly covered with the bread crumbs with everything else being a mess.

Pastor Hughes closed by making two pieces of string become one. Very good. We had a terrific evening and would like you to visit us."

That was an especially memorable evening for this writer since it was an initiation performance before some very talented magicians. The effects were simple but the magical journey with the Ring that started that night continues to be exceptional. How the sands of time quickly disperse.

Until next time, remember, the past was once our future. Let's continue to create a great past on a daily basis.

Your humble historian, Mike Curtis.

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President: Jo Jones

jjones@astate.edu

Vice-President: Cedric
Morley II

870-307-3157

morleyfamilymagic@gmail.com

Secretary: Gary Fambrough
501-607-3151

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.



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