



THE PERFORMER



IBM Little Rock Ring 29

November 2018

In the News

Haunted Argenta Presents: The Spirits of Christmas

Christmas time is a time for family and togetherness. It is a time of warm greetings, fireplaces and gifts. It is also a time when it gets dark very early, creepy elves move around your house at night and you wait for a fat man to break into your house while hoofed beasts destroy your roof.

In The Spirits of Christmas, we will examine the darker side of Christmas. Where did Santa Claus come from? Who is Krampus and why is he tied to Christmas? Have you heard of La Befana, the Italian Christmas witch? We will see if we even conjure up some spirits of Christmas. This is just a taste of what you will experience.



This show is highly audience interactive and mixes history with performance, illusions and mentalism. It isn't all dark and creepy though. The show is full of comedy and fun. After all, we all want a little Christmas Cheer, but you may also leave with some Christmas chills. www.hauntedargenta.com

Cavalcade of Magic 2019

It's time to start preparing to go to the Cavalcade of Magic, March 28-30, 2019. We have some great talent coming this year and plans are shaping up nicely. *David Sandy, Randall Eller, and Duane Laflin* are among our lecturers for this year. We will have our annual auction on Thursday night and will include some items from Marvin Long's collection.

In keeping with the last couple of years, any and all who pre-register will be placed in a drawing for a Free Registration for the next Cavalcade. You can register and pay on PayPal to ibmring75@att.net. Please leave your name and send as a friend. The price is still a low \$75 for the entire family.

You can reserve your rooms at the Best Western, Inn of the Ozarks online or at **800-552-3785**. There are special room rates until the end of February, so reserve your room before then if you can. Be sure and mention IBM Ring 75 Magicians to get the rates.

Sneak Peek

"...Oh wow...uh, I first got started with magic in college, it was my senior year and I was working at Disney World in Florida as a "Jungle Cruise" skipper. So I had met a magician at the Magic Kingdom..."
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Scheduled Lecturers for 2019:
Bernardo Sedlacek
March 2019
Scott Alexander
April 2019

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President's Corner

by Jo Jones, Ring 29 President

Fellow Magicians,

Ring 29 met for the November meeting and had a really fun time! Our group was smaller than previous meetings, but that did not deter us from having a very magical night. We voted to invite two lecturers in the spring. Bernardo Sedlacek may be here in early March and Scott Alexander will be here April 26. Please watch for more information about these two magicians in the coming months in the President's Corner of the Ring 29 Newsletter.

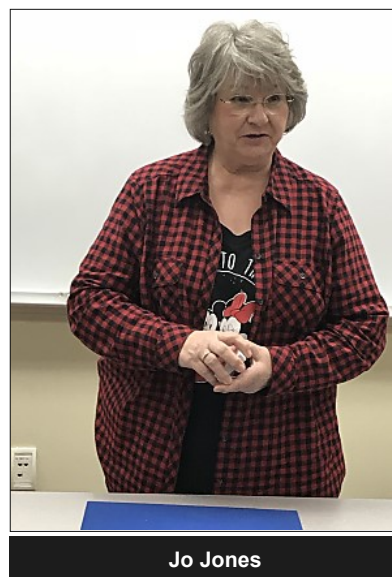
Jon Bucher was our mini-lecturer for the meeting. Jon reviewed how to be a good effective emcee. There was a request for him to do this for the Ring. We all need to know the proper way to introduce fellow magicians. Jon gave us a nice handout and shared examples of ways to do an introduction correctly. Thanks, Jon, for sharing your expertise with us!

Jim Henson was our emcee for the evening. And he was much more than an emcee,...he was Santa Claus!!! He did a great job! He also gave away lots and lots of prizes out to those members present. We all went home with a lot of goodies from books to DVDs to magic tricks and props. When you don't come, you miss out! Jim has done this at several meetings. Thanks, Jim, for emceeing for the magic portion of our meetings, and thanks for bringing your bag of goodies!

Thanks to all of our performers for the evening. Everyone did a great job! When you come and participate our meetings are so much more fun and definitely more entertaining! Free show once a month at the Ring 29 monthly meeting!!! Come!!!

The next meeting will be December 6 at 6:45pm in Baptist in Classroom #1. Please try to be there. Dane Dover, who had to cancel last month, will be the mini-lecturer. He will be presenting a lecture on Impromptu Magic. Jon Bucher is the emcee for the meeting.

Watch for information about our January Christmas Show at the Jacksonville Community Center.



Jo Jones

Put January 12th on your calendar now. Sneak preview: Derrick Rose is our emcee!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

But, first, see you December 6 at Baptist!

Magically yours,

Jo



Ring 29 Report

by Gary Fambrough, Ring 29 Secretary

Ring 29 met Thursday, November 1st at 6:45 pm in Classroom #1 at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock, AR. We had a nice gathering with 16 members and guests present. As is the norm, club President, Jo Jones, presided over the meeting and started off with announcements.

A few things to mention are calendar changes (noted in the calendar handout) and a vote on inviting 2 lecturers to Little Rock early next year. Bernardo Sedlacek and Scott Alexander were both passed by majority vote. Bernardo will be with us around the week of March 21st and Scott will be with us in April.

Speaking of March dates, The Cavalcade of Magic convention in Eureka Springs moves back to the 28th, 29th, and 30th of March. This should not conflict with our lecturer.

Additionally, we'd like to welcome Gerry Bailey and his wife, Judy, back to the club and to the state in general. If you are needing locksmith services, Gerry is your man! Perfect occupation for a magician wouldn't you say?

The order of business was short so we moved on to the performance portion of our meeting.

Jim Henson had the honor of emceeing the night's events. Intermixed with performances, Jim also raffled off some great magic items. More on that later. What would we do without his generosity?

Up first was Jon Bucher with a mini lecture on being an emcee. We learned some great tips from the legend himself. Jon provided a handout with lots of information and ideas on introductions. If this lecture didn't help you then there is no helping you.



Gary Fambrough

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Following Jon, we had a ton of performers... maybe more than we've had all year at any single meeting. We had Ralph Felder, Joel Nicholson, Cedric Morley, Jim Henson, Adrian Steelman, Carlos Yang, Gary Fambrough, Derrick Rose, Jon Bucher, and Jo Jones.

Some highlights included Ralph, assisted by Gerry Bailey, with Knots off Silk; Joel, assisted by Armilda Morley, using the classic magicians choice on not so classic Subway cup lids; and Cedric Morley, assisted by Ralph Felder, with an amazing coins across performance.

But, that's not all folks. Adrian conjured up a prediction that manifested itself as the 4 of hearts engraved on his finger ring. Gary, assisted by Derrick Rose, blindly produced Derrick's card pick, while Carlos showed us all how we could win the lottery.

Derrick, assisted by Gary Fambrough, performed a paddle routine with knives and a variation of the triumph card trick. This might have been my favorite of the evening despite being chosen as the guinea pig. Jon followed this up with a bunch of horse play in a players reader theater setting. Last but not least, Janie Nicholson assisted Jo Jones with an Ace production using 4 stacks of cards.

It wouldn't be a night of magic without mentioning that Jim Henson performed a ton of tricks himself while giving away all his props. These included but were not limited to "knockout", chain and ring, Age of Dragons card deck, Phantom Burn DVD, Cups and Balls (actually performed by Carlos Yang), D'lite, Joshua Jay DVD, Mark Mason DVD, Shrinking Card Box, PK Pencil, Color cube, Triple Deck, and a Zero Gravity DVD.

Many thanks to all in attendance and to Mr. Magic (Jim Henson) for his kind generosity.

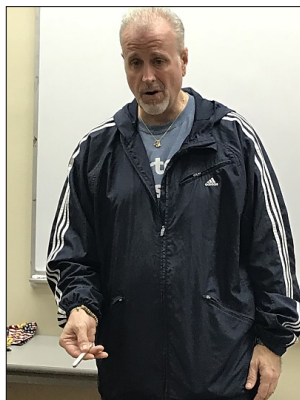
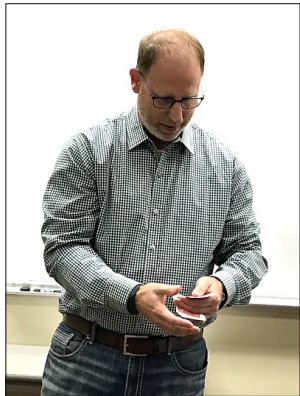
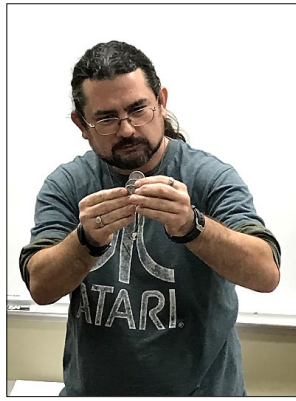
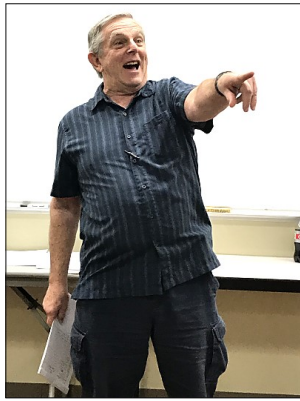
.... And that's all he wrote. Looking forward to seeing everyone on December 6th in classroom #1. See you then!

Gary Fambrough



Chameleons are lousy gamblers

November Performers





DERRICK ROSE



In the Spotlight

by Marty Haughn, Ring 29 Newsletter Editor

This month I had the privilege to interview someone who travels a lot to perform, is considered a local celebrity and appears on the Friday Morning Show on THV 11 in Little Rock. Just recently, I was able to have this entertainer captured in his car and on the phone heading back from a wedding performance in Kansas City, Missouri. Ladies and gentlemen, let's talk with Magician Derrick Rose.

MH: Tell us how you got started in magic and what led you to the style you now perform.

DR: Oh wow...uh, I first got started with magic in college, it was my senior year and I was working at Disney World in Florida as a "Jungle Cruise" skipper. So I had met a magician at the Magic Kingdom and picked up two or three tricks to entertain people who were waiting in line to get on the Jungle Cruise ride and it helped to break the ice with the girls...being a single guy. It was two-fold but it was mainly to keep the people entertained while standing in line while waiting over an hour sometimes to get on the Jungle Cruise. That is how I picked up my first three or four tricks.

I came back to Little Rock after that and found Jim's store in the Heights. At that point I was just an amateur, do a few tricks kind of magician and uh...somewhere down the road, of course, joined the magic club. My first paid gig I started filling in for the magician at Shorty Smalls. I am trying to think who was there before me but Wells Autry I believe turned me on to filling in at Shorty Smalls in West Little Rock. I started performing as a fill-in at the beginning then turned into the guy that did it for over ten years at that point.

MH: So what led you to the style you do now? Is it the same?

DR: You know, what led me to the style I am doing now...I probably never would have gotten to do stage, I was only a close-up guy in the beginning and



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thought that is all I wanted to do. One day I was doing Sunday Brunch at Shorty Smalls and Robin Richardson who was on channel eleven (THV 11) had come in with her family and saw me performing. I did some magic for her and her kids and she goes, "You know, we have this new weather man on Channel 11 and I think that you would be perfect to go out with him to elementary schools on Friday mornings and do some magic while he is doing the news. Would you be interested in doing that?" I said, "Well, heck yeah, I'd love to do that sort of thing." So I had never even performed at a birthday party at that point. I had done about five years of close-up magic at Shorty Smalls. I started going out with Tom Brannon early on Friday Mornings and performing magic. By virtue of being the guy on television I began quickly getting phone calls for birthday parties and festivals and company events. So, I had to quickly get a real show together because of the sudden calls for birthdays and festivals started rolling in which I still do. The style became...uh...the magic, as an entertainer sort of drug me into it rather than the other way around.

I grew up in a musical family. Terry Rose my older brother who wrote the Arkansas State Song and was a singer and local celebrity because he was the guy who sung *Christmas Time in Arkansas* with Ed Perme and I was the sound guy. I just did magic as a side deal and filling in for people and all of a sudden I am put on the television with Tom and people started calling me for real shows. I always watched Terry perform watching the audience and play off their emotions so by virtue of really an accident and I was drug into performing in a way. I started performing in the magic show and doing festivals and of course started studying them to find out who was my favorite and what was my style. I was never a "Big Box" guy I always liked the comedy, Terry did a lot of comedy in his show. So, I started studying guys like Dane Williams and Simon Lovell and just eating up Mac King and found that this is what I really loved to perform was that style of magic. That comedy type stuff...and so that's really out of necessity that I came up with my style of magic. I was passing up so many shows...I hated to do that...and I wanted to be able to perform the stage shows and the birthday parties and so I kind of backed into my style and it was always the close up stuff that I performed and I learned by studying people like Doc Eason back in the day. Who else did I study...Simon Lovell...I devoured...there used to be a magazine called *Magic Menu*. Jim Sisti put it out. They had a lot of magicians in there that contributed all the close-up stuff so I studied their style. Oh, who is the guy from Penguin Magic...uh...umm...oh what is his name, he is bald now and I get an email from him every day now. He is the one who came up with *Holy Moly*, you what I am talking about? Anyway really started out as a close-up guy had had to come up with a show. In the beginning, you know, I had bigger illusions and used to do a few of those but frankly I have since gone into the play big-pack small type show so I can go anywhere and pack it in a Prius.

MH: Are you referring to Jay Sankey?

DR: Yes! Jay Sankey. I used to just devour his stuff, you know, the early tricks by Jay Sankey and Simon Lovell and anything in the *Magic Menu*. There weren't too many videos back in the day and if you had one they were on VHS so I read a lot. Now, if there isn't a video with it I am disgusted! (*laughter*)

MH: Why do you like being a magician?

DR: You know, I am almost a prop comic to tell you the truth. My magic has always been heavy...if a trick doesn't in some way have a comic gag or a twist to it, its rare that I leave it in my show. I like the comedy aspect of it. I want it to be funny...I'm not big on serious magic. I've not done the beautiful dove magic it just never appealed to me to try and perform that stuff. I'm looking for a comedy twist...I always enjoy making people laugh. Like I say, I am nearly as much a prop comic as I am a magician.

MH: Which magicians do you believe are the most influential to you?

DR: Dave Williams, Mac King, The Amazing Jonathan, Penn & Teller and even recently Piff the Magic Dragon...love his stick which I think is just brilliant. Who else? Gazzo and there are some styles of street magic that are just brilliant. The ability of someone to get out and make a living doing that just absolutely amazes me. I've only tried it a couple of times...I mean most of the time when I tried street magic I am being paid by the event to do street magic. Whether I get a dollar in my hat or one-hundred fifty dollars it doesn't matter to me. Frankly, it takes a lot of the pressure off I think and probably doesn't make you as edgy. Oaklawn hired me over the last five or six years to do magic out in the infield during the weeks leading up to Derby Day and I do a lot of street magic and balloon twisting which I have done a lot of lately for some reason. But they pay me well to be there and on top of that I get a pretty decent amount of tips which makes for a great way to work, Not only are you getting paid well but you are getting tipped well. I like the street magic of Gazzo and who else...Jimmy Talks a lot...those guys absolutely fascinate me, they're brilliant. If you are doing that and making a living you can work anywhere.

Who else did I...yeah, we were talking about who influenced me the most I guess. One of my biggest thrills was getting to work with Michael Finney. A few years ago Michael Finney performed at *Maxwell Blade's Magic Festival*. He was somebody who I have always loved his style of comedy magic. One of those guys whose show I would like to have as successful as. Getting to work with people you have admired like Michael Finney and...oh uh...oh gosh, I've done card to ceiling maybe tens of thousands of times and got to work with...what is his name?

MH: Are you thinking of Michael Ammar?

DR: Yep! I got to work with Michael Ammar, again, somebody that I watch and was a bit intimidated. I watched his act at Maxwell's Festival and heck, I didn't even realize how many of his lines I have stolen. That stuff pops out of my mouth like it was mine and I realize that thirty years or so ago I must have studied him real close because he was spouting off these lines and I realized, that's my line! But its not because I got it from his tapes. After studying him and using those lines I just thought they were mine. Ammar and Finney...those guys are brilliant. The new guys today...I'm not a big...well, I don't want to go on the negative. Some of the guys of today are not bad...Shin Lim...the most amazing thing I have ever seen ever. I was friends with him on Instagram even before he performed on *America's Got Talent* and I knew he was amazing even then. These card manipulators that are coming out...well, I'll never be able to do it. I think they are unbelievable. David Blaine and Chris Angel are OK to me but Shin Lim is another level of amazing that I haven't seen ever.

MH: Who is your favorite magician and why?

DR:*long pause*..... You know...Mac King. Probably my favorite because he does a magic show that is amazing, it's family friendly, you could do it for your Mom...you could do it in front of the President of the United States and in a comedy club in Vegas. Now that is hard to do. A clean show that if you did it at a comedy club (*cell dead zone for a moment*) and every other word was #%@*%. How you do that I think is unbelievable. Of all the magicians I follow and have a show as rock solid I would like it to be like Mac King.

MH: Locally you have become a celebrity. Do you get used to that idea and can you tell us your favorite encounter with the public?

DR: My favorite encounter. I guess my favorite encounter would be...I have been lucky enough to have been on Channel Eleven for almost fifteen years on Friday mornings so a lot of people got to know me. About six years ago, I am friends with a guy named Bobby Randall who plays steel guitar for a band called *Confederate Railroad*. He was in town for the State Fair and I picked up Bobby at his tour bus and took him to dinner. We were heading back to the State Fair and I am going into the gate and the girl at the gate looks at me and goes, "Oh my gosh, you're the Magic Man!" Had no clue who Bobby was whatsoever. He is sitting in the car with me and looks at me and goes, "Well damn Derrick, I don't guess they care if I am here or not! I'm glad you're with me." They let me in free and he was getting ready to show his pass to get in. He is wearing this big thing around his neck and they wave me in without even looking at his credentials. So that was probably the coolest thing that ever happened and he just shook his head and said, "Well, that's a first." (*laughter*) Waved into the fair and back stage without ever looking at his credentials.

MH: So, do you ever get used to the idea of being a celebrity around Central Arkansas?

DR: Oh, I guess. It's kind of not like it used to be. I've not done so many live spots any more so, I still get recognized at Walmart and here and there occasionally. I'm doing a couple of commercials coming out online for *homeloans.arkansas.gov* so I'm still doing things occasionally that are out there. I don't know. It is one of those things I feel more blessed than anything else when people recognize me, you know, its always...I've gotten to where I never walk out the door without magic tricks. When they recognize you, you had better be ready to do something and be in and out in thirty seconds because I can promise you...when you are trying to do a magic trick and there are three people behind you that want to check out and get a Coke, they're not happy about it. You've gotta do something quick so I've learned...mostly it is *MISMADE BILL* or something like that where I can do really quick before the people behind me start grumbling. I think success is being at the right place at the right time and being able to back up about fifty percent of what you say you can do. I think that is what happened being in the right place at the right time and have been lucky enough to be there and be able to back up about half of about everything I said I could accomplish. I've been blessed to be able to do something I love to do. I've never been a full-timer and always though I probably should but as I get close to retirement I probably will go into magic full time. The ability to perform and not worry about things and retirement is something most professionals do not have. I feel pretty lucky to have had the amount of

publicity I have had, the celebrity I've had and that's pretty comfortable.

MH: If you were not a magician what would you be up to now?

DR: Probably be a photographer, maybe a professional photographer. What had happened is that magic started as a hobby that got out of control. So as a hobby, photography...i have the same passion for it as I do with magic. I would have poured myself into photography as I did with magic. But it is a third hobby of mine in life and I do love it. It is part of what I do in my day job which is a *Public Relations* guy. I do design and layout having graduated before the days of digital graphic arts and have self-taught what I know about it. A lot of that has changed over time. It would probably have become the second income and one of these days may still wind up being a second or third income for me, I don't know. I love it. I think I am good at it having won an award last year. I won first place in Arkansas' mobile photography competition winning an eight-hundred dollar cell phone for my photograph of the *Buffalo River*.

MH: If there were one magic act, trick or prop you could choose from, what would be the most interesting to you and why?

DR: Oooo...One magic act, trick or prop...ah...Well, it would have to be funny. I don't know, I would have to...*Oh know...don't tell me I am getting pulled over getting a ticket! Hold on, I've got a Trooper with his lights on behind me...hold on just a second...I'm crossing my fingers he goes around...uhhhhhhhhhhhh thank goodness, yes he did (as I hear the siren blast by him over the phone). That's always a heart stopper. Ok...there's a magic trick right there!*

I'm trying to think, what's my favorite prop. I don't know about the magic act...my favorite act would have to be Mac King's. I'd steel his act in a heart beat. Magic trick...if I could only have one...I would have to divide it and don't think I could pick one. Between my *Sponge Bunnies* and *TT* it is hard to decide. I don't know which one to choose. The *TT* is so versatile you can do so many things with but I have to say that I have gotten a lot of mileage out of the *Sponge Bunnies*. If I got to carry only one thing around with me it would probably be my *TT*.

MH: What is the strangest mistake you have ever made during a performance and how did you recover?

DR: The worst magic flub I remember is doing the disappearing water trick on the air with Tom and I poured water into the third cup, you know, you pour the water in the first cup then the second cup and finally it disappears from the third cup. So I pour water into the third cup and grab a pencil to poke a hole into the Styrofoam cup and the slush power falls out of the cup and the cameraman follows it to the ground like that is supposed to happen. I look up stunned when it happened...I look at Tom and he looks at me and I look back to the camera and say, "Sometimes folks magic looks like it is fun but it isn't." That was all I could say. Occasionally, magic looks like it is fun. That is probably the worst flub and it was live on the air. Pay no attention to the sponge on the floor!

MH: What is the most rewarding part of being a magician?

DR: Sometimes you are lucky enough to touch people in ways that you never know. I've had people come back after I have performed restaurant stuff and not knowing what their troubles are or what they are going through, people that may be going to the hospital...or maybe there had been a death or whatever it may have been. You have been able to touch them not knowing what their day has been like and cheered them up. You've made a difference in their day. I think we do that all the time not knowing that we have made someone's day a little bit better with what we were able to do. Knowing that we sometimes get paid to do that is a benefit but having touched people's hearts...we can brighten people's days...and we are lucky enough that they want us to do that. That is the most rewarding thing you know. People will come back a year later sometimes and say we had just had a death in the family and you came to our table and you made our day so much better or someone was going to the hospital. Those sorts of things happen all the time and you just never know. The ability to put a smile on and cheer somebody up on maybe one of their worst days of their lives and you are able to change that.

For people who are having a great day and help them celebrate you make it a special day. Just like this weekend, where I did the *Anniversary Waltz* for the wedding couple and they were so surprised that the card...where the Groom signs one card and the Bride signs another and their card turns into one and the sense of amazement while they are trying to pry that card apart. They'll have that the rest of their lives. Even on a bad day sometimes it is the highlight of their day and when people are having one of their best days you get to make it even more special. Who gets to do that sort of thing other than a magician?

MH: Of all the trick and props in your inventory, what would you say is the most difficult for you to perform and why?

DR: Mentalism tricks are always difficult for me. Especially if you are trying to do real time predictions. A lot of those you are doing “one ahead” principles...magicians will know what I am talking about. You are trying to keep something in mind and wanting to get those real time predictions and you are focused on your audience and their reactions, but you have to also keep in mind what they are saying and memorize it so you are able to get that right at the end of the show.

For me, it is hard to do a mentalism act and be funny. Most of them are really serious so finding a mentalism trick that is funny is challenging. Putting a funny twist to them is difficult and I want to do that sort of thing and on top of that you are holding on to something they have said for who knows how long so that you are able to do that prediction later on in the show. In my opinion, being able to perform a good mentalism trick and pull it off has got to be the most challenging part of my show.

I just added a trick by Bill Abbott called *Nobrainier* where I drew a picture of a blind date that predicts a type of flower they'll have on their date and whatever date their special date is on and am able to predict the month and the year they tell me their special date happened. And then they decide what celebrity they want to go on this date so at the end of my show in front of everybody from an envelop that has been on the stage the entire time, and I am an act that works by itself, inside of the envelop all of that is already written on a giant piece of paper. It is a trick I do as the ending of my show. It is one of those where you have to have a presence of mind to be able to pull it off because it is not only knowing sleight of hand but there is a certain amount of memorization to get it right. To some degree there are some mental forces you use. And so the psychology involved in a good mentalism trick...you are doing psychological forces as well as real time misdirection and the combination of those two is one of my biggest challenges to perform in a show.

MH: You mentioned earlier that you work kid shows. Of all the shows, tell us about the best kid experience and the worst kid experience and how did you handle the latter?

DR: Aw man...I don't know if I want to do this...but I will. The best kid experience I had was about ten years ago, it was at Children's Hospital. There is a little girl in bed who had seen me perform on television and I walk in and she had the covers pulled up to her neck. She is alone and I walked in and I am doing Sponge Bunnies. She has no hair and has been getting cancer treatment and I thought, time for Sponge Bunnies. I walk up to her and as I said she is a cancer patient and is about thirteen or fourteen but because of the treatment she is mentally probably on the level of a seven year old, maybe six or seven year old. I said, "Oh my goodness, they said you have no hair!" And I start doing my Sponge Bunny Routine. So I acted like I am pulling a hair from her head and I pull out the first bunny and I go, see some people call these bunnies but I call them "hares". Of course it ends with all seven bunnies at the end and they are all over the bed and she jumps out from underneath the covers and all of a sudden I see her face light up and we had a great visit. She loved it. I was wearing a "Belly Button" on my vest that day and I still don't quite get it but she felt comfortable and she said, "I don't have a belly button." And I said, "Yes you do, everyone has a belly button." So she raises her shirt and sure enough, she has no belly button! It's just smooth. So I take the button off and give it to her saying, "Now you can tell everyone you have a belly button." It is one of those with a hole in it and I say, "Not only do you have a belly button but now you have a pierced belly button! Look at that!" She was absolutely thrilled. The nurses said that she may not be very receptive and not to be upset if I wasn't able to get through. Instead, she was laughing and smiling and out from under the covers. It was one of the best and heart wrenching to see a child that sick. Having your own child...its hard not to get emotional to see a child that sick. That was a good day.

The worst was when I go into West Little Rock for a family who had seen me perform at a restaurant and they invited me to the birthday party. As I was trying to set up my show before any of the children arrive the birthday child kept going through my props. I tell her that she is going to have to keep out of the props but you will get to see the show with everyone else. And she continues to go through my props so finally I said, "I cannot perform if you keep going through the props and will not be able to perform unless you give me the space to set up my show. And she looks at me saying I can go through your stuff I don't have to mind. So I say, "If you aren't going to mind me I am not going to perform." She looks at her parent and says, "I don't have to." And the parents don't correct her. I said, "Let me put it this way, if you don't stop going through my props I will put my show back in the car and leave." She did not stop. Her parents let me put my show away and I left not performing at that birthday. The weirdest part of that is they came back with their daughter to see me at the restaurant the next week.

I don't know if there was any other way to handle that. But it was certainly the worst experience I have ever had and I couldn't believe the parents didn't make their child behave and I couldn't believe they let me leave. They didn't pay me and then they came to see me the next week at the restaurant with their child. It would have been a terrible show.

I was asked to leave a wedding reception once. I was doing a wedding much like the one I just did and the bride's parents had hired me to perform at the wedding rehearsal there and wanted it to be a surprise. So, I arrive early and got my sound system set up to perform a little fifteen minute short comedy show for the bride and groom and was prepared to do Anniversary Waltz. Right before I was getting ready to perform the groom asked to borrow my microphone and said that before we begin they had an open bar, everyone was laughing and happy...open bar...and I thought we got everybody liquored up and happy. He says, "Before we get started I want to say a few things...let's all have a prayer before we have out dinner. So he does a good ten minute prayer and then at the end of the prayer, looks at me and said we aren't going to have any entertainment. We expect this to be a more somber occasion and we aren't going to need your service.

I said, "ok then, that is fine." Then he goes on making announcements and other things he wats to talk about...I had to stop him and said that I couldn't leave until he gave me my sound system. I had to get my microphone from him...he gave me the mic, I wrapped up my sound system and I left without ever performing a trick. The bride's dad follows me out, pays me in the parking lot, tell me how sorry he is and that it was a terrible misunderstanding. I left wondering how the in-laws got along after that day.

Thanks to Derrick for taking time while on the road home for doing this interview. I am glad he did not get pulled over for speeding or chatting in the cell phone.



Ralph Felder and Gerry Bailey

Blast from the Past

by Mike Curtis, Ring 29 Historian

This month's report comes from 60 years back with the November, 1958 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Walter Scott and the Secretary was Dr. John McCullough Smith. The Ring met monthly at the Albert Pike Hotel.

"Attendees at the November meeting were Blass, Caple, Houpt, Nolting, Scott, J. M. Smith, W. M. Smith and Pritchett. Discussed the good work of C. Thomas Magrum, magician from Rock Island, Ill., who played in this area, such as card manipulation wearing gloves, and coin moves. Al Houpt showed colored slides of our Mid-South Convention featuring Lee Grabel, and of members taken with Edgar Bergen who visited our Ring recently. Magic session was short."

This was probably the shortest report I've seen. Not a lot of magic performed but slide shows were popular in 1958 and the subject matter of the convention and shots including Edgar Bergen must have been a hit. Perhaps our Ring could have a walk down memory lane some day with some old video clips of our members performing. Interested?

Until next time, don't forget, the past only remains alive as long as we continue to remember it.

The Incredible TT

Credit for having invented the very first TT goes to Professor Herwin of Bristol who loved to tinker with various paraphernalia in a bid to add a creative touch to as many objects as possible.

Born as William Humpage in Birmingham on 31st October 1861, Professor Herwin's first peek into the world of magic occurred when he was fourteen years old. Having relocated to Bristol, he was scouring the streets looking for work when he was mesmerized by the acts performed by a man on the street who later turned out to be both intelligent and well versed in the field.

With his demonstration of making the penny disappear when placed in a glass of water, the man succeeded in inspiring the young boy sufficiently to prompt him to follow the field avidly for many years to come. One of the reasons that Professor Herwin had a distinct advantage was his inherent skill as a mechanic. This gave him the ability to design many new effects and innovate existing props in such a manner that not only was the effect amazing but it also laid the ground-work for a new genre of magic tricks.

The TT was just one example in a long list of gadgets, some of the well known names being Havit Coin Trick and Siberian Handcuff Trick not to mention redesigning all the tables of Hartz in the trick 'Devil of a Hat'.

There are magicians who earn popularity to the point of being inducted into the Hall of Fame, and there are others who fade into oblivion even though they may be more dedicated and illustrious.

It was sometime during the 1880s that Professor Herwin, who belonged to the latter category, invented the TT by attaching a scrap of silk to a false finger. Being the first it was also the most convincing replica of a human digit ever made and is regarded by many as being better than the one exhibited at the museum of Magic Circle today.

A Little Magic History



Harold D. Russell, (1922-2008), the "Divine Mind", was a headliner at the Gold Palace in the Gaslight Square area of St. Louis, he played the St. Louis Playboy Club, the Midwest Magic Jubilee and charity show to benefit children. He has performed hundreds of shows over the past 50 years on television, in nightclubs, at banquets and for birthday bashes for people of all ages.

Believed to be the first black magician to join the prestigious International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians, Russell performed for 20 years, entertaining crowds at the "Breakfast with Santa" event at Dillard's and many night-clubs in the St. Louis area.

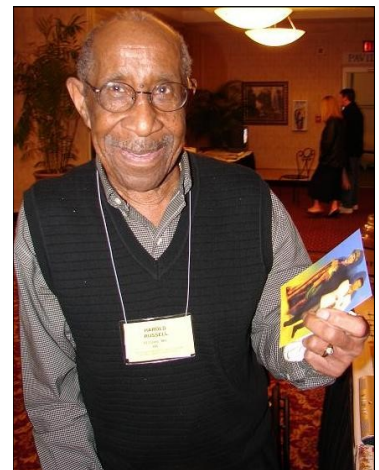
In a 2005 interview with the St. Louis Journal, Russell described practicing his early tricks on Bullet, the family dog, saying "If he went to the wrong hand when I tried a disappearing trick, I'd think, 'Hmm, I did it good because I fooled Bullet.'" His family grew tired of his magic act practices, but his dog Bullet would watch for hours.

Fascinated as a child by magic, he saw Thurston and Blackstone, Sr. Harold did not consider performing magic himself until much later in life when he saw a bartender at a restaurant where he worked demonstrate several effects.

It was the mid 1950s that he met a bartender at the Meat Arts nightclub would use flash paper to impress guests when he returned their change.

Harold went home to duplicate what he saw the bartender do with plenty of lighter fluid and tissues. After many failures and an accident waiting to happen, Harold went back to the bartender and asked how it was done. The bartender explained the effect where to get it and many other items of magic.

In June, 1967, Harold applied for membership in the Society of American Magicians with Gene DeVoe and Bob Stevens signing his applications. After learning magic, he would go on to do thousands of shows for night clubs, banquets, television, conventions and other gatherings. Over the years, Harold developed a style of comedy magic.



A World War II veteran, Russell took up magic while in his 40s and married with five children. He received the Gold Medal Award from the Society of American Magicians in 2005, one of only seven magicians to receive the honor since its inception.

A member S.A.M. Assembly No. 8, he served on numerous committees and as Vice President four times. The Harold D. Russell Extravaganza and Wine and Cheese Tasting Extravaganza has been held the first meeting in September annually since 1978.

Upcoming Lecturers

Bernardo Sedlacek *March 2019*



Bernardo Sedlacek is known by his strong card magic, creativity, style, and extreme card skills. He began in magic at the age of nine. Considered one of the best card magicians in Brazil, he has performed in many countries including USA, Australia, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and a few others, acting side by side and fooling the most known and brilliant minds in magic, such as Michael Vincent, Alex Pandrea, Woody Aragon, Bill Malone, Lennart Green and many others.

Twitter Post:

"I highly recommend this extremely skilled, talented and personable young man. Bernardo Sedlacek gave an outstanding lecture to IBM Ring 117 in West Palm Beach. He is a current and future superstar! Any club or venue would be wowed and proud to have him perform."

Dr. David Boltson
IBM Ring 117
West Palm Beach, FL



Scott Alexander *April 2019*

Scott Alexander is funny, likeable, and his charm appeals to a wide range of people. His amazing magic reached millions on this season of NBC's America's Got Talent where he advanced all the way with his large stage illusions.

With articles in People Magazine and Nations Business Magazine, the Oprah Show took notice and Scott was invited by Oprah Winfrey to make guest appearance on her popular TV program.

Scott had the honor of headlining on the Las Vegas Strip at Caesars Palace for over seven years and four thousand performances of large grand illusions mixed with light-hearted stand-up comedy magic.

Alexander's groundbreaking creativity caught the eye of Norwegian Cruise Lines and they commissioned Scott to create, direct the magic, and star in "Elements," a million dollar stage spectacular. It is currently their most popular show and is in production on five ships.

Scott's magic has been featured on The SiFi Channel, Discovery Channel, NBC, Showtime, He has opened for comedians like Dennis Miller and as a creator and innovator of illusions, his ideas are utilized in performances by other magical luminaries, most notably Penn & Teller.



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Ring 29 Meetings 2018-2019

Date	Meeting	Location	Theme	Lecturer	Emcee
Aug 1, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Invisible Deck	Jim Henson	No Emcee Needed
Sep 6, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Jim-Card Cube Tear & Restore Napkin	Jim Henson	Jo Jones
Oct 4, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Book Tests Halloween Magic	Dan Hecke	Mike Jones
Nov 1, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Emceeing Effectively	Jon Bucher	Jim Henson
Dec 6, 2018	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Impromptu Magic	Dane Dover	Jon Bucher
Jan 12, 2019	Christmas Show	Jacksonville Community Center	Walk-Around Stage Magic	N/A	Derrick Rose
Feb 7, 2019	Regular	Baptist Classroom #1	Storytelling	Marty Haughn	Adrian Steelman Carlos Yang
Mar 7, 2019	Stage Competition	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Stage Magic **	Blayk Puckett	Blayk Puckett
Apr 4, 2019	Auction	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Auction	Dan Hecke Auctioneer	Dan Hecke
May 2, 2019	Close-Up Competition	Baptist Sheffield Auditorium	Close-Up Magic **	Cedric Morely	Cedric Morely
Jun or ? 2019	Installation	TBA	Officers will Perform	Larry Bean, TVP Installation Officer	Larry Bean

** To enter Ring 29 competitions you must be a paid up member of the IBM



Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: ring29report@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: ring29report-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: ring29report-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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 and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

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