



The Performer

Little Rock Ring 29 Newsletter
Little Rock, Arkansas

September 2020





President's Corner
For the Record
Blast from the Past
Treasury Report
Magical History
Event Calendar



It's all about the Magic...



Zoom Lecture

Attention! We are in for a treat. Magician David Jonathan contacted the Ring and offered a FREE two hour lecture via Zoom. Let me repeat that...A FREE TWO HOUR LECTURE! Details will be forthcoming in an email and of course you can follow the information through our website. Here is a little information about David Jonathan:

Known for his clever thinking, David Jonathan has built a reputation for consistently releasing strong, practical effects to the magic community.

His best sellers SNAPS (co-created with Dan Harlan), Fourtunate (produced by Mark Mason), You Know (UNO) and Fortuity have all received critical acclaim and have been performed by countless magicians across the globe.

For this online lecture, David has handpicked some of his favorite creations to teach, including some of his marketed items as well as unpublished effects. Additionally, he will give a crash course on how to create original magic, which will not only spark your creativity, but it will also help improve your existing routines.

Date and time will be announced very soon. Be on the lookout for an email.



Updates

James Kinsey and Mike Curtis, creators of the Ring 29 Survey have sent them out to all the members listed in the database, active or inactive. Folks, if you have NOT received a survey PLEASE get with James or Mike and have one sent to you.

The information gained from these surveys is extremely important to the Ring's success and future. Your opinion does mean something to the Ring and anything you make comment on will be considered.

A contest is being created for determining future "Theme Nights". If you have an idea for a theme to one of our meetings, please send your entry to one of the officers. All ideas will be collected and brought to the next meeting for voting by the attending members. There will be prizes for the top three themes selected. Here is an example: "Fool Us" night. This is scheduled for April of next year and will be a prize awarded for three fools.

Stay in tune for more information via this newsletter and more currently the website.



Melvin "Jamel" Brown

Meetings

October: Possible in person picnic Meeting/Installation (TBA)

Upcoming Events

Zoom Lecture by David Jonathan. Date and Time TBA

"The secret of showmanship consists not of what you really do, but what the mystery-loving public thinks you do."

— Harry Houdini—





President's Corner

Marty Haughn



Fellow Magicians,

Another month has passed us by and we are still wearing masks. Who is ready to begin life again without one?!

Our meeting for September went very well considering the circumstances. Everyone stayed safe and distant. There was one problem for the night and that was with Zoom connectivity. I wish to apologize to those members who chose to use Zoom and were not able to connect. Rest assured, Shawn Miller work very hard to make sure we had all the right equipment and connections to make it happen. Zoom was just not cooperating.

The business portion of the meeting consisted of the following:

- 1) Welcoming two visitors with interest in joining our club. They are Dako Albeik and Adam Hogg.
- 2) The website is up and running. If you are visiting the website (www.littlerockmagic.net) or (www.littlerockmagic.org) and find any issues, no matter how minor, please let me know so they may be attended to.
- 3) Zoom meetings will continue to be an option for the future until restrictions are lifted or at least eased enough for everyone to feel comfortable enough to attend.
- 4) Future meetings need theme names. There is a contest inviting everyone to come up with a theme and idea for upcoming meetings. Your entries are to be sent to one of the officers and they will be collected for voting by the attending members at the next meeting. There will be prizes for the top three entries.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the following members: Bob Bullock, James Kinsey and Gary Fambrough for their assistance and advice during the website build. Without it we would still be working on it.

A special thanks to Jim Henson for all he provided to make the September meeting a success.

Until we are able to meet again, please take good care of each other and stay safe.

V/r

Marty





For the Record

Shawn Miller



Ring 29 members and guests met in person for the first time in a while at Jim Henson's home. First we would like to thank Jim for the location and his hospitality. It was a nice change from the less inspiring Zoom meetings.

Upon entry to the meeting everyone was given a ticket for prizes to be given out during the evening. What a generous host, thanks Mr. Magic!

Before the meeting began, Jim gave us a brief reminder of the social distancing rules and protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy along with the layout of the facilities.

President Marty Haughn presided over the meeting and began by thanking the members and our two new guests and potential new members to the group, welcome to Ring 29. Then we got to business with an announcement about our new up and running website. I'm not sure how many hundreds of hours it must have taken. It looks awesome! Here are the two addresses to use: www.littlerockmagic.org and www.littlerockmagic.net. Thanks Marty we really appreciate all your hard work making us a real nice web site.

Mike Curtis and James Kinsey teamed up in the development of a Ring survey. The surveys are important to Ring development and improvement. They have been mailed to all members and it is appreciated for their return with your ideas.

Discussion of future meeting locations was on the table. Anyone with a possible location which may be available please let one of the officers know the details. We are unsure of any future use at the hospital classroom. With that, business was concluded.

Tonight's theme was "First Trick learned". We jumped right into the magic performances with a special treat from Hot Springs' own Melvin Brown (Jamel). He entertained with his street busking style show. The 8th wonder of the world. Classic Street Magic with a heavy dose of comedy. He had us rolling with his routine. Give a magician enough rope and he will do a trick and he did with pizzazz.

We were "knot" let down by his rope magic! Next he showed us the 2nd oldest trick in the world, (Cups and balls) with the help of Gertrude (Jim Henson) and a surprise coconut under the hat ending. Great show, thanks again Melvin.





For the Record

Shawn Miller



Starting off the magic performances of the meeting was none other than our President Marty Haughn with a trick that happened in the hands of the volunteer Dako. Marty thought of a card then Dako cut and dealt down cards into 2 stacks. The stacks revealed the suit and value of the chosen card. How does this work every time, mind-blowing!

Next up Bob Bullock continued with some more rope tricks like the "What Knot" and "Ring through Rope". Next came his "First Trick Learned" 3 cards chosen by the audience then put back into the deck to miraculously turn upside down in the deck.

Mike Curtis' "1st trick" was with cards. Jim picked a card and placed it in the deck and Mike started turning over cards but passed the selection and still the next card turned over was the right card. The key to this trick was timing. Adam Hogg was up next. A card was chosen by Jim, the deck was shuffled and spread out and all the cards of the same suit as the selected had turned over in the deck. Wow!

Blake Puckett was up next with more cards. A card was selected, put back into deck but the card was not found but a single card fell to the ground. He put his foot over the card and somehow it changed to the selected card. How amazing! Always a great performance with Blake.

Jim Henson was up with help from Rocky Raccoon and Shawn Miller. Shawn picked a card and put it back in the deck and the deck was then placed into a hat and with a keen sense of smell Rocky found his card. Animals are magic too!

Our resident locksmith Gary Bailey was up with a lock trick. A demonstration of chance. 7 keys were passed out and miraculously only Gary's would work. Is it skill or wizardry? We may never know.

James Kinsey was up with Crazy Man's handcuffs, a classic of rubber band magic and then a card trick. One card folded along the length and one along the width were folded together but somehow half of the card turned over inside the folded cards. It was torn in half to show it had really turned over.

Jimmy Rhodes was up next with his first trick he learned from his Granddad, "The French Drop". He borrowed a silver dollar from Jim, showed it to the room and then made it disappear. Jimmy's granddad was a hobo clown.





For the Record

Shawn Miller



Next up our builder and inventor, Shawn Miller with another coin trick. He asked our guest Dako to sign a coin then made it disappear only to return to a sealed coin size bag nested in 2 match boxes. How did he do that?

Next up Larry Bean, our Territorial Vice President, was looking good and always with a funny story and a trick he learned from his suite mate from college. Our guest, Adam Hogg, chose a card then Larry mixed it back into the deck. Four different cards were placed face down then Larry slapped the cards and the last one left was the chosen card. Always good to see Larry Bean.

Bob White was up with almost his "first trick" and it fooled me. He riffled down until told to stop. 2 cards were placed freely back into the deck with one swift motion he was left holding 2 cards in his hand. Nice Bob! Thanks for teaching us that one. Then Bob showed us "Twerking the Aces". I'm still not sure how he could make the aces seemingly turn over at will. Good one Bob!

Last performer of the night was one of our guests, Dako. His "first trick" was a dot that he made jump from finger to finger then showed us an "ambitious" set of card tricks that ended with a sign back and a signed front becoming the same card. Nice work Dako!

President Marty Haughn concluded the meeting and thanked our members and guests for coming out. Then handed the floor to Jim (Mr. Magic) Henson for a wonderful surprise. Jim demonstrated and passed out numerous magic tricks and props to everyone present. Little Rock Magic Ring 29 is grateful for Jim Henson. He is such an inspiration and pillar to our magic community. Listening to the stories tonight about our "first magic" all seem to include Jim or "Mr. Magic". I think I can speak for everyone and say thank you Jim.

Oh yea! Remember those tickets, Jimmy Rhodes drew our tickets out of a top hat. Then in numerical order we could go to a table filled with magic (mostly from Col. Seymour) and pick one magic trick at a time until they were gone. Wow! Then we did the same at a table of DVDs ending the night with ticket drawings for a few grand prizes. What a wonderful meeting it was!

Many thanks to everyone that made it out. Be safe and stay magical.

Shawn Miller





Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis



This month we peek back 29 years to the October, 1991 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Lisa Bolin and the Secretary was Jim Henson. The Ring met monthly at C.A.R.T.I. in Little Rock.

The October meeting was held at the home of Guy and Mary Ann Campbell. The Campbell's graciously offered the use of their home for the annual family picnic. Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck before performances. JIM HENSON opened with his version of Spot the Wonder Dog. Jim placed black handkerchief and a white handkerchief into a black and white spotted bag. Miraculously, the handkerchiefs disappeared and the bag turned into the face of a dog named Spot.

MIKE CURTIS performed a silk through glass as Mary Ann Campbell narrated. Mike continued with the assistance of 81-year-old JULIE SYLER. Julie selected a card and returned it to the deck. Mike produced cards from just about every possible piece of clothing (including his socks) in an effort to locate Julie's card. Mike failed to produce the card because the selected card was the only card remaining in the card box. Mike had the same card signed by Mary Ann, tore the card into pieces, gave a corner to Mary Ann, and vanished the remaining pieces. The selected card was found in an envelope that had been on the fireplace mantle all evening. The card was stapled to a piece of cardboard with the signature intact. The missing corner held by Mary Ann matched perfectly.

LISA BOLIN showed Diamond Jack. Though no magic is involved, the performer shares the hilarious tale of Diamond Jack, illustrated with a deck of cards.

CHRISTY HENSON performed Chocolate Lover's Delight. Christy had JANET SYLER choose a candy bar from a variety of miniature candy bars. Before Janet made her selection, Christy wrote a prediction and put it away for safe keeping. Christy's prediction matched Janet's selection and Janet received a miniature candy bar for her trouble.

JAMES SYLER amazed the crowd with nothing more than three cups of water. James poured water into one cup and to make sure there was no confusion, he poured the water from the first cup into the remaining two cups. He then mixed the cups and asked a spectator to select the cup containing the water. Much to everyone's surprise, the water vanished without a trace.

SUMMER HENSON did the insurance policy – with a twist. SUMMER found the selected card without the aid of the insurance policy.

SCOTT DAVIS entertained with needle through mirror. MARY ANN CAMPBELL performed a brand new effect called the Orb. The Orb is a wooden sphere on the center of a long string. The sphere floats up and down the string at the will of the magician. Mary Ann did a nice job with this effect and asked the crowd for performance advice.

Continued on pg. 6





Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis



Dr. HENRY JOHNSON borrowed a sports jacket from a member of the audience and extinguished a cigarette in the back of the coat. The owner of the coat was very dismayed until it was discovered there was no damage to the coat and no trace of the cigarette.

An evening of fun, food, fellowship, magic and the warm hospitality of Guy and Mary Ann all combined to make this a special meeting for the Ring. It was the perfect mixture for magical memories to be made. Annul Ring picnics have always provided good formats for members to enjoy different settings and demonstrate their entertainment skills. We should look forward to more of these in the future.

Until next time, remember, both successes and failures of the past can help shape your better future.

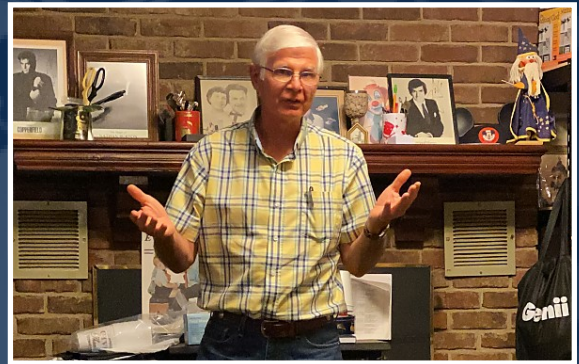
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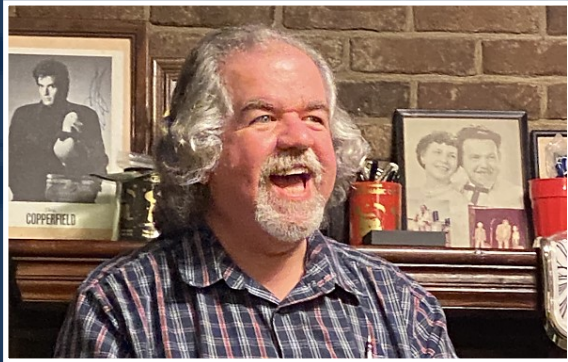
September Performers

Thanks to Jimmy Rhodes & James Kinsey for the photos!





September Performers





September Performers





Treasurer's Report

James Kinsey

September 2020



BEGINNING BALANCE-CHECKING:	\$3418.24
DUES COLLECTED:	\$25.00
TOTAL BALANCE-CHECKING:	\$3463.24
DUES COLLECTED:	\$25
TOTAL BALANCE CHECKING:	\$3488.24
TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS:	\$970.33

EXPENSES

POSTAGE:	\$95
WEBHOSTING:	\$239.52
TRANSFERRED FROM SAVINGS:	\$1029.67
ZOOM (2 MONTHS):	\$32.82
ENDING BALANCE CHECKING:	\$2091.23
ENDING BALANCE SAVINGS:	\$2000.07

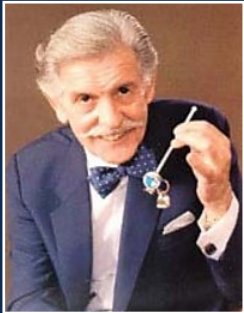
34 Members have paid dues.

If you are not sure about your membership status, email James at:

jamesk39@gmail.com



Magical History



Billy McComb (April 12, 1922 – April 30, 2006) was a British-born American magician and comedian. He was one of the United Kingdom's leading magicians in the 1950s and 1960s. He was hired to perform at the International of Magicians in 1962 and stayed at Jim Swoger's house in Pittsburgh, along with his wife and son, for six months before taking up residence in Los Angeles, California in the 1970s. He joined The Magic Castle in Hollywood, his number being 3323.

McComb decided to develop a talent he discovered at school as a magician and comedian. He made a name for himself in Ireland, then very quickly made his mark in London in the West End cabaret scene. He married June Cochrane, a former Miss Ireland and they became a performing duo.

He performed before Queen Elizabeth II at a Royal Variety Performance in the early years of his career. He then began a very successful career as a magician and comedian performer aboard cruise ships internationally, with his magician's assistant, Mindy Masters. It was during this era of his career that his travels brought him to the United States. After he went to Hollywood, he made over three hundred appearances on television and in movies. He appeared in a number of television series and also opened for such stars as Bob Hope. One role was Walter Wilder in the 1995 film *Lord of Illusions*, directed by Clive Barker. He also appeared in the 1987 TV film *Young Harry Houdini*. He became a prominent figure at The Magic Castle and was affectionately billed as "The Worlds Largest Leprechaun." In 1964 he was invited to join the Entertainment charitable fraternity, the Grand Order of Water Rats.

In his 80s he continued to perform regularly in Las Vegas and as an opening act for The Amazing Johnathan. In his later years his act was noted for his self-deprecating jokes. In his opening he would look at his watch and say, "It's either this or rice pudding night at the home."

Books he wrote include *The Professional Touch* and *Mc Comb's Magic: 25 Years Wiser*. He was a prolific inventor of magic and illusions, most famously known for creating such items as the "Mc Combical Deck" and the "Double Thin Model Sawing" routine, in which two assistants are sawed in half, and the halves of the two assistants are switched. This world-famous routine has been used by several other magicians and was even a Jeopardy! question. He was sought after by many as the answer man in magic when a magician was having difficulty locating or developing a particular routine.

Source: Wikipedia





Event Calendar

Date	Meeting	Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
July	Zoom	Home	Free for All	N/A	Dane Dover
August	TBA - ZOOM	TBA - HOME	Free for All	N/A	Dane Dover
September	In Person	Henson Home	First Learned Trick	N/A	Jim Henson Marty Haughn
October	TBA	TBD	Halloween Magic	N/A	James Kinsey
November	TBA	TBD	Stage Competition	N/A	Adrian Steelman
December	TBA	TBA	Christmas Magic	TBA	Jo Jones
January	TBA	TBD	Christmas Show	N/A	TBA
February	TBA	TBA	Favorite Card Magic	Mini-Lecture TBA	Gary Fam- brough
March	TBA	TBD	Auction Time!	N/A	TBA
April	TBA	TBA	Ring 29 "Fool Us"	N/A	Marty Haughn
May	TBA	TBA	Close-up Competition	N/A	Derrick Rose
June	TBA	TBA	Free for All	Mini-Lecture TBA	Mike Curtis

There are a lot of TBAs here on this calendar. Once the State of Arkansas begins to loosen things up a bit changes to this calendar will begin to happen.

EVERYTHING on this calendar is tentative but we need to continue planning the future as if we will be back to some resemblance of normal soon.

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



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Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: ring29report@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: ring29report-subscribe@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.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

501-580-2860

