

I.B.M
RING #29

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, AR 72207 • (501) 666-8735

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, CARTI, St. Vincent's Hospital

DECEMBER 1994



Dec. 1 meeting to feature dual debuts

**DECEMBER
RING #29 MEETING:**

Thursday, December 1

✓ 7:30 ✓ Carti

✓ **Dual Debuts: Stella & Chase**

● BITS & PIECES ●

● The Grand Re-Opening of Mr. Magic at its new location attracted over 300 people. **Jim Henson** says thanks to everyone who came and who helped make it a successful event. Stop by 8912 Stagecoach Road when you get a chance, and see his expanded facilities.

● If you don't know about **Dr. Bob's** lecture Friday, November 18 by now, reading it here is too late. But we want to mention it for club history, and we'll have a review next month. Is there a doctor in the house? You bet! Dr. Bob.

● It was a Triple Header at the grand opening of the new Levi clothing factory outlet store in Hot Springs recently. **Fred Hartman** performed "It's Magic," assisted by his lovely wife, **Nora**. **Dan Bloch** -- The Invisible Man -- performed his magical ropes. And **Doug Whisky** appeared as "Uncle Bobo," the clown.

All were captured on film by **Ann, the Camera Girl** -- an expert on the video camera. (Maybe we can see some of the tape one of these days.)

Anyway, they started performing before noon October 15 and went until about 4 pm. Then the clown vanished and Fred, Nora and Dan performed another show at the Hamilton Resort for a \$50-a-plate extravaganza.

Then Dan vanished, too, and Fred went on to do a little magic at Magees Restaurant on Wednesday the 26th. On the 29th, Fred and Nora performed a Halloween Magic Show at the Mystery Theater for a "Clue" party where seven people were murdered, including the magician. He died when a large snake jumped from a big flash of fire and got him on the neck. But the application of a little whiffle dust brought him back.

Thanks for the update and description, Fred. Now if others would follow suit.

✓ **Stella Stout will strut**

✓ **Chase will Goforth**

The November Ring meeting had to be canceled at the last minute because Carti scheduled our space for another event.

But that means we will have a **Dual Debut** for the **December 1** meeting -- at Carti, of course.

As you know, Ring tradition says all new

January meeting preview

The January meeting will be the annual "Christmas Party" of Ring 29. The date has been set: **Saturday, January 14**. Details (time, location, performers, food, etc.) will be finalized at the December meeting.

Lifetime Membership honor proposed; members to vote.

Anyone who has been an active member of a group for 25 years or more deserves some sort of special recognition. Thus it has been proposed that Ring #29 adopt a new policy which honors such persons with a Lifetime Membership, to include paid-up dues and free lectures. Members will vote on the proposal at the December meeting.

● **Rob Boyd and Jazmin** -- "The Magicians Impossible" -- performed at the 7th Annual Elkins Poultry Festival September 23. As part of his act, he issues a "\$500 Rope-Tie Challenge." He will give \$250 to two people if he fails to untie himself after they tie him up. Audiences seem to like that sort of involvement and suspense

● **Vivian Rose** is young writer from North Arkansas who has made a name for herself already by writing a regular newspaper column at her tender age.

Recently she devoted part of her column to a report on her visit to the Kirby Van Burch magic show in Branson (which many of our Ring members have attended).

The part of her column about the show is reprinted on the back of this page. Make a special effort to see the Van Burch show when you're in the Branson area.

members perform a magic routine of some sort as their official acceptance into the club. We'll have two such debuts December 1:

First up will be **Stella Stout**, our scheduled performer of last month. She and her husband, Charles, live in Cabot.

After Stella struts her stuff, we'll watch **Chase Goforth** perform. He's a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University and has been interested in magic since 1983. From Fayetteville, he used to perform for church youth groups and trade shows while in high school.

As always, we invite others to bring new tricks to try out on us. Maybe Jim Henson will bring a couple of the new tricks he purchased for his new magic store location.

Let's make a special effort to come out and encourage new members Stella and Chase.



● **Bart Rockett**, magician and ventriloquist, entertained students at Hamburg High October 17. He appeared at all of the schools in the district, which were funded by money from a grant to promote drug-free schools.

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● **What's your magic news?**

We want to know.

● If you have news, call Jim or Dennis
● and we'll include it in this newsletter.

● **Call Dennis Schick at 374-1500 or mail
● to: 1701 Broadway, Little Rock 72206**
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Magician's Branson Show Is Magic

Do you remember the "Clash of the Champions" in wrestling — the big fight? I think there will be another big clash. Only not in wrestling. This time it will be in magic — between two world class magicians — David Copperfield and Kirby VanBurch, who appears in Branson, Mo. (These two are so good, who needs Houdini?)

**Vivian
Rose**



Back home in Houston, at 7 years old, VanBurch took his bag of tricks and went door to door showing off his magic to anyone who answered the door. Using his little sister as his assistant, VanBurch had a lot of fun until people stopped answering their door to him. (Eventually, his parents removed his sister from the act when he accidentally poked a sword in her ear.)

Did I mention VanBurch loves and trains animals? His animals are included in his show at the Five Star Theater in Branson. Don't worry, although there is audience participation, he never mixes people from the audience with the leopards and tigers.

One scene I particularly liked was when he had a girl in a cage, suspended above the audience. "Poof," he changed her into a spotted leopard. I also watched VanBurch levitate a car — yes, a real car that you can actually drive. And then with a "poof," he made it disappear. Spectacular.

VanBurch is not going to stop with cars, though. He told me he plans to vanish something really big — as if a car isn't big enough — like The Shepherd of the Hills tower or The Branson Scenic Railroad. That should be interesting.

VanBurch has many talented show dancers that weave their acts between his magic tricks. The incredibly funny comedian Philip Wellford kept me and most of the audience laughing throughout the show.

In my opinion, the best part of the show was when VanBurch brought me up on stage. It was for a scene where he walked through a mirror. He instructed me to tap on the mirror. I did. Ouch. It was obviously a solid, glass mirror. Then I was told to step into a large box and inspect it. I did. Suddenly, they shoved a mirror through a slit in the box directly in front of me. Thud. I jumped. "You can come out now," a stage hand told me. I didn't just leave — I bolted through the small side opening. That loud thud had frightened me. A piece of paper was placed over the mirror. I watched, breathlessly as VanBurch tore away the paper and stepped out, leaving a solid mirror behind him. Amazing.

VanBurch is married, but has no children. However, he does have a big family. His extended family includes two Bengal tigers, two leopards, a black panther, a lion, a bear, a python ... eek ... six ducks and several pigeons. Before he was married,

VanBurch liked to sleep with his tigers, but his wife is allergic to cats, so if he wants to spend the night with them, he has to sleep in the compound where they have their cages. (Can you imagine curling up with a Bengal tiger?)

Previously, VanBurch has performed for the Queen of England, the princess of Thailand and royalty in Malaysia. So I figure that pretty soon, he'll be performing for the President.

Although he has spent time performing in the "Glitter Gulch" in Las Vegas, he definitely prefers Branson.

"People are in a better mood in Branson, and it's more of a family town," VanBurch said.

And that's where you can find him — Branson. At the Five Star Theater, six days a week, VanBurch is amazing and entertaining ordinary folks, and Philip Wellford is making them laugh. This show goes out with a big bang.

P.S. If you see the show, you'll know what I mean.



Vivian Rose and Kirby VanBurch