

**IBM.**

RING #29

June 1999

# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



## June 3 meeting features favorite tricks, convention

### NEXT MEETING:

● **Thursday, June 3****"My Favorite Trick"****Regular time and place  
7 pm, Baptist Medical Center**

## Bits & Pieces

✓ **LAST MONTH:** We had a great crowd (39) for our first Gospel Magic Night. We'd like to make it an annual event.

Next time we'll make it more structured, with more How-to, applications, resources, etc. If you have any thoughts or ideas on making this a productive meeting, contact **Damon**, our program chairman. Does anyone think it deserves a longer format? How about Sunday afternoon, 2-5? We could do it on Saturday except Jim Henson couldn't participate. Comments?

✓ **DAMON** will emcee the "MidSouth Magic Extravaganza" on Sunday, June 27th at 2 pm at Shriner's Temple in Memphis. Tickets are \$5 advance or \$8 at the door. Call Damon or Jim Henson for details.

✓ **WE ARE HONORED.** See the back of this page for the proclamation and comments regarding honors our Ring received recently from IBM national. A deep bow and salute to secretary **Bill Fulton** and **Dan Hecke** for all the work they put into our Ring Quality Report. Our Territorial Vice President **James Kinsey** says that the Superior Rating we received has only been given 18 times out of more than 330 rings.

✓ **RANDALL** will present his show "The Magic is You" at the Horace Mann Jr. High Auditorium in Little Rock on June 3rd. Tickets for club members are \$5 and will be available at the door or at Mr. Magic.

✓ **THE NORTHEAST** Arkansas Magic Club is still holding its meetings the last Sunday afternoon each month, at 2 pm in Newport. Call Jim for more details.

✓ **RING 75** in Fort Smith would love to have Arkansas magicians attend their meet-

The regular monthly meeting of Ring 29 will be at 7 pm, **Thursday, June 3** at the regular place: Room 10 of Baptist Medical Center.

Featured at the meeting will be (1) final preparations and details for the IBM Convention in Little Rock June 29-July 3, and (2) "My Favorite Trick."

Please make a special effort to attend since we want as many people involved in this last regular meeting before the convention as

possible, and also want lots of participation in the "My Favorite Trick" portion of the meeting. The more magic we see the more fun it is for everyone. Also plan to tell us how your trick was done and why it is your favorite. See you there!

## Convention News:

Here's the latest news on the big international magic convention of IBM in Little Rock the end of June:

● **ANYONE FOR SHARING A ROOM?** We have a couple of people who would like to share a room at the Excelsior Hotel during the convention. If you would like to save some money and are interested, contact Jim Henson. We'll try to get those who are interested together.

● **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!** All convention volunteers -- those who have already stepped forward and you who want to do so now -- need to come to a special meeting at Mr. Magic at 6:15, June 21st. This will be the first of two pre-convention meetings and it is important that you be there. Our shirts should be ready by then.

● **MUSEUM MAGIC:** Our Ring is sponsoring a display of magic at the Museum of Discovery at the RiverMarket during June and July. Be sure to visit it.

● **BEST EVER?** The IBM site selection chairman met recently with several board members and flatly stated that this year's convention will be the best one that IBM has ever had. He thanked Ring 29 for helping to make it so. Now, **Let's make it happen!**

● **HOSPITALITY AND TENNIS:** Our Hospitality Room will be in the Tennis Hall of Fame room at the Excelsior Hotel. **Penny Springer** has volunteered to host it but she could use some help. Volunteers?

● **CALL RANDALL** if you can help at the convention as a volunteer. We still can use more volunteers (including family members) and need your help.

● **CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION** pick-up will begin June 29th at 7 pm at the Statehouse Convention Center. This time ties in with the Volunteer Meeting at 6 pm at the same location. We'll have more information on this at the June 21st meeting.

### Order convention shirts NOW!

The official IBM Convention shirt is going to look great. It is 100% combed cotton, a golf shirt with blue sleeves, teal collar and tan color. The logo will say "IBM Ring 29, Little Rock, AR" in a circle around a rabbit emerging from a hat. Under it will be "1999 Convention."

Cost will be \$17.25; or \$19.95 for larger sizes (XX-XXXX). The Ring is paying for the logo and the set-up cost.

If you want one or more shirts (order several so you'll have a fresh one for every day of the convention), you must order them no later than June 3rd (the night of our next meeting). Orders will be turned in June 4th and it will be too late after that. Shirts will be available about June 21st.

Call **Mr. Magic (455-6242)** or go by the store **ASAP** to place your order. Don't procrastinate on this and be sorry later when you see them and wish you had ordered one or more for yourself.

ings, too. Call Jim for more information.

✓ **DUES ARE DUE.** Annual Ring dues are due June 30th: \$20 (\$15 if paid by July 31st). Don't let your membership expire. Your dues are the basis for what and how many lecturers we can afford to bring in.

✓ **SUMMER HENSON** will marry Scott Conger in Fort Walton Beach June 5th.

Ring 29 members and families are invited to a reception at the Mablevale Church of Christ all-purpose hall, across from Mablevale Jr. High School, on **Sat., July 10 from 2-4 pm**. They will look forward to seeing many of their magic friends at this special occasion.

**GOT MAGIC NEWS? Call JIM at 455-6242 OR DENNIS at (374-1500).**

## The Kirby Van Burch Show -- A Review by Dennis

On the way back from a meeting in Central Missouri May 7, Jan and I stopped in Branson to see Kirby's new show in his new theater. Here is a rundown of the show, the theater and other thoughts:

Kirby's new theater is deceptive from the outside. It looks small. But it is on a hill and the seats are stacked almost as steep as in stadiums, to give everyone a great look at the stage. I wondered whether he was going to have to give up all the scenery and illusions which require a high, wide and deep stage. But upon entering it was obvious that he has a great arena for his show.

The new theater is one third the size of his last two, but it is still big. We were told it seats just over 900. His last theater is only two blocks away (where Melinda performed last year) and seated over 3,000. His first theater (Remington) was about that same size, way too big for smaller crowds and the intimacy for magic. We were there on a Friday night and the pre-vacation crowd was about 350, not bad for the time of year.

The lobby is rather small and I don't know where he is going to build a gift store, like he said he was going to. Right now he is using a small window area down front.

Work is still going on outside. He has most of the inside like he wants it. The ornamental outside decoration was supposed to be installed by the end of June, but he said there had been many construction delays since he bought the theater.

The show moved along nicely and was well received. Here is a rundown:

- The stage had a huge magic lamp sitting in

full view when people enter the theater. The music is mystical and sets the proper mood.

- The opening features dancers and a genie in a chair which floats around the stage with the man singing about magic.

- Magician appears from a fire curtain
- A girl-to-tiger illusion is a nice surprise.
- Metamorphosis is smoothly performed;
- Two girls cut in half, bodies switched
- A silver ball float and a levitation combo
- A girl in a trunk turns into a python.
- Two girls turn into a leopard
- Girl in box is twisted
- A water glass is suspended
- Walk through a plate glass mirror
- Whiteboard prediction (Road Kill Cafe)
- Bucket with ducks
- Girl levitation on water columns
- Elevator appear
- Girl's body disappearance
- Pharoah throne leads to reappearance
- Three dry color sands from water bowl
- Person pushes through another person
- Mystery of Oragami
- Card trick prediction
- Paperback book prediction
- Appearing helicopter (finale)

Kirby told me he has two more major illusions being completed in California and he'll add them to the show soon. He has a comedian/ventriloquist to break up the evening and he's very clever and mostly very funny.

Overall the show is very good, but even Kirby admitted it was a "work in progress." Jan and I noticed a minor flub here and there, but then we watch a lot of magic. He even opened by saying they were still working on the show. "Welcome to rehearsal," he said.

I highly recommend the show. Give us a progress report when you come back.



### TO: Members of Ring 29

A panel of very experienced magicians has studied your Ring Quality Program submission and considers you have met or exceeded the standards required for an award in all categories during the period from March 1997 to March 1999.

Accordingly, the panel, on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Board of Trustees, is pleased to grant Ring 29 status as a **Superior Quality Ring**.

The operation of your Ring shows strong support from the members, innovative ideas, selfless involvement and a varied and stimulating program of activities. Of the many areas which impressed the panel, special comment is due on the recruitment of 40 new members in the two-year period, the well-written and comprehensive Member Handbook, the outstanding lecture program, the attention given to the Junior Magician program and to Worthy Causes and the informative and timely Ring Reports.

Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to meet the exacting standards of a Superior Quality Ring. The results of your dedication are clearly a very well run Ring, supported by enthusiastic members. It is appropriate that you achieve this high level at a time when the International Convention comes to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Best wishes for your continued successful operation. I hope you will display with pride this Award which distinguishes Ring 29 as among the best in the International Brotherhood of Magicians. You have brought credit to yourselves and to the whole Art of Magic.

Ron Bell, Chairman  
Ring Quality Program  
20 April, 1999

## PROFILE OF THE MONTH: CHRISTY HENSON

**CHRISTY HENSON** is the Ring 29 Profile of the Month. She is the daughter of Jim and Brenda Henson. Christy has been around magic since the day she was born. She helped her dad start the Mr. Magic store and has run it by herself many times since she was 11 years old.

Christy is now a Junior at Harding University in Searcy, studying to teach history. She spends six weeks each year teaching in the Prague Czech Republic. She will spend the Fall Semester in Greece studying under a Harding program.

She has used magic in many of her classes since junior high, for presentations and speeches. Each time she

travels somewhere, she carries a pocket full of magic to entertain her hosts and friends. Christy loves to meet people and uses magic as a venue to open doors for herself.

She is an accomplished runner and was the Arkansas Female Runner of the Year in 1992, the youngest person ever to receive the honor. She continues to train and run regularly. She has competed in five marathons and finished them all. She won the Dallas White Rock Marathon age group 19 and under when she was 12. She loves magic, running and spending time with her family.

Thanks for all you do for magic and our Ring, Christy.