



Prestidigitator Press

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Logan Pritchett Ring 29
8912 Stagecoach Road #11, Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 455-6242
Meets 1st Thursday of Every Month at Baptist Medical Center

Visit Ring 29 website www.littlerockmagic.org



May 2007



Performers from Ring 29's close-up competition

May 3rd Silk and Cabaret Magic at Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium

♣ **Calendar:**

May 3 – Silk and Cabaret Magic

June 7 – Ring 29 Stage and Platform Competition

June 10 – Junior Magician Meeting @ Mr. Magic

June 26 – IBM Convention in Reno, Nevada

July 5 - Mentalism

May Meeting

May Meeting: Our next ring meeting is Thursday, May 3rd. The Theme is Silk and Cabaret Magic. It will be at the Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium in the Reynolds Center at UAMS (same place we've been meeting) at 6:45pm.

There are still several members that have not been to our new location. It is easy access from the interstate and is in a safe location.

If you are heading downtown from I430, take the Pine/ Cedar Street exit. The Reynolds Center building is to your immediate left. Cross left over the overpass to the first stoplight. Take a left at the stop

light to the next block. On your right you will see a big parking lot with the Reynolds Center right behind it and a sign that says the "Center for Aging". Go to the next block and make an immediate right to get into the parking lot. There will be an arm down, but it will raise when you pull up. The building entrance is the first door on the left side of the building- there is a walkway that leads up to it. Take the elevator to the ground floor and the Auditorium is to your right.

Got Magic News? Email Gerry Bailey: clown1941@hotmail.com
Newsletter Ed. Tyler Vodehnal

Lectures



Barrie Richardson

Review of Barrie Richardson Lecture, Thursday, 12 April 2007 from Chris Westfall.

Look at each trick, routine, and performance with the endpoint in mind ... what do you want your audience to think about you and your performance? Sage advice from a seasoned professional – Barrie Richardson.

Those of us who attended Barrie's lecture were treated to an evening of mentalism and magic designed and performed by a true professional.

The secrets offered extended far beyond the mechanics for executing any single trick. Barrie taught us the virtue of magic that has "no moving parts;" magic that is easily carried, but can entertain a group of any size; magic that will be remembered. My favorites were the handling and presentation of the "classic force," his "impossible knot" routine, the impromptu "card at any number," and his in-depth explanation of his most requested mystery, "the bill in the lemon." All are superbly crafted mysteries which have been perfected through years of professional public performance.

In case you missed the lecture, you may experience Barrie's magic

through his books, Theater of the Mind and Act II, both available at Mr. Magic. Both are highly recommended.

A true gentleman, a kind man, and a generous performer, one observer said to me of Barrie's performance "He is not just someone doing tricks, he is an intelligent man who you want to hear..." And, yes, I think that that was the endpoint Barrie had in mind.

Many thanks to our friends and neighbors, Barrie and Janie Richardson, for a most memorable evening.



Barrie Richardson

▼ Ring Report:

April 5th, 2007 marked a special day for Ring 29. It marked the first annual Ring 29 close-up competition. Forty-five members and their families attended the first competition that included eleven different performers. And what a night it turned out to be, as every performer did a fantastic job showing off their magical skill.

Jim Henson served as the master of ceremonies for the event and kept the evening moving along beautifully with his wit and wisdom.

Joey Williams was the first performer of the evening and he amazed the crowd with a splendid Coins Across routine, a Coin Matrix routine, and a Copper to Silver routine. Consequently, he left the audience wondering if the coins were falling up or down.

Scott Davis was the second contestant and he performed his famous Card to Mouth routine that had the

audience holding their sides in laughter. **Jon Bucher** followed Scott with his patented Dice Stacking routine that had the crowd cheering with each successful stack of dice.

Alex Lyon showed off his rendition of an Okito Brass Box that was handled beautifully. And **Dane Dover** followed by presenting an Old West Mentalism routine that had him able to predict an Old West town, dollar amount, and card that a spectator selected.

Michael Wilkinson was the next contestant and he performed a Cards to Balloons routine. **Tyler Vodehnal** followed Michael with a Cups and Balls performance.

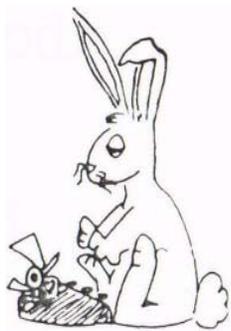
Gerry Bailey wowed the crowd with a coin changing Vanishing Centavo routine. And **Scott Hill** was a hit with his Cards to Pocket trick that truly tested if his volunteer was very observant..

Dan Hecke had the audience entranced with his Sherlock Holmes murder mystery that involved the case of the Vanishing Blue Carbuncle. And **Derrick Rose** finished off the evening with a plethora of amazing tricks including, a Credit Card and Bill serial number match, a Ring and Rope routine, and a Pen through the Bill routine.

At the conclusion of the performances, the judges awarded Scott Davis with first place, Dan Hecke and Tyler Vodehnal with a tie for second place, Joey Williams with third place, and Dane Dover and Derrick Rose with a tie for fourth place. Thank you to all of the judges and performers who made the evening a huge success.



Some Arkansas magicians at the Calvacade of Magic



Elwood's Rabbit Rites

Carefully edited by Van Clove

Magicians who talk a good show usually don't do one. Most of the time.

RIDDLE: What kind of a suit does a birthday magician wear?

ANSWER: Bear-skin.

You can fool an audience for just so long . . . but finally you have to get up and do your act.

An empty FOO CAN doesn't have any foo in it, does it? No. It does not.

I started to watch the RICE BOWL on TV, but it was only a football game.

Everybody or some of them laugh at a comedy magician, but sometimes a very serious magician is funnier.

I like banana tricks because they have appeal. I could say the same thing about orange tricks but I already did about banana tricks so I won't.

All Dutch magicians wear wooden shoes so they can patter while they walk.

A magician is the onliest person who can have SPRING FLOWERS in the Wintertime. That is a lovely thought to think. So I think I'll sit down and think it for awhile.

*Your Friend
Elwood*

Magic Matters

♣ *Monthly Bio:*

Gandorf the Grape

For this April's monthly bio, we had the opportunity to interview a very special member of Ring 29.

Born at a very age as a child, Gandorf started his magic career at the tender age of seven. To hear him tell his tale, he wasted the first six years of his life by not being involved in magic. Gandorf laments the fact that he had to spend the vast majority of his younger years living in the shadows of his much older and only slightly more famous brother. According to Gandorf, "You may remember my brother. He's the one that got caught up in all the fuss with some ring that he said made people invisible. He called it his 'One Ring' routine. Even my brother's assistant, who called himself a hobbit, became more famous than me. It just goes to show what a well placed trapdoor on a stage can do for a person's career!"

Gandorf's own magical career started with the trick that would later become his favorite trick. In Gandorf's own words, "Well I used to perform a wardrobe change, kind of like Quick Change does today. But before it could really take off, my older brother took that trick from me as well. He used to wear this grey robe but after using my wardrobe change trick it would change to a brilliant white robe. Needless to say, my brother made that trick much more famous than I ever could."

Now a days, Gandorf is enjoying his eightieth birthday, but he is still going strong with his magical profession. He is now doing mostly children's birthday parties and the occasional table hopping experience. "Even though I have never become a household name, magic will always be one of the most important things in my life. I've even developed a new Ring and String routine that I'm sure will baffle audiences."

For those of you who would like to contact Gandorf for your child's party, you can find out more about him on his website. However, due to his advancing years and the onset of more than a couple wrinkles, you will need to search for his new stage name: Gandorf the Raisin.

♥ Sad News for Ring 29 member **Ernie Staggs** of Hot Springs Village. He lost his son, Kurt Staggs, in mid March. Please remember them in your prayers.

♣ Sad news for Ring 29 member **John Shulek** of Hot Springs Village who lost his wife, Candice Shulek on March 21. Please remember John and his family in your prayers as well.

♥ The movie "Birthrite" that **Michael Wilkinson** appears in premiered April 7th at Market Street Cinema. The cast and crew were present as well. A preview of the movie is available at www.birthritemovie.com.

Interviews with the director and cast were available at numerous radio stations and television stations. The writer is originally from Arkansas so Little Rock was selected as the city for the premiere party.

♥ From **John Crippen**- "These will be my last two Ring 29 meetings for a long time. Ramona and I have both accepted positions with the U.S. Department of State as Foreign Service Officers. We've been trying to do this for almost 5 years, and it has finally all fallen into place. We are moving to D.C. in three weeks, where we will receive training for a few months, then we'll move to an embassy or consulate somewhere in the world to work as diplomats (well, junior diplomats at first!). We are very, very excited about this big change in our life." Congratulations to John and Ramona for this exciting new opportunity. Good luck and we'll miss you.

♣ Arkansas' Masters of Illusion at the Easy Street Cabaret performed April 13-14. The show featured drama, magic, and comedy for both children and adults. The evening concluded with an original illusion called "Time Travel". The illusion has had tremendous response in shows throughout Arkansas, Tennessee and Oklahoma. More information about the performers can be found on the web at www.masters-of-illusion.com <<http://www.masters-of-illusion.com/>>.

The Friday evening show was packed and the Saturday evening show was standing room only. Those that attended said that it was a great show. Thanks to 106.3 radio D.J. John Lee for announcing the show on air the 13th.

♣ Youngest mayor in Arkansas from Augusta, **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.**, was featured in *City and Town*, Arkansas' Municipal League publication, in April. He was performing magic for his constituents.

♦ **Randal Eller** and **Shari Davis** performed at the Maumelle Family Fest on April 21. They performed six 30 minute shows on the hour starting at 11am. They did 2 different alternating shows.

♥ J.C. Henson (from the magic shop), **Jim Henson's** father, spent another week in the hospital following surgery in mid- April. He is doing better.

♣ **Scott Davis** performed at corporate shows in Indiana and Arizona throughout April.

♣ **Jon Bucher** and **Tyler Vodehnal** will be performing several shows for the Kaleidoscope Kids foundation on May 12th.

♦ Jon Bucher performed two programs on Friday, April 20th at Sidney Deener Elementary school, and Saturday, April 21st at the Founders luncheon of the Delta Kappa Gamma in Fort Smith, AR.



Jon Bucher

Trick Time

CALCULATOR CAPERS

Toy List

Hi, Sensation Seekers /it's true calculators can be fun and it doesn't take a computer to figure it out. There are two alphabets possible with calculators — the inverted and the reversed «** which are tricky ways of saying UPSIDE DOWN and BACK TO FRONT. In the inverted alphabet, the number forms a letter when viewed upside down. The alphabet which can be used is (number first, then the letter which it forms): 8 = B, 3 = E, 6 or 9 (It depends upon your machine's number type) = G, 4 = H, 1 = I, 7 = L, 0 = O, and 5 = S. Remember, the secret of this alphabet is that after typing out the number, you must invert the calculator for it to be read. Example:

8078 inverted reads "BLOB"
39315 inverted reads "SIEGE"
(If not, replace the "9" with a "6", remember it depends on your machine.)

The reversed alphabet is (number first, then letter): 0 = O, 1 = I, 2 = S, 3 = E, 4 = Y, 5 = Z, 6 = A, 7 = R, 8 = B, 9 = E. To read this alphabet, after typing out the numbers you must reverse (turn back to front) the calculator. The easiest method of doing this is to hold the calculator in front of a mirror and read the word in the mirror. Example: 2738807 is the mirror reads ROBBERS

712234 in the mirror reads YES.SIR
Additional tips: To separate words, press the decimal point (see

"YES.SIR" above). If you have a word beginning with the letter "O", remember that you should press the decimal point key first in order to get the '*Q to print out.

You can write letters using these codes, even talk to someone. Try inventing quiz questions. Or, be a real sensation seeker and try writing a story using one or both of these codes or alphabets. Two books you might find valuable are: *Fun and Games with your Electronic Calculator*, by James Vine (Babini Press, London), and *Games, Tricks and Puzzles for a Hand Calculator*, by .Wallace Judd (L. P. Enterpnzes, Essex, England).

Comment: Since so many now have the inexpensive hand electronic calculators, this should open the door to some fun. I vaguely recall a story which used the calculator and ended up with the punch line "Shell Oil" on the read-out screen. Mr. List has pointed the way, it is now up to you.

PRW



Scott Hill

President's Corner

I was privileged to attend Bill Pitts' 36th annual Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs at the end of March. There were close to 100 people registered for the weekend. Because of the size, it was easy to get to know a lot of magicians. A good number of Ring 29 (some belong to other rings as well) magicians were present: Obviously **Bill** and **Ruth Pitts** were there along with **Larry Bean**, **Mike** and **Jo Jones** who served as dealers, **Ron Stevens**, **Jeff** and **Rebecca Sharp**, **Richard Knoll** and **Frank**,

Jay and Dana Miller, Ernie and Wilma Staggs, Brenda Henson, and myself. There were several lectures, a close-up show, a dealers show, two evening shows, a kids' show and a ladies show. Richard Knoll performed at the Saturday evening show. And so did Bill and Ruth Pitts. Jo Jones and I both performed at the Ladies show Saturday afternoon. It was great chatting with so many people from different rings. I met a lot of people from surrounding states that told me they read our Linking Ring Report and are always interested in what we are doing in Ring 29. Everyone had a great time, and I strongly encourage you to make plans to attend next year's cavalcade.

A huge thank you to all of you who attended the April Close-up Competition, participated in the competition, and helped me with the organizing. I am very pleased with the evenings' events. With this being our first close-up competition, it was hard to know how things would turn out, but everyone was extremely supportive and I believe it was most definitely a success. Congratulations again to the winners.



Scott Davis

Ethics

The following question of ethics has been posed to the Ring 29 board. Joey Williams has given a response. If you would like to submit comments relating to this topic or if you would like to pose another question, please email Christy at cih0914@aol.com

What is the proper treatment of animals in magic performances?

The International Brotherhood of Magician's code of ethics states: "All members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians agree to promote the humane treatment and care of livestock used in magical performances."

Joey Williams's response to the question: Using any kind of livestock in magic is very special for audiences. Producing a rabbit or dove takes the audience to a new level of amazement leaving them scratching their heads and asking "Are they real?" Although using livestock is fun for both the performer and the audience, the most important thing to remember when using any kind of animal for a magic show is that they are your pets. Treat them well and they not only will last a long time, but the audience will love you for doing so.

Book Review

Designing Miracles – Creating the Illusion of Impossibility by Darwin Ortiz

Reviewed by **Christopher T. Westfall**

Darwin Ortiz' most recent effort is, in my opinion, destined to become a classic of magic.

Good books dedicated to perfecting the magical experience are very hard to find, and Mr. Ortiz has provided us with a truly wonderful resource. Those of us who are fans of his previous classic, Strong Magic will recognize this as a sequel of the highest caliber.

Magicians seeking new tricks should seek other sources, as Designing Miracles offers nary a one. What the book *does* provide is a way for each of us to elevate our magic to a new level. It offers concepts necessary to the design of new effects or the alteration of

existing effects in order to maximize their audience impact. Most of us begin magic thinking that a good gimmick makes good magic. We then seek other methods to fool our audiences – sleight of hand, for example. But these are not enough. In fact, they may not be enough to deceive, let alone mystify or entertain. The best of gimmicks and the best sleights demand misdirection, good misdirection. And there is more. Good magic requires meaningful, entertaining presentation. Mr. Ortiz' books, Strong Magic and Designing Miracles seek to improve magic at the levels beyond gimmicks and beyond sleight of hand. His thought processes regarding these higher magical planes is truly admirable.

Many beginning and intermediate level magicians will not yet be ready for Mr. Ortiz' work (a good working knowledge of magic is necessary to understand many of his references). But for those who think about their magic, for those who want to amaze rather than amuse, for those who want to present mysteries rather than puzzles, this book is a gem. Thank you, Mr. Ortiz.



Joey Williams

Ring Ramblings

♣ The Society of Memphis Magicians, IBM Ring 16, is planning a day trip to Little Rock and Hot Springs on June 2, 2007. They will visit Mr. Magic and Novelties and then head over to Hot Springs to catch Max's Show. Exact time of arrival at Mr. Magic has not yet been established.

◆ International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention will be held June 26-30 in Reno, Nevada. Check out magician.org for more info. Several Ring 29 magicians are already planning to go.

♥ Reminders and information about meetings and lectures are sent out through email several times a month via the Ring 29 email address. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact James Kinsey so he can add you. Jamesk39@swbell.net

♠ Calendars will be handed out at the May meeting showing Ring 29 activities for May and June. If you miss the meeting, you can pick up a calendar at the magic shop.

♣ International Brotherhood of Magicians applications can be picked up at the magic shop, or ask an officer at a ring meeting.

- ◆ Magic Events in Branson (from Dennis Schick)
- Kirby VanBirch Show (his own theater)
- Hamner-Barber Show (their own theater) Dave Hamner and his exotic birds
- Bart Rockett Show (his own theater) (
- Taylor Reed Show (Branson Showcase Theater, Branson Mall)
- Justin Flom (Imaginary Theater and Magic Parlor, over Majestic Steak House)
- Darren Romeo (Welk Theater)

And there is magic elsewhere in Branson, too:

- Silver Dollar City (Mortimer's Magic Show and Show) (Chris & C.J. Newsom)
- Amazing Pets (two-magicians: Sean Paul and Chris)
- Branson Showboat (a magician in the variety show)

♠ **Ring 29 Magic Meeting Themes for 2006- 2007:**

May – Silk and Cabaret Magic

June- Ring 29 Platform and Stage Competition

July - Mentalism

◆ **Advertisements:**

NEW PRODUCTS:

- * Multiplying Soap Bubbles- Vernet \$16.20
- * Change Cap Baseball- \$22.50
- * 5 New Gospel Tricks- \$6.75 each
- * Wizard PK Rings Gold/ Silver (small/ medium/ large) \$27.00

BOOKS:

- * _WD- 40 \$45.00
- * Uncovered by John Luka - \$31.50
- * Conjunction by Joshua Quinn - \$27.00

DVD:

- * Crazy Ball by Brian Copa - \$54.00
- * Wedding by Brian Copa - \$54.00
- * Ricky Jay Plays Poker - \$36.00

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