

The Performer



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF
LITTLE ROCK RING 29
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



Ring 29 meets at 6:45 on first Thursday of the month at Baptist Hospital, Classroom #1
Call Mr. Magic or a Ring 29 Officer for any changes (See back page)

November 2017



November 2017

Reminder

Details on upcoming lectures will be available soon

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In the News

Our newsletter has been handed over to Marty Haughn. Cedric Morley will turn his focus toward rebuilding his home after a devastating fire. We all wish him the best with this life challenge.

For the newsletter, if you have news or want to write a magic article, contact Marty at: mjhaughn@gmail.com

In the Spotlight

New to the newsletter is a section dedicated to showcasing the many talented magicians of Ring 29. Each month your editor will ask someone of the Ring for an interview.

Our first magician is a talented young man exploding with enthusiasm. He reminds us of...well us, at his age. Let's meet **Magician Carlos Yang...** (Page 4)

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President's Corner



*Jo Jones
President*

Hello Magician Friends!

We had 17 present at the November meeting. Though down some, we had a good time and accomplished the planning of the Ring 29 Christmas Party.

Dan Hecke was our mini-lecturer for the meeting. He shared his knowledge about character development, giving all of us "food" for thought. His presentation was very interesting and informative. Thanks, Dan, for sharing useful information with us about character development. It is certainly something I need to work on!

The Christmas Party will be on our regular meeting night, December 7th, at 6:00pm (a new time for this meeting only), at Whole Hog in the corner shopping center off of Bowman and Markham. Emcee for the evening will be Carlos Yang. We are limiting the number of performers to about 5. If you would like to perform, please let me know.

Thanks to James Kinsey, who served as our emcee for the November meeting. His jokes were quite humorous. Performers were Aaron Acosta, Dan Hecke, Mike Jones, Adrian Steelman, Carlos Yang and Jo Jones. Thanks to all of our performers. We had some great magic for the evening.

Welcome back Daniel Gladstone, who has not been able to come for a while. Thanks to Marty Haughn, who has agreed to be our editor of the newsletter. He has got some new ideas planned for the newsletter. If you have any items you would like to submit to the newsletter, please contact Marty.

I hope to see each of you at the Christmas Party! Bring your family and friends!

Have a Magical and Merry Christmas,
Jo



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Ring 29 Report



by Gary Fambrough
Secretary

RING 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -

Little Rock Magic Ring

Meets the 1st Thursday of each month, 6:45 pm Classroom #1 at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, AR / Web site: www.LittleRockMagic.net

The Little Rock Magic Club met for a day in the park on October 21st. This was in lieu of our regularly scheduled October meeting. A great time was had by everyone present.

The festivities started off with conversations of fond memories about 'the good ol' days'. Also, This year's IBM Convention attendees gave a run-down of their experiences this year as well. Continuing with conversation, everyone sat down to a delicious meal served up hot off the grill by Mike Jones. The burgers were donated by Aaron Acosta; other attendees brought side dishes and desserts. John Wofford may have been the hit of the day with his homemade salsa.

Following the meal, we began our actual meeting with Jo Jones presiding. A few announcements were made followed by some stunning magical feats performed by Dane Dover, Jon Bucher, Jim Henson, Ralph Felder, and John Wofford.

Speaking of magical things, did I mention we may or may not have had a special guest stop by? Is anyone familiar with our former President from Little Rock, Arkansas? If so, then you know he may have a daughter that visits the area on occasion with her husband and two kids. That's right, let's just say it was a family affair. I'm not at liberty to say much more about our special guest due to security concerns but we might have sparked an interest in magic as an alternate career if things fall through at the Foundation!

Our November 2nd meeting was no less spectacular. Jo started things off with announcements. The club is attempting to bring Tom Burgoon and Greg Wilson as lecturers in early 2018. These would be excellent lectures to attend if you have any interest in magic as both of these guys are seasoned professionals!

Marty Haughn is taking over the newsletter while Cedric devotes a little more time to rebuilding. For those who aren't aware, Cedric lost his house in a fire this year and is in the process of rebuilding. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Cedric and his family.

One final note is that our December meeting will be on December 7th at Whole Hog restaurant in West Little Rock. Families and guests are all invited to attend.

On with the show, first up was Dan Hecke with a mini-lecture on Character

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Development. Top notch information for beginners and advanced magicians alike. If you missed it, I'm sure Dan would be willing to share his expertise with you at a future meeting.

Col. James Kinsey was our emcee for the evening. His whimsical style of delivery makes it look easy but I guarantee you it's only from lots of practice that you get to be as smooth as James.

Aaron Acosta started the trickery off with a card version of Ex-Caliber and the Stone. Not sure how he pulled this one off (or out)!

Mike Jones was next with some Chicken D'Lite fun. More serious though was his presentation of "Offset" by Sebastian Calbry. You can purchase this trick from Mike since he seemingly bought out the entire stock from Murphy's magic.

Adrian Stillman showed off some incredible moves by performing Grace by Bebel. And, if that weren't enough, he followed that up with his very own Ambitious card routine. This young man's card handling is amazing. He's the next Lance Burton of his generation!

Dan Hecke interjected some gospel magic next with a coin production. The Lord knows we were all fooled.

Could we be more 'amazed' than watching Jo Jones perform 'Amaze Box' by Mark Shortland. I don't think so. Great job, Jo!

Last but certainly not least, the evening was rounded out with Carlos Yang performing his very own version of Professor's Nightmare. Great improvisational skills and just a delight to watch. I'm not lying when I tell you that both of our youngest performers, Adrian and Carlos, are destined to be stars.

Unfortunately, that brings an end to the November meeting. We all had a ton of fun and I speak on behalf of the entire club when I say that we are all looking forward to December's meeting!

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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In the Spotlight



by Marty Haughn
Editor

CARLOS YANG

Before we get into who Carlos Yang is and what winds him up about magic, let me say this about Carlos. He is just bursting with enthusiasm when performing! For a young magician he can sure stand up to some of the best when it comes to a full-fledged, energy-filled and well practiced demonstration of his skills. Here is what Carlos has to say about his enthusiasm, performance and magic...*ENJOY!*

The Interview

Carlos Yang

Age: 15

Freshman, Catholic High

Favorite Subject: Math...*Science not so much*

Sports: Tennis - Juggling

Loves: Super Heroes DC and Marvel, Only plays Nintendo ("best console ever") and LEGOS, "...and I don't like growing up, I just want to be a kid forever."



MH: "Most magicians become interested with the magic at a young age. Please describe your first encounter with magic and how it managed to grab a hold of you?"

CY: "I don't really remember my first encounter but do remember hearing the name David Copperfield and knew he was a magician, I was very young then. I also remember seeing an episode of *Caillou* (PBS Kids) where a magician was brought in to do magic for a birthday party for him. He started with a coin trick by making it disappear. I think it went up his sleeve. This is also where I first heard the term "*Magicians never reveal their tricks*". Once I got into magic I found that they do but to other magicians."

"Then there was Matt Franco, who won Americas Got Talent and I thought that was cool, and wondered how he did that. I watched Matt and he says he got a magic set one time. This was when I was about 12 and I asked my parents for a magic set thinking this would be cool, showing my friends but just don't tell them how it works. I saw Stephen Brundage do the Rubik's Cube trick, I love that trick, and started looking up magic tricks online. Yeah, I know, magicians hate that."

"I began working with cards and card tricks, after some time, I discovered the magic store, *Mr. Magic*. That is where everything took off. Of course, a magic store doesn't make the magician but I bought a few tricks starting with the Stripper Deck and a book of card tricks. I started learning sleight of hand and began showing the tricks to my friends...and stuck with it."

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"I found out a week later, after the announcement that Mr. Magic was closing...I cried at the store. I really did."

MH: "A magician's craft is dependent on its mystery. Does the possibility of your secrets being uncovered play on your mind during a performance?"

CY: "Every. Single. Time. I would practice with my cards at school after class and my friends would see me doing it, some from behind me. They would see it from behind me then ask me to do it again. I'd turn around and do it again, and they would then say, oh I see, you kept it in the other hand. Since then, I fear things would be figured out and since now that I was paying for everything I performed, I'm like, man, I just don't want them to figure it out. I have since learned through the book, Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic, you never reveal the secret, never repeat a trick, never show secret preparation, *I might have come up with this one or Jim Henson might have told me*, don't let them see your props because they may destroy it. That is my way of saying its tricked don't show them. Oh, and Penn and Teller...never do the cups and balls clear."

MH: "As a magician, what kind of audiences have you found to be the most difficult and easiest to entertain; family, adults, or your friends at school?"

CY: "Umm...kids at school, impossible to entertain, well...almost impossible because they just don't care. They have a phone with them or something more interesting than here you go...*card trick, rope trick, sponge ball*. Family, they're always entertained but my performance is usually weak because they are new tricks that I am trying out and I haven't worked much on my presentation, it's kinda dull. Adults are a little easier to entertain...I have met four adults in my life that kinda heckled me. One heckled me, another thought he knew everything, one just didn't care and made fun of it and the last one was just a rude guy."

"I did a show at Asbury Church one time; it was so much fun, kept the audience entertained, I hope...they were laughing, so...and made \$40 from a tip jar! They were easily entertained and kids are easily entertained."

MH: "Magic is as much about illusion as it is the art of distraction, the better the performer; the easier it's made to look. How often do you practice, and who serves as a test audience for your new routines?"

CY: "The test audience is my parents, but, the performance is not that good. For example, if I just learned the Marlo Tilt, I say, watch this...it goes in the center of the deck...basically just saying what is going on. The card going to the center of the deck, and at this point, I begin thinking of what to do next. I usually let the patter become improv when nothing is going on. I often end up just rambling on and on."

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MH: "It's not every day that a person encounters a magician. What's the first thing people ask you (or ask you to do) once they find out you are a magician?"

CY: "Sometimes...I don't want them to know I am a magician because I might have a trick on me that I am practicing and don't feel confident in doing, such as Joshua Jay's Inferno. I have been caught in the sleight before and I didn't want to. I have been put on the spot about three times to perform a trick and when this happens, my brain goes into a get it done, get it done fast mode and end up being faster than when I actually have practiced. It's scary, like, what do I do now, I'm not good at that trick and then I forget all the card tricks I've learned?"

MH: "What is the best piece of advice you've received, and who/what was the source of that advice?"

CY: "Ok...90% presentation and 10% trick. That was the best advice I ever received and that was from Jim Henson because when he was closing the store I thought, man, I won't get my tricks anymore. Then he said, it's not just the tricks, I'm only selling 10% of the business because 90% is your presentation. That was the best advice I got because I was sooo dull when I first started. I was actually saying what was going on as if I were practicing instead of working the presentation."

After receiving that advice, if I were allowed to do it when I first started...I was told it was bad, but if I go back and redo it let's say watch this card and it changes, if I worked on the presentation they might say I didn't do a good job or got no reaction at all. You just need to entertain them, don't go in and just do the trick. Talk to them.

MH: "On the other side of that question, what advice would you offer someone your age or younger who wants to become a magician like you?"

CY: "The five rules of magic. Make sure they have that in their mind. Create a presentation and make it original. Everyone has taken a joke from a comedian or magician to help build on their own presentation. You can start from scratch, but to be funny, you need to know what jokes are supposed to sound like. And finally, Practice, Practice, Practice...and try not to be nervous like I am."

MH: What is your favorite book on magic?

CY: I don't have too many books but Mark Wilson's Complete Course on Magic would be it.

MH: Who is your favorite Magician?

CY: Two stage magicians would be Lance Burton and Mac King. Mac King because he is just hilarious. Lance Burton because he put theater in his act in elegant style. Close-up favorite is Shin Lim because he uses the theatrical presentation style.

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Blast from the Past



by Mike Curtis
Historian

It's fun to go back to some of our oldest meetings, so this month we will roll back the calendar 60 years to the December, 1957 meeting of the Ring. The President that year was W. Meyers Smith and the Secretary was Walter F. Scott. The Ring met monthly at the Albert Pike Hotel.

December's meeting had nine members and five guests present. Dr. J.M. Smith suggested Logan "Zuko" Pritchett be commended for his efforts in trying to secure talent for the Arkansas convention. Frank Caple was then commended for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Ring in the V. A. Hospital shows. The club voted to discontinue the V.A. shows as of December, 1957.

Pritchett reported Lee Grabel would show in Searcy and Morrilton, Arkansas, December 13 and 14. The club voted to have a dinner meeting in Morrilton with the Grabels, and then attend the show in a body.

Dr. J.M. Smith was appointed to purchase a \$15.45 gift certificate for Walter Davis, hotel manager of the Albert Pike in appreciation of the many courtesies shown our club in the past year. Nominating committee to select officers has Pritchett, chairman, Joe Poch and J.M. Smith.

Otis McCollum introduced O.J. Matthews of Stuttgart who did card and cigarette manipulations, silk, paper, and rope, and close-up session of card magic. Dr. Smith did Reilly's Brain Echo. "Zuko" showed new novelty items including Arlane's Green Thumb.

This meeting revealed some of the outside activities the Ring was involved in and also included an interesting puzzle. What was the significance of the gift certificate amount for \$15.45? Why not an even amount? Any guesses? Bring them to the next meeting.

Until next time, remember, the past is clear, but do you remember it clearly?

Your humble historian, Mike Curtis.

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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. Mr. Magic is also a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)
501-580-2860
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