

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)

February 2018

Christmas Show Entertainers



Inside this Issue		Upcoming Magic Events	
2	President's Corner		February - Lecture - Tom Burgoon
3	Ring 29 Report		March
5	Christmas Show Photos		April – Lecture - Gregory Wilson
8	In the Spotlight		May
13	Ring 29 History		June
14	Editor's Note		July
15	Ring 29 Contact Information		August

In the News

As you may have noticed, we have had a change in the way you can access our newsletter. Thanks to Bob Bullock, our webmaster extraordinaire, we are now able to go to the Ring 29 website, select Downloads and magically, our newsletter has a link you can select for your reading enjoyment. I hope everyone is able to access it this way. THANKS BOB!

In the Spotlight

Boy do we have a good one for you this month! I wanted to dig a little deeper into the mind of a working magician and discover some of their secrets to performing on stage, close up and for children.

On tap is a gentleman who performs regularly not only at our meetings but publicly as well. Let's see what can be learned and talk shop with **Magician** ...Aaron Acosta (Page 5)

The Performer

President's Corner



*Jo Jones
President*

Members of Ring 29,

Happy New Year Fellow Magicians!

The New Year for Ring 29 has had a great start! We began with the January Christmas Show at the Jacksonville Community Center. We had a great show with a great lineup! Everyone had a very good time as each performer kept the audience amazed or laughing.

I would like to thank Jon Bucher for doing a great job as emcee. Thanks, also, to the performers who put their best foot forward. They were Larry Bean, Adrian Steelman, Dane Dover, Carlos Yang, Derrick Rose, Cedric Morley and Randall Eller. Thank you, Randall, for letting us borrow your sound system and operating it for us.

Thanks to everyone who brought desserts and to Joel and Janie Nicholson and James and Christy Kinsey who helped set everything up. Thank you, Aaron Acosta for getting the building rented and working with Corky's to get the food, and for donating cookies, ice, napkins, etc.

I want to thank all of you for being so supportive of Ring 29! We had good magic, fun, and fellowship. Without you, this event could not have happened! I am very fortunate to have great people to work with!

We will be back at Baptist Hospital in classroom #1 on February 1st . Derrick Rose is our mini-lecturer and Carlos Yang is our emcee for the February meeting. You will not want to miss! Bring some magic to perform.

Gregory Wilson will be our guest lecturer on February 12th. We would like to have a very good turn out so please mark this on your calendar. You certainly don't want to miss this lecture.

Tom Burgoon will be our lecturer on April 17th. Mark this on your calendar as well.

See you Thursday, February 1st!

Jo

The Performer

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

Fellow Magicians, Ring 29 met at the Jacksonville Community Center on Saturday, January 13th, at 5:30 pm for our much anticipated Christmas Party and Magic Show. This year featured eight of Ring 29's talented magicians. More on the show in a minute.

Before the show started, the enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the club consisting of BBQ, baked beans, coleslaw. Also provided were a myriad of deserts ranging from brownies and cookies to the most tasty banana pudding. Fantastic! While eating, people also enjoyed walk around magic and conversation.

As people were enjoying desert, the show started with Emcee of the night, Jon Bucher. Always delightful, Jon started off with some rope tricks of his own. Afterwards, he began with announcing each performer with a word and some humor surrounding that word. For example, one of his words was 'Cannibal' best defined as "someone who is fed up with people." Moans and laughter ensue.

First up was territorial vice president, Larry Bean. After picking two audience members as his assistants, he presented a guillotine on stage. He then proceeded with a humorous discourse while one of his volunteers was placed in the medieval device unsure of her pending fate. Ultimately, the blade was dropped and the volunteer was able to walk away from the stage unharmed, body and head completely intact Thanks for "heading things off", Larry!

Next up was Adrian Steelman, with his very own slide trombone routine. Polished with grace, Adrian's routine is reminiscent of the classics. He started out turning a white handkerchief into a walking cane, solving Rubik's cubes instantaneously, and producing a handful of red balls from his trombone. As his finale, he drank a glassful of water and while playing a tune on the trombone produced a downpour of water from the trombone's bell!

Dane Dover was third with a great rendition of linking rings. Most magicians have similar stories about the rings but Dane added a nice message to his presentation perfect for the holidays. In Dane's version, we all learned how each of us is connected through family, church, and friendships. For his finale, Dane performed snow storm! I might add this was perfect for the season because the night air was cold and this gave us a little snow without the hassle of hazardous road conditions.

Not to be outdone, Carlos Yang was next with some very intriguing methods of solving Rubik's cube. Would you believe a volunteer was able to solve it instantaneously behind his back with the magical instruction of Carlos? To wrap up his presentation, Carlos performed a restored newspaper routine. This young man

The Performer

has so much wit and stage presence ... I think we are all just a little envious!

Intermission followed these acts with our annual drawing for Rabbit E. Lee. Each year, a magician is awarded the rabbit statue and it is taken into that person's custody for security and protection throughout the year. The only caveat is that the magician must add something meaningful to the rabbit upon its return. This year's recipient is Adrian Steelman. It was returned by Mike Jones who added a playing card "tattoo" to the rabbit's arm.

Welcoming everyone back after intermission was Derrick Rose with an astounding presentation of needle through balloon. Second, he topped his performance off with a brilliant card prediction routine. A spectator was selected from the audience and asked to discard stacks of playing cards at his choosing. He ended up with one card left. It turns out that the jumbo card he's been sitting on the whole time is a match for his selected card!

Cedric Morley, aka "Cedric, the other Entertainer" was up next with a fascinating recreation of a Houdini escape; only with playing cards. Not sure how a signed and selected card was able to escape the deck of cards with a bolt and 'rope of doom' passing through it all enclosed in a box secured by variable tension resistor. Okay, that is Cedric's term for rubber band but who's still not curious? If that weren't amazing enough, he follows this up with a story about a boy whose teacher turned coal into diamonds... leaving one piece of coal behind for a particular disbelieving student. We were left wondering who that student might be until Cedric pulled out a tiny piece of coal as a reminder of the experience!

Now we come to the conclusion of our show. Last but not least was Randall Eller. Randall brings to the stage a fascinating opener by magically passing a handkerchief through the mic stand. Not once, not twice, but three times! Following this with the help of a somewhat reluctant volunteer from the audience, he proceeds with the grand finale.

Positioned on stage is a large life sized silhouette of Randall on a white background. Our reluctant volunteer then shot three bolts (arrows) into the silhouette with a crossbow. Yes, that's right, a crossbow! It was then pointed out that on stage for the entirety of the show was a sealed envelope hanging high above the stage. It just so happens, Randall says the envelope contains a prediction. Once retrieved, the volunteer was asked to open the envelope and unfold the prediction. Incredibly, each shot at the silhouette was EXACTLY predicted on the contained piece of paper. The crowd stands and erupts with applause!

Ring 29 hopes everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship, and show as much as we enjoyed hosting it. We are already looking forward to next year!

We wish you all a magical 2018!

-- Gary Fambrough

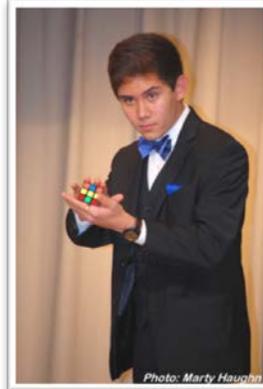
The Performer

Check out the photos from January's Christmas Show:



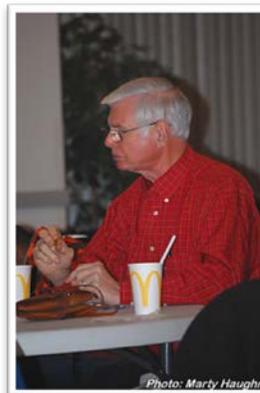
Photos Courtesy of James Kinsey

The Performer



Photos Courtesy of Marty Haughn

The Performer



Photos Courtesy of James Kinsey & Marty Haughn

The Performer

In the Spotlight



by Marty Haughn
Editor

Aaron Acosta

January filled our lives with great performances by both young and young at heart at our Annual Christmas Show. It wasn't until the night of the show that I had decided who I wanted to ask to do an interview with. So, once things got to hopping and the food was about ready to be served, I cornered my prospective interviewee and made the request.

This month we talk with a magician who is a well-rounded entertainer working close-up, stage, children's magic, walk-around, and as a mentalist. This, ladies and gentlemen, was one interesting and fun interview. Let's take a close look what goes on in the mind of Magician, Aaron Acosta...

The Interview

Aaron Acosta

Age: Closely Guarded Secret!

Favorite Style of Magic: Close Up

Favorite Magician: Axel Hecklau

MH: "Thank you Aaron for taking the time in doing this interview. I want to begin with a traditional question, something almost all magicians are asked. How did you get started in magic, at what age and who, if anyone influenced you?"



AA: "I got started with Mark Wilson's Course in Magic out of the library in Searcy; I think I was eight years old. And then, my second interaction with magic was... there was a magic shop in Searcy that Mike Jones owned called "Mike's Magic Trunk". I was eight and got my first magic trick from the magic shop called "The Locked Deck". Those were my first two interactions that got me started in magic. I kind of got out of magic for a very long time. You know, I still dabbled with it but didn't just dig into it until I think I was about nineteen and while out in Vegas and uh, I walked into Houdini's Magic Shop in New York New York. They started demonstrating magic and it was like boom, there was that spark again. I was still doing a little bit but it was never all that. And of course, at nineteen I found out there was a lot more than when I was a young kid and I just stood in that magic shop for like hours, while everybody who was with me left me there. They were going to ride the roller coaster in New York New York...they rode the roller coaster twice then came back and I walked out with too much over-priced magic and uh, pretty much went downhill ever since. I took the blue pill instead of the red pill or something like that and since then it has consumed me. Roberto

The Performer

Giobbi was probably the first because I was starting to dig into card college and those books. That was really what I focused on was close up magic for so long."

MH: "With few exceptions, everyone loves magic, so in a sense you're dealing in the commodity of happiness. Do you ever give impromptu performances for strangers; say in an elevator or passengers on a flight?"

AA: "No, not unless I am asked. I don't like to, well, I call it "Attack People with Magic". I think it is kind of rude. They don't normally want to see magic so I wouldn't just...a long time ago I did but I don't any longer. If I can start that conversation or somebody asks me or they find out I am a magician and they want to see something, I'll show them something. But I don't randomly go up to people and ask if they want to see a magic trick."

MH: "What, in your opinion, do you think a magician is?"

AA: "I think a magician is somebody that takes people out of their reality and puts them into an area of, uh...say...astonishment for a moment. Magicians have the ability to take somebody out of their ordinary life for those twenty to thirty minutes, maybe it's only three minutes and then moves them into an area of astonishment where everything else is, and you may suspend their disbelief for a few moments. So, I think a magician is somebody that brings enjoyment into other people's lives...and it might just be through laughter, it might be through astonishment but we always have that ability to take them from this gray area over to here for just a little while."

MH: "A well-known proverb suggests that familiarity tends to breed contempt or at least indifference. What are the reactions of your friends and family who have been exposed to your magic for years, and do you perform for them regularly?"

AA:"My wife hates magic! (laughter) I do not perform for family and friends very often. Unless I am working on something new, I might show my wife just to see, because she has seen so much she knows what to look for, so if I fool my wife it's pretty good. I don't normally perform for family and friends, some friends but hardly any family." (MH) *Now why is that?* (AA) "They've probably seen enough in the past they don't care to really watch it, they don't ask and I'm more or less one of those people, I mean, I practice magic but unless I'm performing for an audience, I really don't really care to just show people this and that. I prefer to just do my show or do a walk-around set and I do that quite a bit so I guess when I am at home I work on other things and spend time with the family." (MH) *So your wife is the guinea pig then?* (AA) "Yes, she can be. And you know when I fool her, she's like, you gonna tell me how that works? And if I don't, she gets mad."

MH: "Comedians are famous for referring to "tough crowds". As a magician, what kinds of audiences have you found to be the most difficult and easiest to entertain?"

The Performer

AA: "Um, man, so...That's not an easy question. It can go both ways. Children can be the most difficult at times, if they don't like you, they'll eat you alive because they aren't going to give you any slack. If you are not entertaining and funny they are going to let you know, if they see something, they are going to point it out. They can definitely be the hardest, especially if you don't have tough skin. If you are at that moment in your magic time that uh you get hurt on every little thing and you are like oh, what'll I do because I flashed or something. Kids will let you know real fast. The other people that are going to be the toughest is going to be that male that thinks he needs to out-shine everybody sometimes. I'm going to have to go back...the easiest to entertain is somebody that wants to see magic because if a group wants to see magic or they love magic; those are the easiest to entertain regardless. Also you can go down the route, kids can sometimes be easy to entertain if you can get them to laugh and get them on your side."

MH: "The greatest payoff for an entertainer is generally not financial. Can you describe the most rewarding aspect of performing before audiences?"

AA: "Knowing that you can tell they are having a good time. I mean, it's nothing like performing in front of like thirty, forty, fifty...a hundred people and you are getting the applause, you are getting laughter and they are coming up afterwards and saying I had such a great time, I don't know how you did that blah, blah, blah. Just knowing that you had that affect where they had such a good time and it's such a rush to perform magic in front of people...you either like it or you don't. I just love being in front of people."

MH: "Have you ever completely botched a trick in front of an audience? What's the worst magician-FAIL you've ever seen?"

AA: "Every single trick. Because if you haven't, you haven't done the trick enough. I'm going to tell you right now, if you do a magic trick, and you do that same magic trick enough, at some point it is going to mess up, you are going to mess something up. You are going to forget something. I have messed up every single magic trick I do at some point and time, even after I've done a magic trick five-hundred times, it would be the...five-hundred and first time that I mess up. I've dropped things when I should not have dropped stuff, I have forgotten to put stuff in a pocket where there should be something...you just have to kind of go with it at that point. Worst magician fail...you mean live or on video? I saw a video where a magician stabbed his hand with the nail, you know that thing, so I would think that would take the cake right there. In person...the egg cracking in the pocket in the Silk to Egg trick."

MH: "What's the most amazing magic trick you've ever seen, to the point that you couldn't figure out how it was done?"

AA: "Hmmm...in person, right? Let me think...Yeah...There is a trick by Axel

The Performer

Hecklau, and this is the reason I really like him too...he gives me that moment, like, you know, you feel like...you know there is a difference when you are a magician, like you were saying, when you watch magic you really don't get that wonderment like you did before. When you first get into magic, everything is like mind blowing to you until you learn the secret. But Axel still has some magic that just blows my mind. He has this one he doesn't give away and it's where he passes out two cards and they sign the top of them, then the audience rips the middle out of the card...he takes the two cards and connects them together...and...he leaves the cards as a souvenir, and they are connected. I have some thoughts, but I really don't know...have no clue and do not know if I am even close. It's kind of mind boggling when you think about it."

MH: "Is being a magician everything you thought it would be? What's something you wish you knew when you first started?"

AA: "Uhhh...that's...hmmm...boy...I guess I never thought about what it would be. It's more than what I thought it would be, you know, to be honest with you. I never realized, first off, when I was younger, I didn't realize you could be a magician at first. I thought it was cool and in the beginning I just thought it was just magic tricks. But, to be a magician can mean so much, you know. It depends on how far you want to take it. There are so many different levels of magicians. There are people who are just collecting, some people are just historians or hobbyists and that's fine. Some people just want to do tricks and some people want to entertain audiences. So, depending on how you look at it...I look at it as I want to entertain audiences and do it professionally all the time every day. Everything has positives and negatives and there are some parts I really don't care about it if you want to entertain because you gotta do the business part of it and that sucks, but... You know, it more than what I thought it would ever be and I'm glad I get to do it."

"As far as what I wished I knew...I wished I realized a long time ago that I could have ran it like a business and took it more serious."

MH: "From what I have read on your website, you entertain a lot for children. Many magicians may feel intimidated by this "challenging endeavor". What makes you different than other magicians in dealing with children during your show?"

AA: "Well...I'm going to tell you what makes a...first you have to do it, you have to find those things that help you manage the children, you know, what things you can say and do and work with the children. One, I believe you have to treat the children like you would adults but you have to do it in a fun and engaging way. You can't talk down to kids...you have to treat them as if you are the same as them. They don't want to be treated like they are children and if you tell them what you want up front, they are going to do it. Kids are used to having authority in their life but you are going to do it in a fun and engaging way you are not doing it as if you are telling them they are going to stand in the corner and stuff. So you

The Performer

are not that threatening authority, you are more that playful authority and they already understand that if we are going to have a good time you need to follow these simple rules. If you do that at the beginning in a fun and engaging way, they pretty much understand that throughout the show. If you can't handle kids being loud and all over the place sometimes, then you are probably not ready to perform for children."

MH: "Describe for us your most harrowing episode while performing for children and tell us what you did to turn things back to your favor."

AA: "Hmmm...man, I've had everything from kids peeing on themselves while up there to help. I just don't want to bring attention to anything that might embarrass any child, you know. Do whatever you gotta do to let them go and take care of themselves, choose someone else...I was doing a birthday party and a young lady...I was about to close the show out with the birthday child and uh the next thing I knew she was kind of wiggling around and I see a little bit of a stream running down her leg and so I let her go and began doing other magic until she finally came back which was about seven or eight minutes later. So you have to be prepared for those kinds of things...I always make sure I have a few extra things I can do in case something happens. I've not had anything just crazy happen other than thinks like that"

MH: "What piece of advice would you give a promising magician who is looking into possibly doing children's shows?"

AA: "Go ahead and try it, don't be scared of it. Go do a couple of free shows first before you go to try and charge somebody. Maybe go with another magician you could mentor under and watch them perform a couple of shows and maybe they will let you perform in one of their shows for four or five minutes so you could get the feel of it. I think that would be better than going and charging \$200 for a forty-five minute show and then just bomb it. Not only does it make you look bad, it makes other magicians look bad as well."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aaron for taking time out of his busy schedule for this interview. The time spent with Aaron was not only informative but entertaining as well.

Marty

The Performer

Blast from the Past



by Mike Curtis
Historian

This month's report is taken from the 10 year old, February, 2008 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Christy Henson and the Secretary was Tyler Vodehnal. The Ring met monthly at UAMSHospital.

"Every day I get up and look through the Forbes list of the richest people in America. If I'm not there, I go to work."-- Robert Orben

On February 7, thirty Ring 29 members came together to partake in a magical gathering themed "Mystery Bag" night. Every member was required to draw a number at the beginning of the evening. During the evening, whenever the magician's number was drawn, the magician went up on stage, selected a brown paper bag and performed with whatever was in that bag. Objects ranged from a thumb tip, to a deck of cards, to color changing silks, to spiked coins, and even to a plastic tomato.

Twenty-six members performed magic during the evening. That's right, twenty-six members performed! This means, unfortunately, that they cannot all be named in a Ring report. However, the club enjoyed such wonderful effects as Cups and Balls, "Professor's Nightmare," Tree of Diamonds, a Hot Rod, and an Acrobatic Coin. Even the Wacky Wizard of Saskatchewan made an appearance and played a recorder with his nose. And if that's not magic, what is?

A big thanks to all of the twenty-six performers for the evening and we look forward to seeing everyone perform again."

That was a memorable evening, not so long ago, with great participation, and great fun and laughter had by all. The spontaneity made for some very interesting and funny performances. It was one of those loose evenings when everyone could relax and just have fun. Mess-ups added to the enjoyment of the spectacle.

Until next time, remember, the past offers us a chance to do better.

Your humble historian,
Mike Curtis

The Performer

Editor's Note

I too would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of the performers for a great show providing fun, humor and best of all, great magic. Special thanks and congratulations go out to Carlos and Adrian for their performances. For two young magicians on stage in front of other magicians, their families and friends each performed admirably and with a high level of confidence. I was just glad to be back far enough out of Adrian's trombone range to get wet!

Additionally, I want to thank Bob Bullock for all of his assistance with getting the newsletter online for everyone to read.

Very Respectfully....
Marty & Tammy Haughn

The Performer

President: Jo Jones
jjones@astate.edu

Vice-President: Cedric Morley II
870-307-3157
morleyfamilymagic@gmail.com

Secretary: Gary Fambrough
501-607-3151
Gaire13@gmail.com

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bob White
501-749-9209
r.white709@comcast.net

Treasurer: Col. James Kinsey
501-834-7456
jamesk39@swbell.net

Historian: Mike Curtis
501-517-0926
Djcmgc@aol.com

Webmaster: Bob Bullock
501-920-0718
bbullock20@comcast.net

Newsletter: Marty Haughn
501-605-3605
mjhaughn@gmail.com



Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: ring29report@yahoogroups.com
Subscribe: ring29report-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: ring29report-unsubscribe@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. Mr. Magic is also a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)
501-580-2860
<http://mrmagicstore.com/>