



The Performer

*Little Rock Ring 29 Newsletter
Little Rock, Arkansas*

May 2020





- President's Corner
- For the Record
- Blast from the Past
- Treasury Report
- Magical History
- Event Calendar



It's all about the Magic...

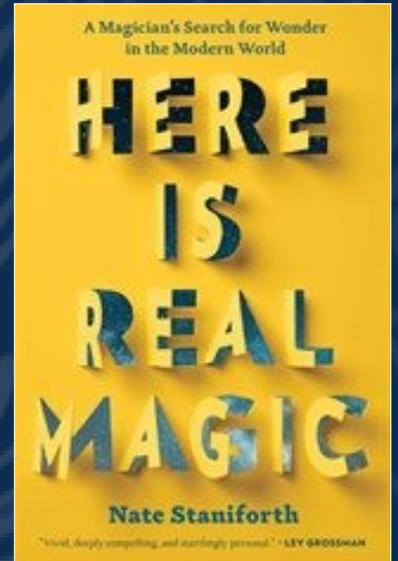


Book Review

Just recently I obtained a copy of Nate Staniforth's book "Here is Real Magic". If you have not heard of Nate Staniforth, before you go researching him, I suggest reading this book. Five Stars!

"An extraordinary memoir about finding wonder in everyday life, from magician Nate Staniforth. Nate Staniforth has spent most of his life and all of his professional career trying to understand wonder--what it is, where to find it, and how to share it with others. He became a magician because he learned at a young age that magic tricks don't have to be frivolous. Magic doesn't have to be about sequins and smoke machines--rather, it can create a moment of genuine astonishment."

"Here Is Real Magic follows Nate Staniforth's evolution from an obsessed young magician to a broken wanderer and back again. It tells the story of his rediscovery of astonishment--and the importance of wonder in everyday life--during his trip to the slums of India, where he infiltrated a three-thousand-year-old clan of street magicians. Here Is Real Magic is a call to all of us--to welcome awe back into our lives, to marvel in the everyday, and to seek magic all around us."



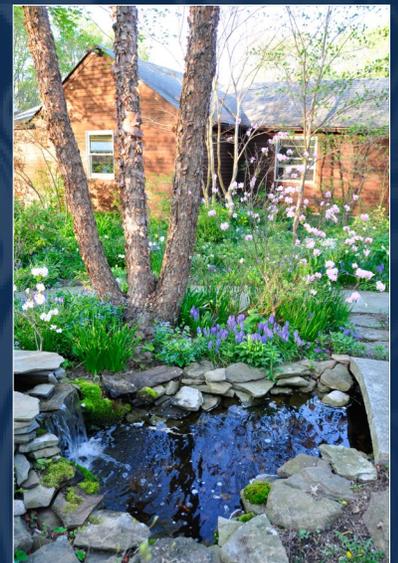
Day 75 - May 15, 2020

What have you been up to? Have you been working? Are you able to get out and about with everything nearly closed down? Never in my lifetime have I experienced such egregious and challenging times. Never would I have thought that eight months into retirement something so challenging would push the limits of life.

Everyday we are bombarded by news from every direction. Unfortunately, it is up to us and us alone to decipher what is factual and what is not. The stress this alone causes is taking its toll on the population.

The stress placed on families, businesses, hospitals, police departments and every other "Frontline" occupation witnessing and dealing with the devastation caused by personal and financial losses due to this virus is unfathomable.

To each and everyone of you, I hope that you are able to channel the stresses imposed on us all and will persevere through these very challenging and upsetting times. Stay Safe...Stay Healthy!



Meetings

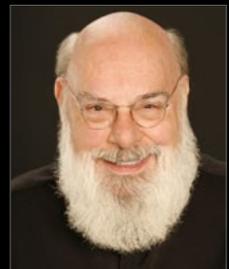
June: TBA - Watch for info via social media and email

Upcoming Events

July - Installation; details to come via social media and email

"All magic is about transformation... the performance magician is telling you that you are the magician in your own life. You are the agent of transformation, your own transformation."

— Eugene Burger —





For the Record *Gary Fambrough*



Marty Haughn here sitting in for Gary who had to be on call during the last Zoom meeting. You missed a good one Gary, hope to see you at the next one.

We had several more members join us this month as we venture into our third month of this virus. It was good to see everyone was still in good health and spirits. Members this month included: Dane Dover, Daniel Gladstone, Gerry Bailey, Derrick Rose, Shawn Miller, James Kinsey and Marty Haughn. Although not a member as of yet, Matt Seibert was also in attendance. We'll get him into the mix one of these days!

When I first opened up Zoom I saw a few names pop in and out including one I did not recognize. More in a minute on that one. The meeting began with our moderator, Dane Dover, welcoming everyone then informing us all we had a guest tonight. Dane then introduced a gentleman from Buffalo, New York, Rian Lehman. Dane further explained that Rian was going to provide us with a mini-lecture. Quite the surprise for everyone I am sure.

Rian began with a brief background and stated he was into cards and coins. He began with something all, or at least most, magicians use as a utility, a Sharpie. A card was signed and eventually ended up sandwiched between two other specially chosen cards. The key was that the two chosen cards were separated, one near each end of the deck. The signed card, well, it was placed somewhere in the middle. After a few magical gestures and what-not, the signed card AND the two preselected cards ended up toward the middle with the signed card between the selected cards. Of course, Rian taught everyone the secret.

Next, a little more about the Sharpie. Rian's Sharpie was not your ordinary marking pen. This one came shelled in a fancy cover called the Sharpie Sherpa. With some tinkering of an original Sharpie, Rian was able to visually demonstrate the disappearance of the Sharpie tip!. Now that was an eye burner! Those in attendance now know the secret behind the disappearance of the tip.

The Sharpie was followed up by the Chinese Coin and Ribbon trick. Rian began with traditionally sized coins sporting the square hole in the middle of each and demonstrated that they were able to be released from the ribbon without having the ribbon ends pulled through. This is a very nice trick if you have not seen it performed. It didn't stop there! Rian then pulled out some inch and one half Chinese coins and did a Three Fly routine with them showing that the larger coins were much better to use as a stage routine as well as a close-up.

Not stopping there, a trio of Super Jumbo Chinese coins were produced, about a five inch coin, and were used in the Chinese Coin and Ribbon trick. Now that is what I call a "growing" series of coin tricks!

continued on page 4...





For the Record *Gary Fambrough*



After a lengthy Q & A session, the meeting worked toward discussions about what everyone was doing to fill their time during the “Stay at Home” ordeal. Some were practicing to stay sharp, others like me were trying to learn new tricks and Derrick found it difficult to practice and wondered what performing was going to be like once the workers were allowed.

It was brought up that some workers had been doing online shows for customers and I had seen where Robert Baxt had done a live performance but had to maintain a twelve-foot spacing between him and his audience. Derrick brought up a valid point about his shows in that it was so interactive and that interactivity brought on the comedy. He wasn't sure how he could do his live show without out the interactivity. All good questions and I am sure once the opportunity arises the shows will be just as good as before, even if there is no interactivity, at least not as much. Best of luck to you Derrick and to all workers waiting to perform again.

By now, the meeting was hitting the first hour and no one had said anything as of yet. If memory serves me correctly, Gerry finally broke down and asked Derrick if what he was wearing were silk Jammies! Why yes they were along with a matching robe. Of course, others chimed in with comments. Too funny.

Another good question brought up was the video lag time and performing on Zoom. Often times magicians rely on perfect timing and this lag seems to destroy it. Rian popped in and stated that at times magicians could take advantage of the lag time. He gave an example through a card trick as well as the Sharpie tip disappearing. With the way things are currently, this is an issue online performers must take into consideration.

A good point brought to light was the framing of your performance. This too could be used to a magician's advantage as long as it wasn't overused. But I believe the biggest issue magicians are having is performing without a live, in attendance audience for that needed participation on stage, being able to touch props like selecting a card, etc. All good points that must be considered.

Gerry Baily talked about and demonstrated a project he had been working on for the past five years. He had 3D printed a Zombie ball that he decked out with multi-color lighting on the inside. Gerry wanted to make sure the ball was light weight and could be used beyond the typical Zombie ball method. I do believe he has succeeded.

Our resident leather craftsman James Kinsey has produced a new product that I think every magician may want to own. He made a leather holder for the Sharpie. Although only a single spot for one, Rian suggested making one that could hold multiple Sharpies.

Derrick began producing a Queen of Spades from no where and making it disappear and still show empty hands! Nice work. Shawn Miller demonstrated his skills with Pocket Change.

That is it for now folks, I hope we are able to meet in real life in June. Stay tuned for details.....Marty





Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis



We will take another look back 27 years this month to the June, 1993 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Jim Henson and the Secretary was Wayne Syler. The Ring met monthly at C.A.R.T.I. in Little Rock.

“The evening's theme was rope magic and everyone brought a piece of rope and the desire to learn something new.

Ray Neal started with a good version of the Professor's Nightmare with a gospel theme. Theron Nunley followed with his version of the Professor's Nightmare that he had performed while working at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., and finished with a clever vanishing knot effect. Mike Jones demonstrated his rope cutting and restoring skills by mending a cut rope twice. He then got carried away and actually cut three equal pieces of rope for the Professor's Nightmare but after a second effort performed it well.

Lisa Bolin used Mary Ann Campbell as an assistant to demonstrate a classic “Do As I Do” rope tying routine that pleased all. Al Houpt delighted everyone with a rope knotting and cutting routine while talking about the dilemma his wife has had with clotheslines. Stewart Hughes then assisted Al by serving as a cutter for another amazing rope restoration. Al finished with his trademark presentation of the Professor's Nightmare.

Danny McDorman was up to his usual zany style of magic as he continually failed at tying a one handed knot. He then was securely bound to a chair by the capable hands of Jim Henson and Andy Stirman. With humorous byplay he successfully beat Houdini's escape time and then went on to cut and restore a doll with a rope body. He was followed by Greg Thompson who did an excellent job performing Jumbo coincidence.

Andy Stirman did a dirty rope trick (or was that Professor's Nightmare using a dirty rope?), and finished with a magical removal of a scarf from a clothesline with assistance from Lisa Bolin and Mary Ann Campbell. Jim Henson next presented the coveted rabbit award to Mike Strobel, who must keep it safe until it can be passed on to another worthy recipient next year.

The evening's festivities were closed by Scott Davis and Merritt Hendrix who both gave excellent versions and variations on “scissorless” cut and restored rope routines. Everyone had a good time and improved their knowledge of rope magic. Be sure to say hello when coming to the Little Rock area.” It appears that almost everyone got in on the rope magic experience at the meeting. It almost turned into a Professor's Nightmare festival with all the many variations presented. It was certainly entertaining as well as educational and demonstrated how diverse the talent is within the Ring.

Until next time, remember that the past awaits your remembrance.





Treasurer's Report
James Kinsey
May 2020



BEGINNING BALANCE-CHECKING:	\$3393.24
DUES COLLECTED:	\$0.00
TOTAL BALANCE-CHECKING:	\$3393.24
TOTAL BALANCE SAVINGS:	\$970.33
EXPENSES:	\$0.00
ENDING BALANCE CHECKING:	\$3393.24
ENDING BALANCE SAVINGS:	\$970.33

31 Members have paid dues.

If you are not sure about your membership status, email James at:

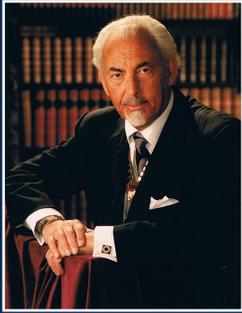
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Magical History

Marty Haughn



David Berglas MBE (born 30 July 1926) is a British magician and mentalist of German-Jewish descent. His secret technique of locating a particular card within a pack has been described as the Holy Grail of card magic. He was one of the first magicians to appear on UK television.

David Berglas was educated in several different European countries. He is German-Jewish, and escaped to Britain from Nazi Germany, aged 11. At 16 he wanted to become a Spitfire pilot. He lied about his age and managed to join the RAF. When his true age was discovered he was not allowed to complete his training.

He first became interested in magic in 1947, through a chance meeting with Ken Brooke. Magic became an all-absorbing hobby for about 5 years, during which time he studied psychotherapy, specializing in medical hypnosis. Although never performing as a stage hypnotist, his demonstrations gave him the experience of standing in front an audience and handling volunteers on stage. This gave him the confidence when he became a professional magician in 1952, working prestigious nightclubs and then in 1953 appearing at the famous Windmill Theatre, performing 6 times a day, 6 days a week, for 6 weeks. This was followed by an extensive tour of all the leading variety theatres and night clubs.

He devised numerous unique and entertaining sales presentations and product launches for household name brands. His specialized seminars included personal development, motivation, and memory systems.

David Berglas is the father of Marvin Berglas of Marvin's Magic, the world's largest supplier of professional magic sets. He is also uncle of South African cartoonist Zapiro.

In the 1950s, Berglas created what is now referred to as the "Holy Grail" of card magic, known as "The Berglas Effect", in which a magician appears to allow someone to freely name any playing card and freely select any position in a deck ("any card at any number"), and the specified card is found at the specified position in a random deck. The effect was first named "The Berglas Effect" by Jon Racherbaumer in his 1984 book *At The Table*.

The British Magical Society is the oldest magic club in the UK. It presents 'The David Berglas Trophy' annually (since 1988) to leading British magicians.

In 1999 he established a non-profit organization called the Foundation for Promoting the Art of Magic (FP-AM). The Foundation presents "The David Berglas International Magic Award" annually at the International Magic Convention in London. It was first awarded to the organizers of the convention, The MacMillan family, then in 2008 to Uri Geller (Israel), in 2009 to David Copperfield (USA), in 2010 to Juan Tamariz (Spain), in 2011 to Derren Brown (UK) in 2012 to Jeff McBride (USA), and in 2013 Lu Chen (Taiwan) was the recipient. In 2014 the award was given to Berglas himself. The Award Committee had led Berglas to believe that the award was being presented to Dynamo. Dynamo presented the award to him but used sleight-of-hand to change the engraved plaque on the award to Berglas' name.

Source: Wikipedia





Our Performers



Gerry, Derrick and Shawn were the only performers this month.





Our Performers



Shawn Miller



Matt Seibert



Zombie Ball



Rian Lehman



Rian Lehman



Rian Lehman



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Using Ring 29 Email Group

Post message: ring29report@yahoogroups.com

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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 and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

501-580-2860

