



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



February 2007



Ring 29 Christmas Party Performers

February 1 Annual Ring 29 Auction at Shuffield Auditorium- Baptist Hospital 6:45pm

Calendar:

- February 1** – Annual Auction
- February 11** – Junior Magic Meeting
- February 13** – Ring 29 goes to Searcy for Ring 308 meeting
- March 1** – Ring 29 Close-up Competition
- April 2** – Ron London Lecture
- April 5** – Mentalism
- May 3** – Silk and Cabaret Magic
- Mid-May** – Barrie Richardson Lecture
- June 7** – Ring 29 Stage and Platform Competition

Auction

February 1 is our annual Ring 29 Auction. This year there will be a silent auction along with the regular auction. There will be a few items auctioned off throughout the evening, but many items will be silently auctioned. If you plan to auction off any item, drop by Mr. Magic and pick up the auction forms. There is more space with tables at Baptist Hospital so note

that the Auction will be held at Shuffield Auditorium at Baptist Hospital, 6:45pm.

Close-up Competition

March 7, 2007 is our Ring 29 Close-up competition Ring 29 is sponsoring a close-up competition for all interested I.B.M. magicians and interested junior magicians.

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

An entry fee of \$5.00 will be required of each I.B.M. contestant and \$2 for each junior contestant.

The number of prizes (Mr. Magic Gift Certificates) awarded will depend upon the number of contestants:

Each contestant will be allowed no more than 7 minutes for his/her performance. Penalties will be imposed for performances exceeding this limit.

There will be several judges (at least two magicians and at least one non-magician) Judges will looking at the following criteria:

1. Originality (if the routine is a standard routine or one taken from another performer, has the routine been altered enough to be considered the contestant's own magic)
2. Technical difficulty/execution (did the performer "flash" a palmed item, or fail to deceptively execute the routine)
3. Treatment of audience/audience-provided assistants (Was the performer courteous? Did the performer belittle or embarrass his/her assistant?)
4. Poise, stage presence, costume, voice.
5. Entertainment value (was the magic enjoyable?)

There will also be a "People's Choice" award along with other prizes



mrtech.com

Christmas Party



The Great Hensini

Over ninety magicians and their family and friends attended the Ring 29 Christmas Party. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Baer and her kitchen staff at Salem United Methodist Church for the great food. Derrick Rose, Don Baer, and Pam Medrez performed during dinner. Jon Bucher served as emcee for the show. Performers include Derrick Rose, Jimmy Ross, Don Terry, Jim Henson, Christy Henson, Chris Westfall, Scott Davis, Sherry Davis, and Randall Eller. Lance Howell received the Ring 29 2006 Member of the Year award. The Henson's were honored with Arkansas' First Family of Magic award.

More information about the Christmas Party along with other pictures will be in the next newsletter.

Ring 308

Several Ring members are traveling to Searcy to Ring 308's monthly ring meeting. It will be Tuesday, February 13th, 7pm at the library on Pleasure Street. If you would like to go please contact Jim at the

magic shop or contact Christy at cih0914@aol.com

Junior Magicians

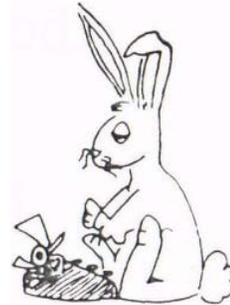
Little Rock's Junior Magic Club will meet on Sunday, February 11, at Mr. Magic beginning at 2pm and lasting for about an hour. The theme is ropes. Come out and support these junior magicians.

Lectures

There are two lectures Ring 29 is scheduling for this spring. Ron London will be in Little Rock on April 2 and Barrie Richardson will be coming mid-May

♠ *Blast From the Past – Have we seen this before?*

Elwood's Rabbit Rites



Carefully edited by

Van Cleve

I studied up on it and asked around to find some magic tricks for Halloween. Here are a few.

A SPIRIT FAX Machine

The TALKING SKULL that sounds just like a Music Box. There's also a radio controlled model that opens garage doors.

Ghostly tissue paper or SPIRIT WRAPPING.

The famed LIVING and NOT-LOOKING-AT-ALL-WELL Test.

For seances, the new INVISIBLE THREAD. It's so good you can pass it for examination.

A SUNLAMP so you can do DAYLIGHT SEANCES at night. RIDLE

ANSER: Cold reading.

RIDLE: What is an outhouse catalog in winter?

Your Friend

Elwood

Magic Matters

♣ Monthly Bio:



Lance Howell

Meet Lance Howell, the February featured Ring 29 member. Lance said his first exposure to magic was when He was about 8 years old and received a Harry Blackstone Jr. Magic Set. It was a great set and he really loved the tricks that came in the set. Lance then began to watch the yearly David Copperfield specials that were shown on CBS Television. Copperfield was the only magician that he was able to see besides the tricks that appeared on the Bozo Show. Lance has been interested and enjoyed magic for about 20 years. . I have been seriously learning magic and performing for the last 4 years.

My favorite type of magic to perform is gospel magic and comedy stage magic. My favorite tricks are the Pom-Pom Sticks and Topsy Turvey Bottles

Lance's favorite magical memory was when He performed for a nursing home where his mother-in-law worked. The reason for it being his favorite memory was because he brought so much joy to the people, and they enjoyed it so much. Most of the residents had Alzheimer's and did not really care if I did not do the trick right, which a lot of the tricks where stupid and I did mess up a few of them. But they where enjoying a young person just spending time with them. It was my first performance in front of an audience that wasn't a member of my family.

My favorite living magicians are David Copperfield, Lance Burton, and Joshua Jay. My favorite past magicians are Harry Houdini, Harry Blackstone, and Dai Vernon. I believe it is good to remember our past fellow performers and to know where we came from so we can know how to get to where we are going.

Lance wishes for the future are to perform more, and learn more about integrating music and lights into my shows. He plans on traveling doing more shows when both he and his wife retire. Tammy his wife of seven years has been a great help to him during his pathway to magic. She supports him in buying new props, and helps him set up for performances. She makes sure that he has a great performance and is a great help. He has been to the 2004 Ring 29 convention, which was my first convention to attend. I had a blast. I am planning on attending the 2007 Magic Show convention in Branson.

Lance was chosen as the 2006 Ring 29 Member of the Year Award. He indicated that was a great honor for him because of the support of Ring 29. As he looks back over the last 27 years he had not experienced the fellowship of others like the fellowship of the magicians of Ring 29 to learn from. Lance stated "I love having that

fellowship. I love forming friendship with such great magicians and performers."

Lance is employed as a Disability Examiner for Social Security Administration for the last 2 years.

Lets all extend the hand of fellowship of Ring 29, to one of our newest members and the Ring 29 Member of the Year for 2006.

Submitted by
Gerry Bailey
Secretary

◆ Congratulations to **Jesse** and **Amy McKinney** on the birth of Hannah Jane born December 18.

♣ **Michael Wilkinson** is now performing every Monday night 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at American Pie Pizza in North Little Rock at McCain and North Hills Blvd.



Derrick Rose

Trick Time



By Peter Marucci

Give a magician enough rope and he'll do 45 minutes. That's an old gag, but there's a lot of truth in it.

Some time back, I had a routine in this column on the Professor's Nightmare, an effect that I consider one of the best in magic. Unfortunately, it is all too often done badly — really badly.

At that time, I asked readers to share their handling of the classic trick. An absolutely beautiful routine came from David Gish of Tyler, Texas. Starting from David Ginn's gag about the rope being a hemp snake, Mr. Gish offers:

The Silly Saga of the Snake Sisters

by David Gish

Effect: A peanut can is opened and the traditional spring snakes bounce out. Then three "hemp snakes" are introduced and the Professor's Nightmare is performed, accompanied by a "silly saga."

When the ropes are returned to the can, the audience relaxes — but another volley of snakes bounces out to another round of nonsense.

Set-Up: Peanut can and four spring snakes. Two are compressed as much as possible and loaded into the can, where they are held in place by a metal pin (made from a coat hanger) **that** runs through two holes in the can, about halfway down. The ropes are on top of this, then the other two snakes, and the can is sealed.

Presentation: "You know what comes in these cans? I know it says peanuts, but it's really full of snakes! Not just any garden variety of snakes, either. These are special help snakes. And these serpents are siblings — sisters, specifically.

"This is Sheila Snaks (remove longest rope). And her slightly smaller sister, Cindy (remove middle rope). And, this is Susan Snake (bring third rope into view so that the bottom is still in the can), but we call her Sue for short (reveal the length **of** the rope and set up ropes for the Professor's **Nightmare**).

"One day as the Snake sisters slithered silently across the steamy surface of the Sahara Swamp, they were certainly surprised by a swift and swollen stream. So swift and swollen that Sue Snake could not swim across safely.

"So this is what they decided: First, they put their heads together like this, then they put their tails together like that. Then Sue Snake stretched, and Sheila Snake shrunk, while Cindy Snake stayed steadily at her standard size. (False count.)

"They were able to swim safely to the serene surface of the serpent sanctuary on the sandy shore. (Fold ropes again.)

"Once on the safe side, Sue shrank, Sheila stretched, and Cindy stayed steadily at her standard serpent size, as they sought survival on the sandy shores of the serpent sanctuary."

(Return ropes to original size, put in pocket, replace lid on can and pull the pin. Then, notice the other spring snakes on the floor.)

"Oh, my goodness, I've left my toys lying about on the floor. You don't do that at home, do you?" (There's a good deal of 'business' here, depending upon the replies.)

Pick up one of the snakes and open the can, as if to replace it. David suggests ignoring the second volley of snakes; I think you should act even more startled than the first time. In any case, use whatever suits your performing style.

Stuff one of the snakes in the can and

hold it there; as you reach for another snake, release the first one from the can. Continue, milking it for all it is worth — but please don't drag it out too long. David says, "Remember the Law of Diminishing Returns!"

Reload all the snakes in the can and clamp on the lid, trapping the end of your tie (if you wear one) in the can. Struggle to release it without freeing the snakes. Sigh with relief, then as you put the can away, release the snakes for a final time. Gather up the whole mess, toss it in your box, and take your bow.

Second thoughts: David points out that this is not a routine for all occasions. "Shooting snakes into the audience can be a highlight of the party as the kids catch them and throw them back — but it can also be a disaster depending on the

individuals and circumstances involved."

Even though I've had this on hand for some time (my apologies, David), I have not tried it with an audience. However, I think it should be an absolutely killer routine for children's parties.

If David were to put this together and market it, you'd see it advertised in *The Linking Ring* for probably \$35. You've got it for free, thanks to one member sharing it with the rest of us. Thanks and comments can be sent to: David Gish, 13756 CR. 468, Tyler, TX 75704.

Peter Marucci

270 St. Andrew St.

East Fergus, Ontario, Canada N1M 1R1



Don Terry

Ethics

The following question of ethics has been posed to the Ring 29 board. Jim Henson 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 cjh0914@aol.com

Can you intentionally reveal a magic secret to the public?

The International Brotherhood of Magician's code of ethics states: "All members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians agree to

oppose the willful exposure to the public of any principles of the Art of Magic, or the methods employed in any magic effect or illusion."

Many things happen when a secret is given away to the non magician or someone who is only interested in learning how a trick works.

When someone thinks they know how a trick works, whether right or wrong, the perceived notion ruins the mystery and the fun of the illusion.

The public thinking they know how a trick works will pass along the perceived idea to friends and family ruining it for everyone.

The public and some magicians will reveal a secret for one of two reasons: self-serving and/ or egotistical motives.

Giving away a secret by accident from lack of practice (we are all guilty of this one) or giving away a secret to make you look smarter than everyone else is damaging to the magic community and to the fun and mystery which is why most of us enjoy the art.

Revealing some magic secrets destroy some performers' ability to make a living by taking away the fun of the performance (masked magician Fox TV)

In conclusion revealing the workings of any illusion for the motives mentioned put some in the category of a trickster, not a magician. Those who are truly interested in magic will keep the secret within the magic community and with those willing to put their time and money in learning this art form.



Scott and Shari Davis

President's Corner

Christy Henson: I hope everyone made it through the holiday season and are enjoying the new year. We have a busy few months coming up with lectures, meetings, and competitions. If you know of someone you would like to see lecture to our ring, please let me know so we can check into it. We are also looking for a great turnout of performers for the close-up competition in March. Guidelines are given in this newsletter so if you want some motivation to put an act together, our ring competition is it. If you need some new tricks to perform for the competition, come out to the February auction and get some bargains. See you there. Christy Henson cih0914@aol.com

Ring Ramblings



Jimmy Ross

♣ Eureka Springs Cavalcade of Magic will be March 30-31. Contact Bill Pitts at bandrpitts@aol.com for more info.

♦ 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*

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

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

♥ **January Birthdays:**

February 18 – **Tom Leggett**

February 21 – **Ernie Staggs**

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

February- Annual Auction

March- Ring 29 Close-Up Competition

April- Mentalism

May- Silk and Cabaret Magic

June- Ring 29 Platform and Stage Competition

♦ **Advertisements:**

Books and DVD's available at Mr. Magic

* Book about Mentalism - Guist by Ian Harling- Cost \$54.00

* Book - Tangled Webb by Eric Mead- Cost \$36.00

* Book – Designing Miracles by Darwin Ortiz- Cost \$40.50

* DVD – Between 2 Minds- Cost \$112.50

* DVD – Illusionworks Vol.1-2 Cost \$27.00

* DVD – Illusionworks Vol. 3-4 Cost \$27.00