



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

September 2006



2006-2007 Ring 29 Officers

Left to right: Mike Curtis, Chris Westfall, Christy Henson, Gerry Bailey, Tyler Vodehnal, James Kinsey

“Back to School” Meeting on September 7th at ACRC (not Spine Center)

♣ *Calendar:*

September 7th – Back to School Teaching Session

Session

September 23rd – Annual Ring 29 Picnic

September 24th – Junior Magic Club Meeting

September 30th – Used Magic Sale at Mr. Magic

October 5th – Halloween Magic Night

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

September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on September 7th at 6:45pm. **Note this second change in location for our meeting.** We will be meeting at UAMS; however we **WILL NOT** be on the 12th floor of the Spine Center. We will be meeting at the ACRC building. This is the same location we usually meet when we go to UAMS. You may park in the parking garage, but then go to the 10th floor of the ACRC building. On the 10th floor you will see Walton Auditorium (same one we are usually in). Time is still 6:45 pm. The theme is Back

to School Night. The meeting will be conducted as a Round Robin. **Mary Ann Campbell** will be teaching Torn and Restored Newspaper, **Jon Bucher** will be teaching a Dice Stacking Routine, and **Jim Henson** will be teaching Sponge Balls/ Bunnies. Your presence is all that is needed to make this a great evening of magic learning. If you would like to follow Jim from Mr. Magic to UAMS, be at the magic shop by 6pm.

The UAMS web site (www.uams.edu) offers good maps and directions if needed.

♣ The Ring 29 Board is looking for a new location to have our monthly meetings. As you know we have had to switch back and forth on occasion from Baptist Hospital to UAMS. The board wants the meeting place and time to be consistent. If you know of a location that would allow our magic group to hold a meeting the first Thursday of every month, please contact Christy Henson cih0914@aol.com or Chris Westfall westfallct@sbcglobal.net

♦ The July Installation of Officers Banquet held at Brown's Country Kitchen had close to 40 people in attendance. Thanks to **Mike Curtis** for conducting the Installation of Officers and to all of the performers. **Chris Westfall** served as Master of Ceremonies. Performers included: **Scott Davis, Derrick Rose, Andy Stirman, Don Baer, Chris Westfall** and **Christy Henson**. The fellowship, food, and entertainment was enjoyed by all.



September Picnic

The annual Ring 29 Picnic will be Saturday, September 23rd, at Pinnacle State Park. Note: Different place than last year- directions below. We will eat at 5:30pm and hold the magic show afterwards. If you would like to perform, bring a Trick! Family and friends are invited to attend this fun event. If you plan to come, please call Jim at Mr. Magic 455-6242 by Thursday, September 21st. Ring 29 will pay for the meat but each attendee will be asked to bring something; For example: bottle of soda, cookies, pickles, etc. So when you call, please give the total number of

people coming with you and you will be asked to bring a specific item. We have the pavilion beginning at 4pm so you may choose to go early and hang out in the park. **Directions:** Take Highway 10 to the Maumelle park sign on the right. Go towards Maumelle Park but don't turn in at Maumelle Park. Shortly past Maumelle Park, you will see the entrance to Pinnacle State Park (the one next to the Ranger Station) Our pavilion is the one near the boat ramp. If you need further directions, call the magic shop. Hope to see everyone there!

Support our Junior Magicians

Make plans to attend the Junior Magic Club meeting on Sunday afternoon, 2pm at Mr. Magic on September 24. We have over 35 young people (17 and under) interested in magic and wanting to join the Junior Magic Club. Here is the future of Ring 29! Come out and support these young people. The meeting will last an hour to an hour and a half. The first part will be somewhat informational and then we will continue with some card magic. If you know any young person that is interested in magic, please make them aware of this meeting. They can call Mr. Magic to put their name on the list to receive the September junior magic club newsletter.

Sale! Sale! Sale!

There will be a sale of used magic at Mr. Magic on Saturday, September 30 with over 300 items. Some are like new, some stage, some close-up, some books, some videos. Everything will be priced to sell. First Come, First Served. Doors will not open until 6pm sharp. No Phone Orders. If you plan attend, please call Mr. Magic

at 455-6242 on that day to make sure plans have not changed. Questions??? Call Jim.



Pam Medrez with Ted E. Bear

♥ Ring Report:

"You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance." – Author Unknown but likely a magician performing at a party with a rambunctious birthday child.

Ring 29's August meeting focused on "Kid's Magic" and was attended by 26 magicians who were of course kids at heart. **Christy Henson** served as the master of ceremonies for the evening and many of our professional magicians attended and lectured on their philosophies concerning performances for kids.

The evening started with **Michael Wilkinson** and his daughter **Stephanie** doing a Subtrunk and postal bag escape combination stage performance. Many of the magicians present happily gave some insight on how to improve the already solid performance. Strangely enough some of the suggestions came from **Jim Henson** and involved plenty of props that could be purchased at Mr. Magic and Novelties.

Don Baer moved the evening along by performing a wonderful puppet rabbit in the hat comedy routine with some Dan Garrett inspirations. Don then did a brief lecture on the use of hand, arm, and spring puppets, which involved ethics, how to handle the puppets, and when to use them during a show.

Ring 29 President and M.C. for the evening **Christy Henson** then wowed the audience with her version of Clowning Around with a mischievous Hairy Houdini serving as the catalyst. The trick taught all of us present the very valuable

lesson of never trusting a rabbit dressed up as a magician.

Our next lecture of the evening was presented by Ring 29's very own **Derrick Rose**. Derrick began by discussing his philosophy when performing for kids and their parents. He then put his teachings to action by performing a Sammy Smith Crystal Tube routine with a very dramatic pause for effect. After performing, Derrick finished by discussing his top ten list of things to expect at a kid's performance. Many of our experienced magicians also gave great insight about their encounters during this discussion.

Pam Medrez was our next performer and started with a question and answer session on how she got her start in ventriloquism. She then showed us a delightful routine involving her friend Ted E. Bear's first mentalism act. Mr. Bear asked for the help of two volunteers and was able to tell the volunteer which color tile they had chosen while he had his back turn. Pam finished by telling some wonderful stories on how and when she knew she had made it as a ventriloquist, which wonderfully could have been titled, "how to fool your co-workers and friends."

Mr. Magic himself Jim Henson rounded out the evening by explaining his philosophy on how to deal with kids that get too close during a performance. He then showed us some wonderful routines with a delight that he performed at Children's Hospital during the I.B.M. convention in Miami. He then finished with a great comedy rendition of Dog Gone Surprise.

A big thanks to all who performed and lectured for our August meeting!

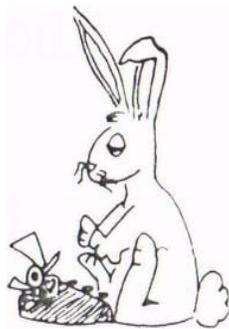
-Ima Clapsaddle

♠ **Blast From the Past:** Ring 29 Report from October 1952 Linking Ring.

NO. 29, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—Necromancers Meets 7:30 first Thursday, Albert Pike Hotel LOGAN PRITCHETT (Mr. Zuko), President 1511 W. 34th St., Little Rock, Ark. WM. H. MOORE, (Bilmore), Sec.-Treas. 416 N. Beech. Little Rock, Ark.

September meeting lightly attended. Frank Seymour took notes. Jimmy Nolting was emcee and opened with Papers of Satan. Mr. Barnette, a visitor, worked with two hats and four paper balls. Doc Smith, juggling with balls, and Flabbergasting. Frank Seymour, new routine using the pea can, and followed with inflated money where coins came pouring out of a rolled up bill. "Uncle Johnnie" Paquette, candle silks, rope penetration, and silk and rope penetration. L. D. Boyer tore a- dollar bill in half and the halves became two one dollar bills. Zuko showed tricks built by Jesse James of Eureka, Kansas. These included the tumbling blocks that spell out "Hello Folks", the old billfold trick, Chinese sticks with no strings attached, and rabbit card trick with a sucker effect. Annual picnic at Boyle Park where 250 saw the show and "were - appreciative. Seymour built the stage, including a complete "black art" setting, and lighting for each unit. The show was about an hour and a half long, and all the folks had fine things to say about the Little Rock magicians. Bilmore

♠ **Blast From the Past – The Sequel:**



Elwood's Rabbit Rites

Carefully edited by Van Clove

Houdini had to stop escaping from a Milk Can because he couldn't hold his BREADTH.

I wouldn't want to be a Majician at Sea World. If you're good...they hold you over. But, if you're bad...they hold you under!

Nobody screams louder than a Majician when somebody copies his trick...especially when he stole it himself in the first place.

I saw Karrall Fox do a whole set with sliced onions. It brout tears to my eyes.

Siegfried & Roy tried out an act of FISH MANIPULATIONS...but it FLOUNDERED.

Old CARD MAJICIANS never die. They just SHUFFLE OFF and PASS away. I can DEAL with that.

Magic is so much fun. I bet some Majicians would do it ... even if they got paid for it!

RIDLE

ANSER: Classic Palm

RIDLE: What do you call an Ancient Greek Tree?

Your Friend

Elwood

Magic Matters



♣ **Monthly Bio:**

Sitting down with Dr. Chris (that is what all the members call him) was an experience. We discussed how he got to where he is today in regards to magic. Dr. Chris describes himself as a Magician similar to a guitar player that plays for his or her own or family enjoyment.

At the age of six, Dr. Chris witnessed a man at Walter Reed Hospital perform a coin disappearing routine. The gentleman then taught him how to do the French Drop. It was Mark

Wilson's television show where he learned the Handkerchief to Silk with a sucker ending. It was through these tricks that Dr. Chris got his start in magic.

His first performance was for his family at the age of twelve or thirteen. This was followed by paying jobs for performing at kid's parties in the ninth grade. Dr. Chris' Father was in the military and they lived many places. His Mother was from New York City and they would ride the subway and visit Al Flossen's Magic Shop, a well known establishment, in Downtown Manhattan. After watching Al do some of the tricks, he would make purchases to use in his magic show at the age of twelve or thirteen.

Living in Washington DC gave Dr. Chris the opportunity to visit Al's Magic Shop, again a classic in magic shops owned by Al Cohan. This is where he purchased his set of cups and balls, which he still has today. Dr. Chris continued to do magic shows throughout High School. While a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Dr. Chris did a magic show for 100 plus people and raised about \$200 for a charity in order to obtain his Eagle Scout Award.

College and medical school was very consuming of his time, however his interest in magic was still active. The only performing he did during college was for his Fraternity and some of the other students for entertainment.

After college and medical residency, he went to Shreveport, La. where he got involved in an active magic club. After attending a meeting and lecture with Paul Diamond, his interest in magic was reactivated at the age of 30.

In the Air Force Dr. Chris' assignment was in Louisiana and later in Washington DC where he was again near Al Cohan's Magic Shop. By going to lectures and meeting some very interesting people, he discovered the Brick

Farm Inn of Magic in Chevy Chase, Md. The Inn was run by Bob Sheets and Steve Spill. They set up the inn as a dinner theater, with some close-up before and after the show. While at the Inn one of the performers took an interest in Dr. Chris as a young and eager magician.

After this assignment, Dr. Chris went to San Antonio, TX in 1985. It was in Texas that Dr. Chris joined the IBM. His interest in magic peaked when he moved to Little Rock, AR and discovered the epicenter of magic universe, Mr. Magic on Stagecoach Rd. The owner, Jim Henson, is the reason for the success of magic in Arkansas. Having visited magic shops from coast to coast and border to border he realized that Mr. Magic was the best shop in the US.

Magic is still an important part of his life, and has been for the last 9 years here in Little Rock. But his interest is not to play Carnegie Hall, but for the entertainment of his family and friends.

Dr. Chris Westfall is the current Vice President of Ring 29.

-Gerry Bailey



Derrick Rose

♥ Sometimes we go years without any mention of "magic" in motion pictures. Then suddenly, there comes along one with magic as the main theme. So what are the odds of TWO such movies coming out about the same time? Astronomical? Yes, but that is the current situation. And both movies are getting good reviews

and pre-release hype.

Any day now a new movie -- "The Illusionist" -- will debut. It stars Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti and Jessica Biel, all strong actors. Based on a short story by Steven Millhauser, Norton stars as the title character, a lovelorn Viennese stage magician around 1900, "who confounds Giamatti as a scam-sniffing Viennese police chief, with his apparent ability to manipulate time and space while delighting audiences." Entertainment magazine gives this stylish period piece a B+, although who believes movie critics?

In October 20, 'The Prestige' opens. It stars Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson, and David Bowie. "Entertainment" magazine says this is a star-studded drama about the rivalry between two turn-of-the-20th century stage magicians, one a brilliant showman (Jackman), the other a brilliant technician (Bale). The director, Christopher Nolan, brought us "Batman Begins," which was a big hit. He has spent seven years bringing Christopher Priest's acclaimed novel to the screen. The article says: "The director calls this movie a "puzzle film," with a "narratives-within-narratives" structure, that mirrors the dramatic arc and tangential misdirections of a magic trick. (The "prestige" is magician jargon for an act's denouement.") Apparently the director wants to keep the plot secret since he said very little about it to the reporter. A photo shown in the article includes Michael Caine, who apparently is in the movie, but not as one of the stars.

-Dennis Schick

♠ At least two magicians and several jugglers were contestants on the recent "America's Got Talent" reality show on NBC. One magician, Andrew Venevuleva, was eliminated early. But another one, Nathan Burton, originally from

Arkansas but presently living in Las Vegas, was one of the finalists. (Older ring members may remember that he performed with Ring 29 members at the 1991 Magic Mania Weekend in Benton, Arkansas.) The other magic act was David and Dania of "QuickChange" who do spectacular performances of changing costumes. They recently were on the covers of both *The Linking Ring* and *MAGIC* magazine and they performed their specialized act in July at the IBM convention in Miami.

♥ A & E is showing Cris Angel specials on Wednesday nights at 9pm. He is finishing his second season

♦ Ring 29 member **Mary Ann Campbell** was featured on two pages of the August issue of "The Linking Ring". The author is Michael Claxton, a member of Searcy, Arkansas' Ring 308, who has been contributing articles to "The Linking Ring" for several months. The series of articles have been about Women in Magic. Mary Ann appeared on the cover of "The Linking Ring" many years ago, and we are honored to have her as a member of Ring 29.

♣ **Dennis Schick** recently completed an entry for the new Encyclopedia of Arkansas, on J.B. Bobo, the world-famous magician from Texarkana. He found so much good information that he decided to expand the article and submit it to *MAGIC* magazine. They accepted it and the article is scheduled to be in the September issue. The timing was important because Bobo died exactly ten years ago, September 12, 1996. Dennis went to Texarkana and borrowed some great photos, flyers and posters of Bobo, and sent with the article. Darryl Miller is a magician and entertainment agent who lives in Texarkana. He was one of Bobo's closest friends during the last seven years of his life.

♥ If you head toward Branson, you will see a number of magicians performing around the town. To name a few: Kirby Van Birch, Hamner's, Bart Rockett, Taylor Reed, Justin Flom, etc. **Jim and Christy Henson** saw Justin Flom at the Majestic Steakhouse at the first of August. Justin is a young magician who has performed all over the world for many years. There are three parts to the evening of magic. The first part is similar to the entrance of the Magic Castle in Hollywood involving bookshelves and keys. The second room is an introduction to Justin Flom and a little bit of magic. The third room is a theater style seating stage performance. He has opened recently so there are still a few kinks but he is working hard. If you travel to Branson and see any magic shows, please write up some info and submit it to the newsletter.

♣ Did you miss the August Installation Banquet? You can view pictures from Ring 29 events at the website:

www.littlerockmagic.org/copper

♣ **Pam Medrez** AKA Mommy Magic did a couple of singing telegrams at Dillard's Inc. in August that went over really well. Over the next couple of months, she will be performing at Youngland Daycare, Tiny Tots Day Care, Car Mart's Customer Appreciation Day for two days in Pine Bluff, and two days at World Fest. She has added live guitar music to her shows and it has received a great response. Kids love to sing and dance and Mommy Magic is their willing partner.

♦ Several Ring 29 magicians and their families caravanned to Dallas, Texas for the Texas Association of Magicians Convention held Labor Day weekend. Look for a report in October's newsletter about the convention.



Trick Time

Trick of the Month November 1990
Linking Ring

PSYCHIC FINGERS

Norm Houghton

Effect: A peeked-at card is named and produced while the pack is held behind your back — after a spectator has shuffled it.

Method: In *The Fine Art of Magic*, George Kaplan described a simple and subtle way to bring a peeked-at card above a key card, to wit: You know the top card of the pack. Have a card peeked at in the usual way and get a break under it. Cut off about a quarter of the pack and table it. Cut to the break and put this packet on top of the first one, bringing the noted card on top of your key. Complete by cutting off two or three more packets in the same way.

Here's my variation: Have a spectator peek at a card and secure a break below it. "Of course, I know just about where your card is," you say, "so I'll randomize the cards a bit." Give them a series of cuts, using a slight variation of the Kaplan procedure.

Instead of taking a substantial packet in your first cut, take only four or five cards then cut to the break. Continue with a series of packets. The whole action is done quickly and with an appearance of carelessness. Pick up the cards, square them, and turn them face up.

"Now your card could be anywhere." Casually spread a few of the bottom cards as you speak, spot your key, and remember the card above it — the one the spectator noted. Press the side of your right third finger against the inner right corner of this card and rest the tip of your left third finger against it from below. As you square up the cards, press down with the right finger and nip the card between the fingers, crimping

it. Don't be gentle about this; make it a decided crimp.

"To add to the anywhrcncss, suppose you shuffle the pack." The spectator does so. Take the cards back and hold them in your left hand faces toward the palm, your hand tilted so that you can easily see the crimp at the inner left corner. Note its position, then put the pack behind your back. Turn it face up, bringing the crimp to the inner right corner.

"If you will think intently of your card. I'll try to receive the thought waves and use them to find it. I have psychic fingers.... You're a very powerful thinker — I get a clear impression of the six of Clubs. Now all I have to do is find it.... Yes, here — no, that's the six of Spades.... Ah, here it is!"

Bring forward the six of Clubs and throw it on the table.

As explained above, you know the approximate position of die card. When the pack is in position behind you, place your right thumb just inside its inner right corner. Gently lift the cards where you estimate the crimped one to be. (Don't forget to allow for the fact that you have turned the pack face up.) As the crimp curves down, the pack should open below it. With your left fingers shove out the card above the break and feel its corner for the crimp.

If you have missed, square the cards and try again. You have lots of time; after all, you're supposed to be attempting a difficult feat and should not make it look too easy.

When you have found the card, take out the crimp, bring out the card and pack from behind your back (after turning them face down) and throw the named card face-up on the table.

Comment: Norm, you're so forceful! Seriously, friends and neighbors, this is an excellent location and presentation — one which, properly handled, should baffle and entertain those familiar with the Kaplan procedure.

I like to give the pack a quick, sloppy overhand shuffle before handing it to a spectator to shuffle as this suggests that he/she do the same. I also spread the pack faces toward the audience immediately upon getting the pack back from the spectator. Since I spread from the top of the pack to do this, the

selection will not show. Be sure to just glance down at the pack to get your glimpse. Immediately get your fingers on the selection and look up as you crimp and square the pack.

Borrow the pack used if you really want to bother fellow magicians! Thanks, Norm. PRW

President's Corner

By the time you read this newsletter, along with several Ring 29 members, I will have taken a trip to Dallas for the Texas Association of Magicians convention. Having never been to TAOM, I am looking forward to an amazing three days of magic. Attending magic conventions are some of the most fun times I have ever had in magic. Taking a group of people who truly love magic and putting them the same hotel for a few days.... what else can you have but fun. You eat, drink, and breathe magic by attending lecture after lecture, competition after competition, and stage show after stage show from about 8am till midnight, and then you hang out for another 2- 3 hours chatting about magic before going to sleep for a few hours dreaming about magic and then waking up thrilled to have another day of solid magic. Because we have quite a few Ring 29 magicians who are new to magic, I encourage you all to attend a magic convention during the next year. The largest one is the International Brotherhood of Magicians which usually has about 1200 magicians present. It will be in Reno next June. But you do not have to go to Reno to enjoy a great magic convention. TAOM is every Labor Day and is always in Texas. The Eureka Springs Cavalcade of Magic in the spring is a great choice. Bill Pitts has worked hard every year to make this convention successful. There are other conventions around, just keep a look out in this newsletter as we try to publish info about conventions. Talk with others that go to conventions and ask their opinion

of which one is the best. Lots of other things are going on this fall with a couple of lectures coming to Little Rock soon and the annual picnic this month. Hope to see you all at our Ring events! **Christy Henson**

Ring Ramblings

◆ September Birthdays:

Sept. 1st **Jim Henson**
Sept. 6th **Mike Curtis**
Sept. 7th **Joe Rhine**
Sept. 11th **Mary Ann Campbell**
Sept. 12th **Rebecca Roberts-Davis**
Sept. 14th **Christy Henson**
Sept. 20th **Tyler Vodehnal**
Sept. 30th **Don Baer**

♠ Ring 29 Magic Meeting Themes for 2006- 2007:

September- Back to School Teaching Session
October- Halloween Magic
November- Great Turkey Flop- Tribute to Ballantine
December- Holiday Magic
January- Christmas Party
February- Annual Auction
March- Ring 29 Close-Up Competition
April- Mentalism
May- Silk and Cabaret Magic
June- Ring 29 Platform and Stage Competition

◆ Advertisement:

24 different *hologram pictures* (suitable for framing) can be found at Mr. Magic. **Cost is \$13.50 each.**

Ring Officers:

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