

# Magic Musings

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 29  
8912 Stagecoach Road #11, Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 455-6242  
Meets 1st Thursday of nearly every month @ Baptist Medical Center



Visit our website: [www.littlerockmagic.org](http://www.littlerockmagic.org)

December 2004

## December 2 no meeting but a get-together at Mr. Magic

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 29 board members wish you all "HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!"

Take a break from all that stressful shopping and holiday craziness! Come join Ring 29 at Mr. Magic for our December Meeting/ get-together scheduled for December 2, 2004 at 6:15pm. Please come, bring family and friends, and bring some magic to perform. Theme "Holiday Magic" Snacks and drinks will be served. Please RSVP to the magic shop.

### News from the Ring

**Damon and Elizabeth** will be back to AR for a short time in December. We will have a reception at Mr. Magic in their honor on Sunday, December 12 from 1pm-3pm so come by and greet our magic friends.

**Christmas Party** will be January 8<sup>th</sup> at Don Baer's church (same as last year). A map will be given in the January newsletter. **This Christmas party you will not want to miss.** It will be a "Mystery Dinner" You will see a performance by Ring 29 members in a magical skit. Don's mother will cater again so you will not want to miss the food either.

It is not too early to be thinking about the Annual Auction scheduled for February. Start dusting off your old magic boxes and get ready for a fun evening. More details in the next newsletter.

### Magic Info:

Andre Kole will be coming to Little Rock in January. We are working on a date and a location and will let you know the details in January.

Magician Tom Mullica as Red Skeleton will be performing at Murray's Dinner Playhouse on March 8-9. You may want to make reservations early to get a good seat.

I.B.M. Ring 29 board is canceling the magic convention next year due to a lack of funds. We look forward to many other activities throughout the year.

### Member News:

**Maxwell Blade** will be performing at his theater near Christmas. Contact Maxwell or Mr. Magic for more details.

**Jon Bucher** had surgery on November 1. He is doing better now.

**Brenda Henson** had surgery in October. She is doing well.

**Margaret LeClair** performed at the Malvern Haunted House in October.

**Bob Howland** lost his mother and aunt in October. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

The Annual "Holiday of Lights" show was held at Searcy High School in Searcy on November 20, 2004. This year the theme was "A Country Christmas Magic Show". Michael Claxton served as the emcee. Performers were John Patterson, Sherry Poole, Jimmy Rhodes, Heath Mote, Rocky Clements, and Joe Mansfield. The show was attended by several Ring 29 members. Searcy Ring 308 did a great job.

Thanks to Dennis Schick for bringing "Siegfried and Roy" programs to the last meeting. He sold them to several members and donated the profits to Ring 29.

Rebecca Roberts will be getting married in May.

The Public Theatre of Little Rock welcomed to its stage "Magic at the Public", on November 19 and 20. The show featured Paul Carlon, Richard Knoll & Joey Williams, Bill Fulton and Master of Ceremonies Lannie Cox. The show was for the entire family and included drama, music, comedy, stage illusions and plenty of children's entertainment. Be sure and ask these performers about their show.

Many of our Ring 29 members performed at Boo at the Zoo. Chris Kline wrote the following info. about his experience. "This is to let everyone know that Boo at the Zoo went well. I did my first stage show (only 15 minutes) and it went well. I did Whit Haydn's Mongolian Pop Knot rope routine. I also performed the cups and balls for about two hours by the haunted house. That was fun and practice for possible future busking and street shows. Had a great time."

Congratulations to Jimmy Rhodes Jr. for being elected to the City Council in Augusta, AR. He beat the incumbent 2 to 1 in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election.

#### **Eric Benton's Vegas Adventure**

Hi everyone. After Jim found out that I was on my way to Las Vegas to attend one of Jeff McBride and Eugene Burger's magic schools, he asked me to write a little something about my experience.

To start off, the session that I attended was called "Beyond Bizarre," so from that alone, you might be able to imagine the kind of folks that it would call together. The focus of the classes was what has come to be called bizarre magic. I'm afraid it would take far more space than I have to explain exactly what that is (probably a whole book), but if you know the work of Eugene or Jeff, you have some great examples.

Rather than give you a laundry list of the events, I'd rather just give you an overview of the whole thing because most of the experiences would be very hard to convey in writing. It was a very fast four days of lectures, performances, talks, and just plain hanging out with Jeff and Eugene. While we did learn some fantastic new effects from them, the real lessons were ones of presentation, theater, and most importantly, how to make our magic really mean something. We learned new techniques at Jeff's Magic Center, his school in Vegas, and we spent a day in Jeff's home learning about giving shows in your own "home theater." Also at Jeff's house, several of the other 15 students performed pieces for us and we discussed them. We learned a lot not only from Jeff and Eugene, but from each other as well. Then that night, several of us stayed up late with Eugene and had a private almost 1 on 1 time to talk about magic and whatever else came to mind. It was during this time that I experienced the high point of my trip when Eugene said that a routine I had written was

"marvelous." I'm not ashamed to say, I was giddy. The final day was a surprisingly emotional one. Even though we had only known each other for four days, the group had become very close.

It was an incredible experience to be around other magicians who, like me, care so much about magic and care so much about making our magic really about something. It was very inspirational. I learned so much in those four days my head was reeling even after I got back home. However, I'm afraid that it is one of those things that you can never really describe to someone who's never done it. I'd be happy to try to explain more if you ask, but keep in mind, like all of Jeff's gatherings, this one had some things going on that I've been asked to keep secret. If you have the time and the money for one of these gatherings, and you are interested in learning about the topics I mentioned, I'd say go as soon as you can. It'll make you a better magician, and maybe, a better person.

#### **Calendar:**

**December 2, 2004- December meeting- Magic Shop**

**December 12, 2004- Damon and Elizabeth reception- Magic Shop**

**January 8, 2004- Ring 29**

**Christmas Party**

**January- Andre Kole to perform in Little Rock**

**February 3, 2005- Ring 29**

**Auction**

**March 8-9, 2005- Tom Mullica at Murray's**

**Spring- Mark Wilson Workshop**

**Spring- Cavalcade of Magic in Eureka Springs**