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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 Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium at
UAMS

Visit Ring 29 website www.littlerockmagic.org



October 2007



October 4th Halloween Magic Meeting at Mr. Magic

♣ *Calendar:*

October 4 – Halloween Magic Meeting

October 20 – Annual Picnic and Henson's House

November 1 – Teaching Session Magic Meeting

Got Magic News? Email newsletter Ed. Tyler Vodehnal:
Tyler1407@hotmail.com

October Meeting

October 4 is our next Ring 29 meeting. Note the change in Location: The meeting will be held at Mr. Magic 6:45pm. The theme is Halloween or Bizarre Magic. If you have a folding chair, please bring one as seats are limited at the magic shop. Hope everyone can make it out to the regular ring meeting!

Picnic and Hot Dog Roast

Make plans to attend the Annual October picnic! It will be Saturday, October 20th at Jim and Brenda Henson's house. It will be a hot dog and marshmallow roast. New members to Ring 29 since January 2006 will be asked to perform their five minute initiation routine. All other Ring 29 members are also invited to perform. Family and Friends are welcome to attend! The ring will pay for the meat, and

those attending will be asked to bring an item ex. soda, dessert, chips, plates. Please call the magic shop 455-6242 by October 17th to say how many are coming. See the map in this newsletter.

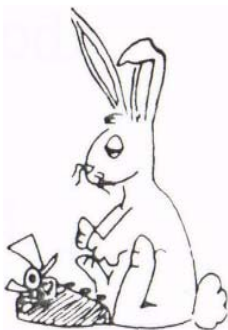
Mr. Magic

The magic store now has over 1500 used magic items. Beginning Tuesday, September 2nd, at 11am, Jim will be displaying 30-50 used items for sale at extremely bargain prices. Every Tuesday after that at 11am, the items will be replaced with 30-50 new items. This will continue until Thanksgiving. There are many books, DVDs, tapes, coins, cards, silk, stage and close-up magic. Important NO PHONE CALLS! All used items will be sold out of the store only. Remember no phone calls on these used items! To know what the items are, you must come to the store to view them.

Junior Magicians

The September Junior Magic Meeting went well with over a dozen junior magicians learning and performing Sponge Balls. Thanks to Ring 29 members who attended to assist with these the group.

♣ *Blast From the Past:*



EncooRabbit©

Carefully edited by Van Clove

KARRELL FOX tried to show me a - najic trick of HANGING A SPOON ON MY NOSE ... but I blew it!

A majician told me to take out a diver dollar and remember the date on it. Well! These days there is no way you

can have a date on just a dollar! A nice date costs at least \$1.35! Nobody ever got an ENCORE for doing a CARD TRICK!

VAMPIRA told me that being in love with Count Dracula is a GRAVE AFFAIR.

CARL DREHER told me that he was going to be a famous majician one day. One day isn't a very long time to be a FAMOUS MAJICIAN ... but I suppose we all have to take turns.

Oriental majician TUNG PIN SOO used to do Chinese SCHTICKS. He said his name was TUNG PIN SOO because Al Wheatley would be a funny name for a Chinese majician. He said it CHOP CHOP!

Your Frend Elwood



Magic Matters

◆ Sixteen magicians including Lance Burton and Bill Malone taped a show at the Magic Live Convention which will air on the food network around Halloween.

♣ **Ron London** is out of the hospital and is doing much better. He has even done a couple of shows during his recovery. He sends his greetings to Ring 29.

♣ Thanks to the unknown person that called in to KARN radio last month

raving about how great a magic shop we have in Little Rock. Jim has received several calls and visits from area listeners.

♣ **Scott Davis** performed a public show in Heber Springs for his fifth year at the Visitor's Center on September 1.

◆ **Michael Wilkinson** has been performing at numerous parties along with the two restaurants he appears at regularly, American Pie Pizza and Larry's Pizza. He will be appearing on KARK's morning show with Melissa Simas and Matt Mosler on October 24th.

Michael can also be seen at the Full Moon Horror Festival at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock on October 26th and 28th. There will be a lot of big names from the horror film industry appearing at the festival such as Linda Blair from "The Exorcist". He will be working with Mars Inc. as their Skittles brand will be unveiling a new line of bubble gum at state fairs all across the country. And he will be helping them by performing at the Arkansas State Fair from October 13-15.

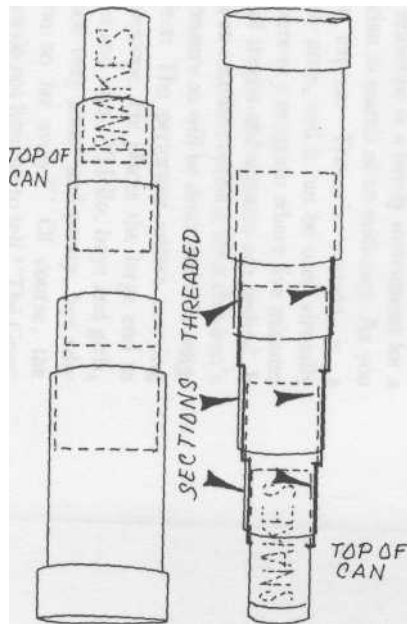
♣ **Kyle Hamsher** has moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where he is now the mascot for the hockey team, the Florida Panthers. Congrats to Kyle.

♥ **Dennis Schick:** Darren Romeo has moved his show to The Ballys Casino in Atlantic City from Sept 22 to Dec 6th, after closing in Branson. Last year he took his show to Reno after he closed in Branson. I assume he will be back in Branson next March, since he has a multi-year contract there.

♣ To underscore their involvement in and contributions to the I.B.M. 2007 annual convention in July, the September issue of The Linking Ring showed pictures of our own **Christy** and **Jim Henson** as part of the convention coverage. Both are shown performing magic at Renown Nursing Center in Reno, Nevada, the site of the convention. This is an annual tradition at the convention, to share magic at hospitals and nursing homes.

In addition to these activities, Christy served on the Convention Committee as the spouse director and food and beverage coordinator. Jim worked at the convention, too, on the Convention Staff. We're proud to have two members of our Ring who continue to be major players in I.B.M.

Trick Time



TREVOR'S TELESCOPE ©

A telescope is a handy instrument for a magician in search of an audience. As you might expect, Trevor's version is a comedy prop, and it can be used virtually anywhere in a program where five minutes or so of laughs and screams are desired. It makes an excellent opening for a children's performance as will be described following.

Effect: The performer enters carrying the telescope. He places the large end to one eye and says: "Hello, boys and girls, you look very smart and pretty, but why are you so far away?" Of course, the children do not hesitate to tell 'The Great Stupido' what is wrong.

'What? I'm looking through the wrong place ... oh, I'm sorry,' The telescope is placed to the other eye. "I can't see that this makes any difference!" Again there are screams and hoots.

"What? You think I should turn it around?" The telescope is held with

the small end down and carefully rotated in a clockwise direction around its long axis. Again the performer peers through it to no avail.

"Oh, the other way?" The telescope is turned in a counterclockwise direction (around the same axis). "Sorry, but it still seems the same to me."

"Oh, you mean end for end!" Telescope is turned 360 degrees so it ends up in exactly the same condition. "Sorry, it's still the same . . . Oh, you mean only half way."

This time the telescope is turned until the small tube is at the top. When the tubes are vertical, he grasps the largest tube and lets go of the small one, allowing the tubes to fall through each other. Again he looks through the big tube. "It's just as bad!"

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He repeats letting the tubes fall through each other once more.

Finally, understanding, the performer places the small tube to the eye. Unfortunately, he somehow also manages to place one hand over the big end of the tube. "Hey! It's worse this way!" He examines the tube in a puzzled manner.

"Wait a minute, I think there's something inside here." He removes the cap from the small tube and stands back as the snakes escape to the delight of his audience.

Method: The telescope simply consists of a number of tubes of different sizes which build up to form a telescope. The tubes are secured to each other by strong thread and are so arranged that they can drop through each other and form a telescope from either end. The innermost tube is a standard snake can, full of spring snakes or other compressed items, decorated to look as much like a telescope as possible.

The rest is all handling and having fun with the children. Done with the proper air of 'Let's all have some fun together,' this prop can provide an interlude of solid entertainment.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Those fortunate enough to have seen Trevor work with children, will be able to visualize how much fun he can get out of a prop like this. Experienced kid show performers will quickly appreciate that this prop can be reset on the stage (ala Dick

Oslund, you can get an additional minute or so of fun trying to get the "snakes" back in their home, finally succeeding after a couple of failures). Handled in this manner, it is always ready to work.

Manufacturing rights are strictly reserved, having been granted by Trevor Lewis to Hank Lee (USA) and Props (England). Of course, making this up for one's own use is permitted; and if I were making one up, I'd try to make the spring snakes look like one huge sea serpent. Think about that, do-it-yourselfers!



Ethics

Submitted by Dennis Schick:

The following is an article from Alan Watson's magic newsletter. It relates to the Ethics of Magic in using someone's else's material.

AYALA VS. SITTAH JUDGMENT

Message from Eric Eswin International President of the FISM Judgment of the presidium of the FISM concerning the controversy between Ayala and Sittah

The complaint:

On 29th of September 2006 Mr. Joaquin Ayala sent a complaint to FISM about having awarded the 1st prize in the Category "Stage Illusions", during the FISM World Championships of Magic 2006 to Sittah, because her act included the unauthorized performance of a significant illusion, called "The Spears", which is supposed to be the intellectual property of Ayala.

FISM's scope

Ayala's complaint is based on the following FISM regulations: a. Article 1h of the FISM Contest Rules and Procedures, which states: "A contestant who presents an act that is obviously a copy of the act of another performer will be disqualified."

b. Article 2 of the FISM Statutes, stating: "The aims of the FISM are: ... - to fight against exposure and copies of magic acts, effects or inventions, presentations or original routines."

Working method:

To seriously investigate Ayala's complaint the Presidium of the FISM has asked the confidential advice of independent and internationally acknowledged magicians from different countries.

Despite the repeated demand of many FISM member-societies for measures against exposure, "rip-off's" and violation of the intellectual property rights, it was difficult to find qualified magicians who agreed to co-operate in the investigation.

In order to achieve their co-operation and to guarantee their independency and objectivity, the FISM Presidium had to promise the experts to withhold their names. The Presidium is grateful for their co-operation.

The recommendations of the experts were not in every respect certified, but were nevertheless important contributions in formulating justified conclusions.

4. Results and Conclusions:

A. The rightfulness of Ayala's complaint. To investigate the rightfulness of AYALA's complaint several questions were asked and answered.

The first question to be answered was whether the effect of the two illusions was basically the same. The answer is YES.

They are both elevated sword boxes, using flaming spears instead of swords, that are thrown instead of pushed through the box, with the surprise production of a second girl at the finish.

One cannot slightly change the shape of a box, add new choreography and a flash pot, and call it an original illusion. Also, using different building techniques to create an existing effect does not create a new effect.

A second question was: Who performed it first?

There is substantial and sufficient evidence that Ayala has performed the effect before Sittah.

Third question: Is it Ayala's intellectual property?

The Sword Box is an old trick. So is the Sword Basket. The use of torches in a Sword Basket has been performed before (The Pendragons). Flaming torches were also seen before. (Mark Wilson's Fire Spiker) The Will Rock Basket (from the 1940s) ended with the surprise production

of a second girl. None of these effects are new. However Ayala did not take someone else's illusion. He combined a number of old ideas with some of his own ideas, gave them a new look and presentation and this gives him the right to call "The Spears" his own illusion.

Forth question: Could it be that Sittah created her illusion independently? It would be difficult to believe that Sittah never saw Ayala's illusion and created her version entirely on her own. Partly because the two illusions are nearly identical and partly because Ayala has performed his illusion all over the world.

Fifth question: Did Sittah have permission to perform the illusion? Ayala claimed not to have given permission to perform his illusion. There is also some evidence (not denied by Sittah) that there has been an opportunity to buy this illusion from Ayala but Sittah refused as she didn't want to buy a second hand prop.

Conclusion #1
Ayala's claim is justified. Sittah has performed an illusion of which Ayala is the creator and proprietor, without the consent of its owner.

B. Observance of the rules

Article 1h of the FISM Contest Rules and Procedures is formulated in such a sense that a violation (and subsequently a disqualification) can only be concluded in the case of a copy of a total act. As Sittah's act consisted of far more than he illusion "The Spears" and that it was her total act and presentation that won her the prize at the World Championships 2006 in Stockholm, one can only come to

Conclusion #2
Sittah has not violated the FISM Contest Rules and Procedures, hence there is no reason for a disqualification 'ex poste'.

However, although Sittah did not legally violate the FISM rules, in the magic fraternity there is an unwritten rule in the magic fraternity not to use a trick that is invented, created or owned by a colleague in magic without his consent.

Violation of this unwritten rule can be considered unethical.

Conclusion #3
Although she did not violate a FISM rule, Sittah's behaviour is contrary to the magician's code of ethics and must be considered unethical.

C. Judgment and advice of the Presidium

Summarizing the aforementioned conclusions the judgment of the Presidium

is that - Ayala's complaint is well-founded; - Sittah has not violated the FISM Contest Rules and Procedures; - Sittah has performed the illusion "The Spears", of which Ayala is the creator and proprietor, without Ayala's consent and in doing so - she has offended against the ethical standards in magic.

The Presidium advises Sittah to apologize to Ayala and try to settle the controversy in common accord with him.

The Presidium further advises the members of the General Assembly of the FISM to re-phrase Article 1h of the 'FISM Contest Rules and Procedures' in such a way that a contestant will also be disqualified when performing a trick or significant part of a trick or an act of another performer.

Leiderdorp, The Netherlands, 5th of September 2007 on behalf of the Presidium of the FISM, Eric Eswin, International President of the FISM

SITTAH STATEMENT

Message from Sittah forwarded on by Eric Eswin International President of the FISM

To the Magic fraternity,
Sometime after having been awarded the prestigious award of World Champion Stage Illusions 2006 in Stockholm, I have been informed by the International President of the FISM, that Mr. Joaquin Ayala lodged a complaint of me having performed the illusion, called The Spears, of which he claimed to be the inventor and sole proprietor. Of course I have fully co-operated with the FISM Presidium in undertaking a research to the rightfulness of Mr. Ayala's complaint and have immediately agreed to accept the results and conclusions of said research.

Informed now that it was concluded that I have been too careless in choosing part of the material of my prize-winning act and in doing so have violated the generally accepted standards concerning unauthorized use of the intellectual property of a colleague in magic, I herewith publicly apologize to Mr. Ayala.

I am happy to also agree with FISM's conclusion that my total performance at the World Championships of Magic 2006 in Stockholm, although including the illusion under discussion, was not a copy of an existing act, so that I did not violate the current FISM Contest Rules and Procedures.

I do accept the additional conclusion of the Presidium of the FISM, that although not having violated one of the actual FISM rules, my behaviour can be

considered unethical. Therefore, I will henceforth refrain from performing the illusion The Spears in my act until I have spoken to Mr. Ayala and we have come to a mutual satisfying agreement.

Amsterdam, 6th of September 2007
(signed)
Sittah



President's Corner

As magicians we never know the impact we have on people. I think anyone who performs even a little bit recognizes this fact. We all have stories about performing. Some of my favorite personal stories are when I have performed overseas. In the spring of 2005 I had the opportunity to go to Cambodia to work as a medical missionary. I had zero medical experience but some missionary experience. It was only a ten day trip but turned out to be one of the greatest missionary experiences I've ever had. I took a little bit of magic with me that was small enough to fit in my pocket as we went out to villages for long hour days. In one tiny village where there were just a few huts (no store, no well for water, no electricity, no anything), we sat up tents, and Cambodians came from miles around to meet with physicians, dentists, and optometrists (many for the very first time). I worked with the dental team but managed to find time to take pictures and do tricks for some of the

children waiting to have their teeth pulled. I had the Incredible Traffic Light with me on this day. Of course they didn't know what a traffic light was seeing that the only road in and out of the village and for miles around was dirt; it was still colorful enough to grab the attention of a group of children and parents near by. Not being able to speak Khmer, I was unable to communicate but through charades I demonstrated the trick. For many who had never even owned a toothbrush, seeing a magic trick for the first time was quite a shock. The reactions were great. Hands went to mouths of the reserved adults, and quiet, shy children squealed with delight. I became the pied piper for much of the day. Children followed me around smiling and giggling. Something as simple as the Traffic Light will be something many of these children will probably remember for years to come. It is also a moment I will always remember.

We all have stories... tell us one of your stories. Email me your story and it will appear in the newsletter. Questions, comments, suggestions? Contact Christy cih0914@aol.com

Ring Ramblings

♥ 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

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

♣ International Brotherhood of Magicians applications can be picked up at the magic shop, or ask an officer at a ring meeting. All members who belong to Ring 29 must be an International Brotherhood of Magicians member. If you are an I.B.M. member, you should be receiving the *Linking Ring* every

month, and you should have an I.B.M. number.

♦ Ring 29 October Birthdays:

October 19th – **Andy Stirman**
October 19th – **Wilma Staggs**
October 26th – **Judy Bailey**

♣ Ring 29 Magic Meeting Themes for 2006- 2007:

October 4 – Halloween Magic
November – Teaching Session
December – Holiday Party at Mr. Magic
January – Annual Ring 29 Christmas Party
February – Annual Ring 29 Auction
March – Mystery Bag Night
April – Close-Up Competition
May – Bizarre Magic
June – Stage Competition

♦ Advertisements (available at Mr. Magic):

* **DVD** Reincarnation- \$25.00 effect: torn and restored signed card using only one card

* **DVD** Ring Leader by Greg Wilson \$45.00 effect: spectator's ring is plucked off the center of a ribbon and thrown back on without letting go of the ends. DVD includes ring and ribbons

* **Book** Essentials Stewart James \$31.50 -review in *Geni* Magazine Oct. 07

* **Book** Hauntiques \$67.50 effect: Bizarre Magic -Review in *Magic* Magazine July 07

* **Trick** "Puncture" \$18.00 effect: Push pen through half dollar and hand out for examination review in *Linking Ring* July 07

Ring Officers:

President: Christy Henson
Cih0914@aol.com

Vice President: Chris Westfall
westfallct@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Tyler Vodehnal
Tyler1407@hotmail.com

Treasurer: James Kinsey
Jamesk39@swbell.net

Sergeant at Arms: Jon Bucher
Jon.Bucher@eds.com

Historian: Mike Curtis
Mgc4@dcx.com

Jim and Brenda Henson's House
15608 Chicopee Trail
Little Rock, AR 72210
October 20th 6pm I.B.M. Picnic
Call 455-6242 to RSVP

