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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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month at Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium at  
UAMS

Visit Ring 29 website [www.littlerockmagic.org](http://www.littlerockmagic.org)



December 2007



Performers from the Ring 29 Annual Picnic

## Holiday Party December 6<sup>th</sup> at Mr. Magic

### ♣ *Calendar:*

**December** – Holiday Party  
at Mr. Magic

**January** – Annual Ring 29  
Christmas Party

**Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year from the Ring 29  
Board!!**

### *December Meeting*

Make plans to attend the Annual  
Holiday Party at Mr. Magic as our  
December meeting. It will be our  
regular meeting night, Thursday,

December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm. Family  
and Friends are welcome to  
attend. Please bring a folding  
chair if you have one as seats are  
limited at the magic shop. The  
theme is of course "Holiday  
Magic". Coffee, sodas, cheese  
dip, desserts and more will be  
provided by the Henson's. Hope  
to see you all there!



Got Magic News? Email  
newsletter Ed. Tyler Vodehnal:  
[Tyler1407@hotmail.com](mailto:Tyler1407@hotmail.com)

## Christmas Party

Remember the Ring 29 Christians Party is traditionally held in January. This year is no exception! The Christmas Party will be held on Saturday evening, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at Salem United Methodist Church (same place as the past few years). Food will be provided by the wonderful cooks at the church (Mrs. Baer and her staff). More information will be given in the January newsletter. Make plans to come to the biggest annual event for Ring 29.

## Magical Memories

### What a Trick!

By Randall Eller

I have more stories than I have room, most of them involve sub-trunk. It's not a terribly difficult illusion, but it has the potential to be horribly or amusingly, funny. I have had several funny incidents with it, but my favorite was with Scott Davis in New Bern, NC. In the audience was a personal friend of Andre Kole, whose name is John Nitta, so you know I wanted to make a good impression. Well, I go in first with the assistant on the trunk. When I got out of the trap, I tapped the leg of the assistant, and that was the cue to toss the curtain. On this evening as I was getting out and trying to take my position on the top of the trunk, I slipped. In falling back into the trunk I instinctively reached out and grabbed Scott's leg. He of course interpreted this as the cue to toss the curtain, which he did as he had so many times before.

This time, however, I was still standing in the trap, and as the curtain came down around us, the audience saw Scott and me just standing in the trap. We looked at each other and there was nothing else to do, so I got out. Scott stooped down and closed the trap. I went to retrieve the key from the audience member and proceeded

to let Scott out as if nothing had happened. Being that it was the finale, we were stuck ending with the fiasco. To this day, I wonder what the audience thought. Regardless, I received a wonderful reference from John Nitta.

## Junior Magicians

The Junior Magic meeting met in November with 24 junior magicians present. Thanks to the Ring 29 magicians who came to help. Junior magicians learned Card Forces so everyone walked away being able to perform at least one of the forces.

## Mr. Magic

Mr. Magic and Novelties will be opening everyday including Sunday beginning on Sunday, December 2. Come by on Sundays and visit!

Mr. Magic hours during the holiday season:

Mon. - Fri.: 11 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Mr. Magic will close on Christmas Eve at 4 pm.



### ♥ Ring Report:

"I would rather entertain and hope that people learned something than educate people and hope they were entertained."

– Walt Disney

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, thirty members of Ring 29 met for a 'teaching session' themed magical meeting. Five different magicians agreed to act as magical professors for the

evening. Each magician brought a different specialty to the group, which ensured that everyone in attendance left having learned a new magical skill.

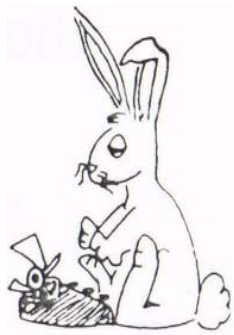
The first magical instructor was the ever talented Pam Madrez. Pam taught the group the fundamentals of ventriloquism. She discussed the problems that beginning ventriloquists encounter and even passed out mirrors so that each participant could practice. We are happy to report that only one magician was harmed from seeing their own reflection.

The second session was taught by the master balloon artist Don Baer. Don's session was entitled 'how to pack small and play big.' In Don's session the magicians where taught how to pack light, yet still be able to perform a quality show for large groups. As Don stated, "An amateur will take 10,000 tricks to perform for six people, but a professional can take six tricks and perform for 10,000 people."

The ever jovial Jim Henson conducted the third session and taught the group some wonderful tricks with rubber bands. The tricks ranged from rubber band handcuffs to making a ring climb up the rubber band on its own accord. Not to be outdone, the professor Scott Davis taught the group the benefits of the Classic Force. Scott taught the group the best way to practice the force, as well as telling some wonderful stories about how the technique has served him in his magical endeavors.

Finally, master magician Sid Salaman led a teaching session dealing on coin palming. Sid started with a Coins Across routine that amazed the group. He then showed and taught the many different palming techniques that he used in his routine, including the classic palm and the finger palm. Thanks to all who participated!

♣ *Blast from the Past:*



*Elwood Rabbit Rites* ©

*Carefully edited by Van Clove*

Falling Hair is NOT one of the SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE!

A Majic Convention Hotel is where the prices go up and the elevators don't.

When you work it right, if you go to one Majic convention, you can get enough little bars of soap to last you all year.

Talk about unrequited love! When a Majician kisses a dove, it never kisses back! It never even puckers up!

1 got so excited at the Majic Convention that 1 had to buy me a HAT COIL just to unwind!

The last Majic Convention tired me out. Next year I'm going to HAVE to rent me a room.

RIDDLE

ANSWER: Fu Manchu

RIDDLE: How does a FU MAN eat a rubber hot dog!

*Your Friend  
Elwood*



## Magic Matters

♥ *Monthly Bio:*



**Randall Eller**

Randall started in magic at the age of ten but did not become serious until 1982 after he graduated from Henderson State.

At the age of ten, he received a vanishing coin slide box out of a box of cheerios.

After that, the next trick he really worked on, several years later was the French drop. He performed it regularly and people loved it. He performs all the time now as a professional magician. From the first of October through the first week of November he only had 4 or 5 days off. He traveled at the end of November to the Northwest Territory of Canada to perform at a remote diamond mine. Next summer he will be going back to Canada for what is shaping up to be several weeks of shows around New Brunswick. He has been very busy the last few years doing a program called "The Magic of Smart Choices". Scott Davis put this program together and secured the funding from Project Safe Neighborhoods, a federal program administered by the US Attorney's office. Scott became so busy that he handed the program over to Randall. Randall says "Thank you Scott!" He is also busy with Upward shows; he receives more and more bookings every year. When asked what his favorite trick was, he said that he loves performing the Anderson Paper tear. Right now he is perfecting his signed card sword stab. He has been working the kinks out and the response is getting great. He also really enjoys performing his Rubber

Neck routine. The routine was hashed out with the help of Scott Davis and Sean Westbrook. But... he guesses his favorite trick is his opening manipulation routine with the split fan and snow storm, and of course the finale with one of his doves; it never fails! He said he has no particular favorite performers, but he stated that he does like Scott Davis, Ed Magic, Sean Westbrook, David Copperfield, Lance Burton, Jon Bucher, Gregg Gillis, and all the members of Ring 29. Randall said that he has so many great memories. He states that, "I have had the most amazing 20 years traveling the country with Scott Davis and Ed Magic. Sean Westbrook and his daughter, Sara, have also been on a few trips with me and Scott's lovely wife, Shari Davis. I do have 2 memories that are on top; having the most unique wedding due to the great magicians from Ring 29 who performed close up to the wedding guests, and the same ring giving me a super house warming after Patty and I built our home in Maumelle." Randall stated, "I have been to numerous magic shops around the country and in Norway. There is nothing that compares to what Jim and his family have created here in LR. He has done a great thing, and I am always honored to call him friend." Randall described his wife as "the beautiful Patricia Miller" and his children as "the irascible Jonathan and the wild Aaron"

♣ Jeff Sharp and Paul Carlon consulted with the Royal Theatre in Benton to help with a few illusions and magical effects for their October play "The Canterville Ghost". Paul added some helpful information regarding working with a theater of actors. "Always insist that you (the magician) are able to work with the actors that will be part of the illusion. And that you don't want them to perform it until you are comfortable with their execution of the illusion. There was a change in directors 1 1/2 weeks before the show played for the public, and

we lost our time to work with the actors. However, it was an honor to be asked and to help."

◆ Searcy Ring 308 performed two shows "Holiday of Lights" the weekend after Thanksgiving at the Performing Arts on the Square in downtown Searcy.

♣ Congratulations to Jimmy Rhodes and Casey Clark. They will tie the knot on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Graceland.

◆ Masters of Illusion performed for a national convention of Taekwondo association in Rogers, Arkansas the weekend before Thanksgiving.

♥ Scott Davis was featured in the September magazine of *Rural Electric* performing his act, "Make Accidents Disappear: Teaching Children about Electrical Safety in a Magical Way" The article stated, "Keeping everyone in his audience, from 5 year old kindergarteners to 50 year old teachers, spellbound, Davis slips in life-saving messages." Doug White, vice president for systems services for Arkansas Electric Co-ops stated in the article, "He is by far the best public relations tool we've ever had."

♠ Jon Bucher and Tyler Vodehnal performed in Batesville, AR at the Madrigal Feast on the first weekend on December.

♣ Ring 29 members David Duggie and Ron Stevens had surgery in November. Both are recovering nicely. We look forward to seeing them soon!

◆ Damon Reinbold is in Orlando, Florida with his sister until after the first of the year. He sends his greetings.

♠ Kelly Presson now lives in Michigan. He wishes all of Ring 29 a "Merry Christmas".

♥ Tim Walker, who lives in Indianapolis, says "Hello" and "Happy Holidays" from Indiana.

◆ FROM DENNIS SCHICK:

Late Tuesday afternoon, October 30, my son Greg called me from St. James United Methodist Church in West Little Rock, saying a magician had just unloaded his equipment for a show that evening, in case I wanted to come see it. As it turned out, it was John Patterson from the Searcy IBM Ring. He was to perform for the After School Program annual fund-raising dinner. It so happens that his daughter, Amy, is Director of Children Ministries at the church, including the after school program, so she had an "in" with the magician.

John went on about 6:30, and performed for about 40 minutes, with daughter Amy and wife Cara as his assistants. He opened with a quick Blamo, followed by a Pom Pom set. Then he used a spinning wheel to get the audience to "see" shrinking and increasing head sizes. After a Kube Zag, with Amy, he stuck a boy in a Superman costume (which the boy got to keep), into a Guillotine illusion; performed a clever word-game (Something, Nothing & More); did a nice Pranky Hank, followed by the sawing of an audience member in half; and ended with Andre Kole's "Three Ball Illusion," as a gospel trick.

While I was impressed with John's show, I was even more impressed with his "baggage." John and Cara arrived about 3:30, in a Budget Rent-a-Truck, and unloaded seven (7) LARGE trunks with his illusions and other "stuff." They all had super casters, so rolled easily down (and back up) the truck ramp, and into the church's gym. One of the trunks folded out into a wardrobe, complete with drawers, a mirror and a hanging bar for clothes and costumes. Each of the trunks was custom-made for one specific illusion. John made the point that it is important to take care of your equipment, so it will last many years. The investment in heavy-duty trunks is worth the cost. Another point, several of his tricks were flexible, to adapt to various

situations. For instance, he used a standard Kube Zag, but used double-faced tape to convert it into an "outhouse" for that bit, which had many built-in gags, of course.

Anyway, I enjoyed seeing John again, his show, and the whole behind-the-scenes activity. John threw his back out recently, so was in some discomfort. But the audience never suspected a thing, a tribute to his professionalism. John, who is a lawyer in Searcy, told me that the Searcy Ring has dwindled to less than a half-dozen people, but he hopes it will build back up.



## Trick Time

### IMPROMPTU WILD CARD

Mahlon Love

This is a kind of Wild Card plot done with anybody's deck on a moment's notice. To present, offer the deck to be shuffled and cut. Take it back as you comment that you'll shuffle it just a bit more. As you do so, secretly bring any four cards of the same numerical value (denomination), to the top.

Deal out a row of five cards face down. Of course, the first four will be your four-of-a-kind set. The fifth card dealt will be a random "X" card. Ask "S" to choose any one of the dealt cards by touching it. If he selects the "X" card, use it as a pointer or indicator as you tap the other four cards. Ask "S" to call stop any time he chooses. If, on the other hand, he chooses one of the other four cards, turn it face up and place it to one side.

In either case, replace the "X" card on top the pack followed by the three remaining in the row. You now deal cards into a single pile on the table. After you've

dealt eight or nine, tell "S" to stop you whenever he would - like. Upon his command, push the major portion of the deck aside and pick up the smaller portion just dealt. Deal these cards into three piles as you deal in a rather hap-hazard manner. Be certain, however, to deal the last three cards so as to place one on each pile.

Now comes the big finish! Pick up the "magic" card that had been placed aside previously. Using this card, thumb off and lever over the top card of each packet to reveal that all three match the spectator's chosen one.

Obviously, you can achieve a result still more startling by using a set of four duplicate cards (or three, the fourth one to match being brought to the top during shuffling). The palmed duplicates are loaded onto the pack at the beginning and away you go.

## President's Corner

About 18 years ago, my dad sat our family down and told us he wanted to start a magic shop in Central Arkansas. My mom, older sister and I of course we're excited but a bit apprehensive not really knowing what to expect. Dad was home schooling me at the time, so we found ourselves on occasion during the school day that spring in Benton at Lincoln Square preparing for our opening of the shop. We bought two glass cases and lined the walls with peg board and ordered several dozen tricks. And that was the beginning of many great years. We quickly outgrew our 100 square foot area and moved to a larger place in Lincoln Square. But with more interest in magic, Mr. Magic outgrew that shop as well. We began looking for a place in Little Rock. We found a great place that looked like a house on North Grant Street in the Heights, so in

1994 there we moved to a total of 290 square feet. We happily stayed there for a couple of years but again outgrew it. We moved to Stagecoach Road. After just two years in our 1200 square feet shop, we moved into a larger opening in Stagecoach Plaza which gave us about 2400 square feet. And so we took it, and that is where we are today having over 14,000 tricks, books, and DVDs. Many magicians have come and gone over the years. Hundreds of magicians in fact! There's something about magicians that make us especially unique. Magic changes people. The magic shop and Ring 29 certainly changed me. I know that I am not the same having grown up in a magic shop. I am so thankful to have grown up around so many great people and have been blessed to have met so many wonderful magicians. To all of our friends in Ring 29: the Henson's do thank you most sincerely for supporting us throughout the years. We do know that without you all, there is no way we could have survived this long as a brick and mortar store. We look forward to many more years serving you. I thank you also for supporting me throughout the years, especially those of you who have been with us since the beginning. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Christy

[cih0914@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Jamesk39@swbell.net)

♣ 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 December Birthdays:

December 11<sup>th</sup> – **Mark Willis**

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

**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:

Mr. Magic has added over 100 new Books, DVDs, and Tricks during the last thirty days. Also the Christmas Magic is on display.

### Ring Officers:

*President:* Christy Henson  
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*Vice President:* Chris Westfall  
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