



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

May 2008



May 1st Bizarre Magic Meeting at UAMS Reynolds Center

♣ **Calendar:**

May 1st – Bizarre Magic

May 21st – Bob Sheets

Lecture

June 5th – Stage

Competition

May Meeting

The May 1 meeting theme will be bizarre magic. As usual if you do not do bizarre magic, bring any trick to perform. The meeting will be held at the Reynolds Center UAMS at 6:45pm (same time and place as usual).

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

Lecture

♠ Mark your Calendars for the Tuesday, May 20th lecture. It will be held at UAMS Reynolds Center at 6:45pm. Cost is \$10 for I.B.M. members and \$15 for guests. Bob Sheets will be our lecturer. He is from Washington D.C. via San Diego, Chicago, & Aspen. Behind Bob's humorous presentation style is experience gained from one of the most diverse work histories in Magic. Serious credentials in a variety of venues include Circus and Side



Show performer, Shopping Center Magic promotions, Magic Bartender, Street Magician, Bar/Restaurant Owner, Renaissance Festival performer, Magic Dinner Theater entrepreneur, Trade Show crowd stopper, and Sales Meeting wake up artist. Bob lectures and performs for magicians all over the world including England, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Australia and India. In 1996 Bob won first place in London at the prestigious "Ron MacMillan World Close-up Magic Contest". Together these make Bob an interesting character and a "Good magician and funny guy".

<http://www.bobsheets.com/>

In 2005, Bob was voted the Best Lecturer of the Year at the world famous Magic. Bob Sheets is a triple threat--proficient at Close-up, Stage, and Bar Magic. The lecture includes items from all of these forms. His version of the classic "Homing Card" made famous by Fred Kaps is a big hit with magicians and laymen alike. The walking through the rope known as "Hang 'em High" is pure magic that anyone can do, and the bar and close-up items are sure-fire audience-tested material. No fluff. All of Bob's routines have been tested in true-life performance conditions. Bob's thirteen years in the bar and restaurant biz allowed him to perform more shows than most magicians perform in their entire career. Here is experience for all levels to draw from and he's a pretty funny guy, too. The lecture should be well received by beginners as well as the seasoned or over seasoned practitioners of our art.

www.Doubledtour.com

◆ If you ever want to know what to do with an old cell phone, ask anyone who attended the Brian Staron lecture on April 21. I believe most in attendance would say his lecture is one of the best

we have had in years. Brian is the Disney magician and performs over 550 shows there every year along with performing about two weeks out of each month traveling. The focus of the lecture was how to entertain not so much learning a new trick. He shared tricks and ideas that are audience tested and proven to entertain. For those that attended the lecture, send your thoughts about it to Christy cih0914@aol.com for the May newsletter. See pictures from the lecture in the June newsletter.



Brian Staron

Stage Competition

Hopefully everyone is getting ready for their Stage Competition performance. The 2nd Annual Stage Competition will be held on Thursday, June 5 at the UAMS Reynolds Center at 6:45pm. Information sheets will be handed out at the May meeting. You may also pick up information sheets at the magic shop. Magicians are invited to put a routine together and perform for a panel of judges, ring members, and laymen for awards. The competition will be open to all I.B.M. members and all interested junior magicians. Performers will have a three minute limit set up time and a ten minute maximum performance time. As we are performing in a hospital, no fire in a performance is allowed.

2008-2009 Ring 29 Officers

It is time again for the election of new Ring 29 officers for 2008-2009. The nominating committee has put forth the following names as recommendations for officers. If you would like to run against one the following names, submit your name to Jim Henson at Mr. Magic 455-6242 no later than May 20th to have your name added to the ballot.

2008-2009 Officer Elections
 President: **Chris Westfall**
 Vice President: **Tyler Vodehnal**
 Secretary: **Jon Bucher**
 Treasurer: **James Kinsey**
 Sergeant at Arms: **Pam Medrez**



Junior Magicians

Junior Magicians

The Junior Magician meeting went well on Sunday, April 20 at the magic shop. Don Baer presented a lecture to the juniors on how to make balloon animals. Fifty-four people were present (about 30 kids and the rest were parents and magicians) Balloons were everywhere but surprisingly few popped. See pictures in this newsletter from the meeting. If you know of any young people interested in magic, please contact the magic shop.

♣ Ring Report

"Let others cheer the winning man, there's one I hold worthwhile. Tis he who does the best he can, then loses with a smile. Beaten he is, but not to stay, down with the rank and file.

For he shall win some other day,
who loses with a smile." – Author
unknown.

April 3rd, 2008 marked a special day for Ring 29, it marked the second annual Ring 29 close-up competition. Around thirty-five members and their families attended the second competition that included nine different performers. And it looked like the performers spent the last year perfecting their acts as this year's competition was filled with wonderful and high quality magic.

Jim Henson served as the master of ceremonies for the event and kept the evening moving along beautifully with his wit and wisdom. **Mark Lohman** was the junior performer of the evening and he did a wonderful job with an Oil and Water routine.

Tyler Vodehnal started the senior competition with a magical lights routine. And **David Duggie** followed with a splendid rendition of Coins Across, Coins through Scarf, and Bent Key routines.

Chris Westfall did an amazing Cups and Balls routine that had the audience gasping in amazement, and **Michael Wilkinson** performed a fun filled Off By One mentalism prediction that involved a beach ball. And really, how can you not have fun with a beach ball at a magic meeting.

Jon Bucher performed a myriad of rope tricks and his impression of a Chinese street performer, and **Jimmy Rhodes Jr.** did a mixture comedy routine, Coin and Ball through Cup, Streamer from Mouth, and a Stolen Cards routine that had everyone holding their sides in laughter.

Dan Hecke did a wonderful rendition of a riverboat gambler with the Three Shell Game and a Two in the Hand, One in the Pocket game. Needless to say, I don't think I'll be betting against Dan anytime soon. And as a finale, **Mike Jones** produced a Rope from

Card and a Cut and Restored Rope routine that ended the competition nicely. **Melvin Brown** performed a Cups and Balls routine for the audience why the judges tallied the scores.

Mark Lohman came in first in the junior competition. And in the senior competition, Jimmy Rhodes Jr. won the People's Choice Award and first prize, Jon Bucher finished in second, and Dr. Chris Westfall rounded out the top three. Congratulations to all who competed and we all look forward to next year's exciting competition.

♣ *Blast from the Past:*



Elwood Rabbit Rites ©

Carefully edited by Van Clove

I know me a majician who paints all his own magic tricks and the paint always fades, wrinkles, and peels. He just doesn't have a good FINISH for his act!

Why is it when some majicians try to put a Crimp in the Deck, they look like they're doing the Heimlich Maneuver?

Bumper sticker: "Loose Lips Sink Ventriloquists!"

A majician's Magic Doves always provide a bright spot on his show. . .and sometimes on his table. . .and sometimes on his coat. . .and sometimes on the floor. Naughty birds!

Then there was the spiritualist who was asked if she was a good one. "Just MEDIUM", she answered.

The FORTUNE TELLER on one magic show could only see ten seconds into the future. The trouble was that, instead of a crystal ball, she was using a glass bead.

RIDDLE

ANSWER: Flash Pot.

RIDDLE: What do you have when you wear a FISM FLASH in your belly-button?

*Your Friend
Elwood*



Chris Westfall

Magic Matters

♣ **Michael Wilkinson** stayed busy in the month of April. He is still performing regularly at two restaurants, but also added a lot of other shows last month. He performed for a preschool graduation event in Pangburn. He also gave an instructional lecture to a group of Cub Scouts in which he taught them two card forces, Professors Nightmare, and the Salt Shaker Through the Table. Later in the month he was the keynote speaker and headline performer for hundreds of kids and parents at a Cub Scout Pack Meeting in Little Rock. Michael also entertained the residents at Fox Ridge Assisted Living Center in North Little Rock. He even made a trip to Nashville, TN and performed for a large group of school kids and their parents. Also, an important announcement was made public in April when Michael appeared live for two hours on the Dave Elswick Show on KARN 102.9 FM. Elswick announced that Michael is now officially the

Resident Magician of KARN and will be appearing on the show every three months. Michael is showing no signs of slowing down in May. He is already filling his schedule. He will continue his restaurant and birthday party work and is booked to perform at the Little Rock Air Force Base for our soldiers and their families. There is also an exciting television appearance in the works. The details of the T.V. appearance will be made public very soon. Also, beginning this month and starting again next school year, Michael will be performing at a different school each week around Arkansas. He will be at schools in Morrilton and Wynne in May and will start August with a full schedule.

◆ Here's what's going on with **Mommy Magic** and I must say the Lord is Good. I just finished talking to a Reporter from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette who is doing an article on me for the Religious Section that will be printed on May 3rd. Also, I'll be performing at Maumelle Fest, Little Rock Child Development Center, Sherwood's July Fest, every other Sunday at St. John's Reformed Episcal Church in Hillcrest, upcoming birthday parties, etc., and WOW I'm already out of breath and haven't even begun putting on my makeup yet. P.S. What a great balloon workshop Don Baer put on for the Junior Magician's Meeting last Sunday. His balloon creations are absolutely awesome. Mr. Magic's Store was packed out - standing room only. I feel soooooooooooooo blessed to be a part of Ring 29. Pam aka Mommy Magic the Clown

♣ From **Pam Medrez**: Anyone interested in going to the Vent Haven Ventriloquist Convention in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky held at the Drawbridge Inn. Check out VentHaven.com. The dates are July 16th thru July 19th. Terry Fator from American Idol will be attending. There will be classes

in every aspect of vent; beginner, novices, and professionals. I think this is the only Vent Convention in the states. The convention is four days. I checked on airfare Delta (Travelocity.com) from Little Rock, AR to Greater Cincinnati North Kentucky Airport- \$459 round trip (leave am on the 7/16 and depart on the 7/19. Room rates at the Drawbridge Inn is \$84 a night and \$94 (\$47 each) double occupancy. The convention is \$125 for the four days and \$145 after May 1. There is a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel. It's a 9 hour drive one way so I'm not considering driving. For more info, contact me, Pam Medrez aka Mommy Magic, at 501-376-9891.

♥ **Bill Fulton** has been performing school shows around the state. This week he will perform as Amethyst the Wizard in Harrison, Arkansas, at the Ozarks Unlimited Resources Cooperative's science fair. He will teach a lesson on the relationship of magic and science and perform his wizard magic for the science fair students.

♠ **MAGIC RICK** (Magician **Ricky David Tripp**) presented TWO magic shows in Benton, AR's Tyndall Park on April 26 on the Main Stage with a special half hour of STREET MAGIC. It's a FAMILY FRIENDLY show of traditional magic favorites and classic effects. Ricky occasionally performs at the Steakhouse as well.

◆ **Janie Owen**, wife of the late Ring 29 magician **Bob Owen**, will be moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 16 to be with her children. I know Ring 29 will miss her.

♣ The following two articles about Houdini and Angel are news from Alan Watson's Magic New Zealand Issue # 573:

♥ 1953 Movie Houdini Message from Richard Walls (NZ) Although it has been available on a Taiwan label for some time, the recent spate of movies featuring magic themes may have encouraged Paramount to finally release the 1953 movie HOUDINI starring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh on the shiny disc. While it is certainly not a true-life biography of the master - and has never claimed to be - it remains a very entertaining movie with then husband and wife Curtis and Leigh (the dazzling Hollywood couple of the time) as Harry and Bess. Due for release in region 1 (USA/Canada) on 3 June @ US\$14.95 (the Amazon price) or thereabouts. Given Paramount's voluminous release of back catalogue titles in most markets, we should see it out in region 4 (Australia and New Zealand) before long.

♠ **Cris Angel Show In Las Vegas Named After Houdini Legend** Message from Scott Alcalay The long-hyped Cirque du Soleil-Cris Angel production now has a name. Producers say "Cris Angel Believe" will open Sept. 12 at the Luxor hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip. Previews begin Sept. 1. Tickets went on sale Thursday for casino VIPs and Angel fan club members. Producers say the show takes its name from a Harry Houdini legend. The magician and escape artist is said to have designated a code word for communicating with him after his death. The word was "believe." Producers say Angel will star in the show as a "surreal, enigmatic Victorian noble." The 40-year-old magician and illusionist is best known for his A&E series "Mindfreak."



Jimmy Rhodes Jr.

Trick Time

FACE THE SELECTED CARD

Effect: A card is selected and returned to the deck. The deck is immediately spread on the table and one card is seen to be face up. It is, however, not the selected card. The card is replaced in the deck and the deck squared. The spectator calls his card, the deck is spread again, and the chosen card is face up.

Required: You'll need a deck of cards and a little piece of bouncing putty, wax, Blue Tac or the like.

Method: Turn the bottom card of the deck face up, and on its back in the center put a little piece of putty or wax. Take the deck into your hands face down and you are ready to have a card selected.

Undercut the pack for the return of the card and have it replaced on the former top of the deck. Drop the remainder of the deck on it, and the selected card will come under your prepared card and stick to it. Square the deck using a bit of pressure to insure sticking.

Spread the deck face down on the table and one card (the waxed card) will be seen to be face up? Ask the spectator if this is his card. Of course, the answer will be "no."

Scoop up all the cards above the faceup card, square them and replace them face up on the table. Pick up the faceup (double) card and place "it" on the pile. Square up the rest of the cards and drop them face up on the table. All the cards are faces up.

Finally, ask the spectator to call out his card. Turn the ribbon spread cards over and one card will be seen to be face up among the face-down cards—the selected card!

Comment: Again, this is an evefgteen effect and method. I am printing it because this is

one of those effects it is all too easy to underestimate. In spite of the simplicity of method, it has a powerful effect upon spectators IF properly and strongly sold. Because of the simplicity of the method, the handling is very clean and the two card reversals seem like real magic.

Of course, saliva or (my preference) a daub of Chapstick can be used on the back of the reversed card. Carrying the Chapstick makes this an any time, any place, any deck effect.

To clean up, split the deck at the reversed card so it becomes the top card of the left hand packet, which is taken into the left hand. As part of the pick-up move, split the backed cards with the left thumb and push the selected (reversed) card forward onto the table. The right hand pushes the card toward the spectator who selected it, wiping any residue off the card in so doing. Simultaneously, the left hand drops to the side and wipes the back of the top card against the trousers to clean it off also. Turn away from the spectators slightly to help cover this action.

My preference is to locate the Joker and use it for the waxed card. I explain that this is my favorite card and always turns up if I snap my fingers. Now ask for the spectator's favorite and, of course, it turns up when called.

Finally, it occurs to me that this might be a way to get a signed card out of the deck surreptitiously. Follow the foregoing procedure up to discovering the reversed Joker in the deck. Simply remove the joker and put it in your right coat pocket. You can split the two cards at this point or leave that until later. The signed, chosen card can be palmed out at any point (as when the spectator is searching through the deck for it), and stuck on your forehead, in your wallet, or wherever your fancy and imagination dictate.

—PRW



Maxwell Blade and Ring 29 members



President's Corner

President's Corner: Ring 29 has been preparing to hold a public show to raise awareness and money for Arkansas' Fallen Firefighter's Memorial for over a year. Our biggest issue has been in finding a location that would be big enough to hold large number of people invited from around the state as well as be publicized on radio, TV, and newspapers. We have thought we had locations on several occasions but have been unsuccessful. Ring 29 will serve as the entertainment, but the Memorial is finding the location as it is for their charity. Now, we think we have finally found a location and a date. We are looking at holding the Ring 29 Public Show on Saturday evening, October 11th at the Performing Arts Center (the old Fellowship Bible Church Auditorium) at Pulaski Academy here in Little Rock. The auditorium holds 1800 people. We would be working in conjunction with Pulaski Academy Middle School along with the Firefighter's Memorial. We will not have confirmation on the date until the middle of May. I will update you all in next month's newsletter and/ or through email.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions about Ring 29? Please contact me, 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

♣ 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 Magic Meeting Themes for 2008- 2009:*

May – Bizarre Magic

June – Stage Competition

♠ *Advertisements:*

In March, Jim and Christy Henson took a trip to southern Illinois to meet with a magician who is selling a number of books from his collection. These books are now for sale at the magic shop. Come to the magic shop to see the books or if there is a specific title you are interested in, call and ask Jim.



Brian Staron



Brian Staron

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Jon Bucher