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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 Baptist Medical Center

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



September 2007

## Kudzu



## Doug Marlette

## Kudzu



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## September 6<sup>th</sup> Kids Magic Meeting at Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium at UAMS

### ♣ Calendar:

- August 2** – Street Magic
- September 6** – Kid's Magic
- September** – Picnic
- October 4** – Ring 29 Meeting at Pulaski Academy
- October 5** – Ring 29 Fall Public Show for charity

## September Meeting

September 6<sup>th</sup> is the next Ring 29 meeting. It will be at UAMS Reynolds Center at 6:45pm. With kids going back to school this month, the theme for the meeting

will be Kids Magic. Bring something to share with us!



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

## Junior Magicians

September 23<sup>rd</sup> is our next Junior Magic Meeting. It will be at Mr. Magic beginning at 2pm. Come if you can and support the youth. Bring some interested youth with you. The theme is Sponge Balls.

## Picnic and Hot Dog Roast

Make plans to attend the Annual October picnic! Note that it has been moved to October. It will be Saturday, October 20th at Jim and Brenda Henson's house. 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, plates. Please call the magic shop 455-6242 by October 17<sup>th</sup> to say how many are coming. There will be a map in October's newsletter.

## Mr. Magic

The magic store now has over 1500 used magic items. Beginning Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

## Lecture!!!

### Ring 29 has a lecture!

Bob Sanders from Alabama will be lecturing Monday evening 6:45pm on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Mr. Magic. The lecture is open to card-carrying International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 29 members for free. Cost is \$10 for non-members but no guests may attend. Read the following biography about Bob: He went exclusively into magic at age sixteen. In 1969, following the advice of other professional entertainer friends, he began working professionally as Magic By Sander. Bob has been active in magical fraternal and professional organizations since the 1960s. Those include the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Society of American Magicians, and the secretive Wizards of the Ozarks (professional magicians of the West and Midwest), which elected him Magicians' Magician of the Year 1981-82. During that period he was doing over 200 stage shows a year and working on a Ph.D. in marketing, management, and finance. He started American Artists Enterprises as a personal management and booking agency for professional entertainers and a firm that traded and negotiated recording contracts. Among magicians he is best known for dove magic and silks. Perhaps that is because he is the originator of Dove Hotline on the Internet for which he wrote about seven years. Tony Clark handled it for a couple of years while Bob worked on a couple of books. Bob has returned to writing Dove Hotline in March 2006. Bob is on staff at The Magic Café. He also posts on PMZZ, KIDabra and the Genii forum.

#### ♥ Ring Report:

"Using words to describe magic is like using a screwdriver to cut roast beef" - Tom Robbins.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, thirty members of Ring 29 joined together to discuss and perform

'street magic.' In all, twelve different magicians showcased their street talents to the awe and wonder of those present. **Christy Henson** served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evenings activities.

The evening started with **Sid Salmans** performing his rendition of Ultimate Ambition, as well as a terrific Coins Across routine. **Mike Jones** followed with a routine that involved cutting a deck of cards multiple times until he ended with four stacks of cards where half were black and half were red. And new visitor, the amazing **Kylen**, performing a Thread Through the Neck trick. He also presented a routine where he had a spectator write a name on a card only to have the name appear on his own wrist.

**Tyler Vodehnal** continued the evening's magic with his College Card Choice trick, and **Bill Fulton** presented his problem Non-Magic Eight Ball that told a volunteer his or her problems. **Scott Davis** dazzled the audience with his version of Torn and Restored Newspaper and Card to Mouth. **Gerry Bailey** followed by doing a FANTastic Card Choice where a miniature fan shows a volunteer their card choice.

The evening finished with **Jim Henson** performing ESP with a Cell Phone, Wiregram, and a Squeaker Balloon comedy routine. Christy and Jim Henson also worked together by performing a Cups and Balls routine but with buckets and balls with a flower ending. **David Duggie** did a wonderful quarter to fifty cent piece routine as well as his version of Ultimate Ambition. **Dan Hecke** showed the club the positives of carrying chap stick with a chap stick cap flourish. And **Chris Westfall** ended by showing a Three Card Monte routine and a Knifed Three Card Monte routine. As always thank you to all who attended and performed at the meeting.

♣ **Blast From the Past:**



*Elwood's Rabbit Rites*

*Carefully edited by Van Clove*

I bought me a stripper deck but it was a feke - all the Queens still had their clothes on!

The more I think of the 21 CARD TRICK - the less I think of the 21 CARD TRICK.

The only thing Neil Foster has to fear from a ZOMBIE BALL is sphere itself!

You can learn a lot of helpful things at a MAJIC CLUB - like, for instance, dont do your good stuff or somebody will steal it!

Some majicians take somebody else's trick and improve it. Last night, somebay picked my pocket and IMPROVED my watch and wallet!

How to make a RABIT FLY - first, you get a fuzzy white zipper .... HOROSCOPE

PISHES (Fishes) Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 — You will send off for lots of MAJIC TRIKS and the DEALERS will all move. This year you'll learn to load your FISHBOWL with the open end UP. You will come up with a new MAJIC ACT just like the one you taped at the last majic convention. Be careful or someone at the MAJIC CLUB will steal it from you!

*Your Friend  
Elwood*

**Magic Matters**

♦ **Curtis Briggs** is performing on the AR Queen Ship through August. You can see him on Wednesday

evenings. Board the ship at 6:30pm and the show begins at 8pm. Be sure to call for reservations.

♣ **Derrick Rose** is performing on a semi regular basis at Cheeburger Cheeburger on Tuesdays. He will be performing at Timberfest in Sheridan the first weekend in October and he will be performing at the Big Downtown Cruise Fest the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October. He will continue Breakfast with Tom on KTHV beginning the first Friday morning in September.

♣ **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.** is looking for performers at the Clinton Library on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There should be a lot of media present. If you would like to perform, please contact Jim ASAP at the magic shop 455-6242. Jimmy also has a Halloween spook show in McCroy on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in an old movie theater. He will be needing performers for it as well. Again call Jim at the magic shop if you would like to participate.

♦ **Scott Davis** performed his comedy magic show for the public in Heber Springs on Saturday, September 1 at the Carl Garner visitation center Auditorium. This is open to the public free of charge! For additional information or if anyone would like to caravan to the performance, call the magic shop.

♣ On Labor Day, **Jimmy Ross** performed at the Fordyce Country Club.

♥ **Randall Eller** had a great time in New Brunswick Canada, and he is already in the negotiating stages for an even longer tour, maybe 4 weeks, next year. He said the weather was awesome and the was scenery gorgeous! He performed 9 times in the 12 days he was there. But there was a Saturday when he got to go sailing on a beautiful lake that borders the US.

♣ Former Ring 29 member **Alex Lyon** and his wife **Erin** had a baby,

Soren Lyon, on July 10<sup>th</sup>. They are now living in Brockport, New York.

♦ The Masters of Illusion had a special Children's Magic Show on Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 at Easy Street Cabaret. The weekend section of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette the weekend before the show had the "10 things to do this weekend" feature for the show including a large photo.

♥ Friend of Ring 29, **Ron London**, had a heart attack and kidney failure on Saturday, August 4, 2007. He is presently home from the hospital and is recovering.

♣ **Don Baer** is recovering well from surgery

\* **Mr. Magic will tentatively be opening back up on Mondays, September 17<sup>th</sup> when Don returns.**

♦ Ring 29 member **Kelly Presson** has moved to Michigan. He said to tell everyone that he has enjoyed his eight and a half years in Arkansas. And he said he will miss everyone in the magic community.



# Branson Review

## Continued from August Newsletter

Act II opened with Darren performing Siegfried and Roy's visible sawing in half. The presentation was good but I could not help but be distracted by Darren constantly putting his hand on his stomach before and after the trick (I'll leave it at that). He then went into the audience and borrowed a gentleman's drivers license -- this is the part of the show that I thought was most original. He made sure everyone had a good look of the license by having one of his camera crew zoom in on it (by the way, he did have a professional camera crew on hand at all times that projected his show onto two big screens for those in the audience who had the cheap seats). The curtain opens to reveal a giant cannon and oversize fishbowl (yes, fishbowl) onstage. He then gave the license to his lovely assistant and proceeded to "load" her into the giant cannon. Upon lighting the fuse, the cannon went off and a giant splash was seen on the other side of the stage, the cannon was now empty. His assistant was now swimming around in the giant fishbowl holding the gentleman's license. To prove it was his, she held it up to the side of the fishbowl where his cameraman was able to get a close-up shot of it. A very visual effect that proved to be quite entertaining.

Romeo then switched musical gears and brought a little country into the show (quite fitting for the Branson atmosphere). His assistants locked him into an apparatus into an upright position where the audience was thoroughly convinced that there was no means of escape. Kristy then pulled a curtain completely around the apparatus and when she came back around to unwrap it, it was Darren who was unwrapping the curtain (Kristy was now in the shackles). Quite frankly, this effect is a little hard to explain. If you want to see a very good performance of the same illusion, head on up to Hot Springs Arkansas to the *Maxwell Blade Theatre of Magic!* Call (501) 623-6200 for tickets! ; )

Darren then called a member from the audience onstage where he introduced a stack of record albums he listened to while growing up. There were about 7 or 8 total with artists

ranging from Vanessa Williams to Bobby Darin to Darren Romeo himself. He took one album out of the stack and placed it on an easel, which would serve as his "prediction". He then had the audience member sit on a stool on the opposite side of the stage where she was instructed to cover her eyes. He then introduced a second stack of albums that he explained was a duplicate stack of the first. To the amusement of the audience, they were all the same album (*Darren Romeo: The Voice of Magic*). He then told the audience member to yell "stop" at any point as he sorted through the albums. When she yelled "stop", he handed her one she stopped on; but wouldn't let her look at it just yet. The audience, thinking they were in on it the whole time, began to chuckle. Romeo then instructed her to turn the album over to reveal the cover, and much to the audience's amazement, it was not the *Darren Romeo* cover, but rather *Bobby Darin*. Darren then stared in shock for a good ten seconds (to me, this was the funniest part of the show). After a little friendly banter, he then turned his prediction around to reveal that it, indeed, was *Bobby Darin*.

If you go to Branson, or see any Darren Romeo advertising around town, chances are pretty good that you'll see him promoting NASCAR and the fact that he will make Jeff Gordon's car appear onstage. He did do just that. His buildup -- though original -- I thought took a bit too long and took too much away from the magic. He began by explaining what he was going to do (i.e. make the Dupont car appear); which in my opinion is not a good way to start a trick -- it leaves no suspension of disbelief for the audience -- might as well make it appear right then and there. Anyway, a remote control miniature of Gordon's car rolled onstage, "Here it is!" Darren exclaimed. Unfortunately, the joke fell harder than a one-legged man in a butt-kicking contest. The then took the small car and put it behind a sheet. The way he did this was visually pretty cool. As opposed to using a silhouette or shadow, his arm was actually projected onto the sheet; the timing on such an effect as this had to be precise, and it was. The small projection of the remote control car grew and grew until it was full-size. When it reached full size, the sheet was dropped, there was Gordon's car! On a separate sheet across the stage, a projection of Jeff Gordon appeared. The two then exchanged a number of words about how Darren was going to go about

driving this car off the stage. During this patter, Jeff handed his fire suit and a helmet to Darren from behind the sheet, Darren then stepped into the projection where he and Jeff had a little more of an exchange, then stepped out of the projection to make the car vanish. Quite frankly, I thought this trick was a little overrated. Sure it was a great effect; but once again, the presentation was a bit rocky. First off, I don't really understand why he had it in the middle of the second Act as opposed to the end. This is obviously his eleven o'clock number, otherwise you wouldn't see it on half of the billboards in Branson, I figured he'd save it till when the audience least expected it. Secondly, there was a bit too much talking and not enough magic. Like I said before, he cut himself short when he told us what he was about to do before he even did anything; but aside from all that the trick was pretty good.

The next part of the show is what I along with my party found to be the highlight of the show. Ironically enough, there was no magic involved. Darren took the next ten minutes or so doing impressions of some of the music industry's most notable names. He began with an impression of Louis Armstrong singing "What a Wonderful World". If you would have closed your eyes, you would have sworn it was Louis onstage. Unfortunately I kept my eyes open, so all I could see was a short skinny white dude. Some impressions were to the T, others were just spoofed. I can't recall them all, but Darren impersonated Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Willie Nelson, Ricky Martin, the Backstreet Boys, Prince, Diana Ross, Neil Diamond, Donna Summers, and more. When he impersonated Donna Summers, he hit a piercing high note and held it for a good long while. When he held it, a wine glass that had been sitting on his prop table shattered (so I lied, there was a *little* magic) -- highlight of the show.

Darren then took us to the circus where he sang a song entitled, "There's a Sucker Born Every Minute" where he performed Houdini's Metamorphosis. Though he pulled this trick off very well, he did a similar version of it in Act One on top of the white piano. Following Metamorphosis, Darren shared with us the first time he ever saw a professional magician, Harry Blackstone Jr. He told us of how he sent his business card to Mr. Blackstone before the show and wrote on the back of it something along the lines of, "Mr. Blackstone, I am an 11 year old

magician and I want to be a big star like you, may I meet you after the show?" He then showed a clip of when he had the honor of meeting Gay Blackstone (Mr. Blackstone's wife) and she returned the business card to him, which she explained Harry Jr. had kept in his wallet next to some family photos. Along with the business card, Ms. Blackstone also gave Darren the rights to perform Harry's floating light bulb, which he then performed for the amazement of the audience in homage to his favorite magician. I personally had never seen the REAL floating light bulb, and was totally caught off guard when he actually floated the light bulb over the audience, a truly brilliant piece of magic that was performed extremely well.

Darren ended his show with a very beautiful Phantom of the Opera montage; this is the one part of the show that I thought had the best build-up. He began by singing his signature "Dreamscape" and then pulled out a mask. The Song then segued into the all too familiar theme from Phantom of the Opera. For those of you who don't know, Darren was actually called back to play the Phantom on Broadway, but got turned down at the last minute because he was too short (I didn't realize how short he was till the autograph session, the guy barely comes up to my shoulder!). He began behind a large mirror as he sang the first few lyrics of "Music of the Night". He then performed a very beautiful Asrah levitation that gave the audience something to hold on to. Darren received a standing ovation by the entire house and then met the audience in the lobby for autographs.

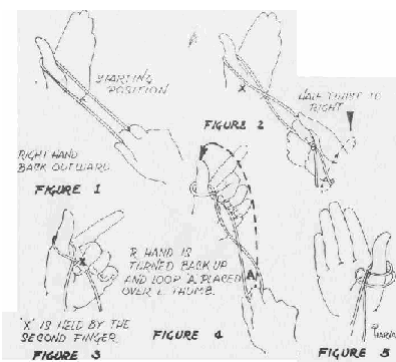
As stated before, the show was very entertaining. I had been wanting to see the show for quite a while and I enjoyed it thoroughly. Though I didn't name every song he sang, he sings during about 80% of his show. Sometimes the music complimented the magic, other times it was just there. For instance, when he did the visual sawing in half, he sang a song that involved being "Separated From Myself", but when he closed Act I with a levitation, he sang "Gethsemane" (a song about dying). But the show in its entirety was great. As for the music, I thought he had a great voice; but a friend of mine who is getting her Master's in Music and Vocal Performance said he tended to be under pitch a lot of the time, especially in his lower range (not that it really matters; after all you're going to see a inging magician, not a singer who does

magic). I tried to get a chance to talk to him after the show, I waited till all the lay people cleared out then I introduced myself. Unfortunately there was a lady from some foreign country who had come to see the show for the 109<sup>th</sup> time who was waiting to see him too (she brought pictures and the whole getup); so I guess I was just another fan to Darren. Being as short as he was, he actually gave autographs while standing on a pedestal, which I found rather amusing.

So if you get a chance to go to Branson, I highly recommend Darren's show. Though most of his effects are standard illusions, his actual *show* is very original and unlike anything you'll ever see. For more information, visit his website at [www.darrenromeo.com](http://www.darrenromeo.com).



## Trick Time



### STRING THRU THUMB

This quick trick is not original, but it has been so long since I learned it that I have forgotten the source. It can be used as a quick interlude in any ring and string routine or can be combined with several string effects, such as "threading the needle" to make an entertaining, impromptu routine.

Effect: A loop of string is placed around the thumb. This is tugged on to show that it is secure. In fact, the spectator can give it a tug. On command, it pulls right through the thumb.

Preparation: None.

**Presentation:** Take a piece of string approximately two feet long and tie it into a loop. Hold the string in the right hand with the fingers curling around the portion with the knot. Throw the loop over the left thumb, which is held upright, then pull back toward the body with the string running parallel to the floor. (Fig. 1.)

The right hand gives the string one half turn to the right and the left middle finger extends out and nips the upper strand of string (Figs. 2 & 3). The left middle finger continues to hold its strand caught in the crook of the first digit, while the right hand gives the loop one-half twist back to the left. (This produces a figure-eight with the portion of the "eight" closest to the left thumb containing the middle finger. See Fig. 4. The other portion of the "eight" is the **loop** held by the right **hand**.)

Keep the hands in their same relative positions, don't twist them, and throw the right hand portion of the figure-eight back over the left thumb on top of the loop already there. (Fig. 4.) This appears that two loops have been placed around the thumb. Actually, what this has done is to effectively undo the work of the first loop. The right hand pulls the string in toward the body and keeps it taut. As long as the middle finger holds its loop, the string can not come off the thumb. However, the middle finger can release its loop and the string still will not come free as long as the second loop is pulled taut and in toward the body for it will lock the other loop in place. (Fig. 5.) (You may want to experiment a bit and see how this works.)

When ready to release the string, release the loop and tug lightly on the string. It will snap "through" the thumb. You can even have a spectator do the tugging - they will be amazed to find that it actually feels as if the string is pulling through the thumb. Just give a little slack by moving your thumb when ready for the tug.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Both the late Jean Hugard and Milbourne Christopher separately and independently described this thumb penetration in Volume V, Number 12 and Volume VI, Number 8 of *Hugard's Magic Monthly*. Neither claimed credit for it. And, neither described the wrist twist Keith uses which I think makes it easier to learn and easier to describe.

I have used this penetration for several years with either a string of beads (ala Uncle Bruce Posgate). or with the loop used in the throwing the loop gambling (?) trick. It is a good effect!

The redoubtable Karrell Fox, who has excellent taste in both magic and women (Hi. Lynn!), showed me how to make a miracle out of this. Get a rubber band which holds your thumb tightly when wrapped twice around it. Now try the effect, using the rubber band, being sure to pull that second loop inward back toward the body. You will find that you can tense and relax the band.



## President's Corner

A big thanks goes to the Committee who sat for hours watching tapes and DVDs of Ring 29 magicians and discussing performances for the Ring 29 show. They worked hard and have put together a great list of performers. There has been a change in the date of the show. We were unable to have the building at the location we had planned. There were other buildings we could have used, but with the amount of time, effort, and support going into this show, we want to make sure it can be the best. So the show has now been moved to the spring. A date will be announced before long. Thanks to all of you who submitted tapes and DVDs. It will truly be a great show raising money for the firefighter's memorial. Any questions or comments? Please contact me. [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)

♣ 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 June Birthdays:

September 1<sup>st</sup> – **Jim Henson**  
 September 6<sup>th</sup> – **Mike Curtis**  
 September 7<sup>th</sup> – **Joe Rhine**  
 September 10<sup>th</sup> – **Jimmy Ross**  
 September 11<sup>th</sup> – **Mary Ann Campbell**  
 September 12<sup>th</sup> – **Rebecca Robert-Davis**  
 September 14<sup>th</sup> – **Christy Henson**  
 September 20<sup>th</sup> – **Tyler Vodehnal**  
 September 30<sup>th</sup> – **Don Baer**

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

**September 6** – Kids Magic  
**September 15** – Ring 29 Annual Picnic at Henson's house  
**October 4** – Ring 29 meeting at Pulaski Academy  
**October 5** – Ring 29 Fall Charity Show  
**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 Link** Teaches up to date info and subtleties for the Crazy Man Handcuffs \$27.00
- \* **DVD Trilogy 3** DVD set Tricks and flourishes and everything else (cards) Dan and Dave System. Extremely difficult but very fun to watch. \$81.00
- \* **DVD International Collections** Sankey
- \* **Book** Scrolls: Tales of the Bazar \$36.00
- \* **Book** Magicians LTD Cookbook -collections of some of the best card performers: Sid Lorrane, Ed Marlo, David Acer, Ackerman, Bill Malone, etc. \$36.00

### Ring Officers:

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