

ASSEMBLY 206 NEWS

February 2007

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MAGIC FOR CHILDREN AT NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 19, 2007

7:00 PM, OMNI Hotel SouthPark

See and learn Magic for Children

HOSTED BY John Maverick and Peter the Adequate

That's right! John Maverick and Peter the Adequate will team up to demonstrate how to do magic for children. John has developed a stable of working effects that he adjusts for any situation when doing children's magic shows, and he has agreed to talk about how he plans and presents.

Peter the Adequate, on hiatus from his gigs in Branson, Mo., will tip his legendary kid friendly crowd control techniques and other secrets for doing magic for kids.

The first hour of the program will be the presentation of the magic for children. We will then have our short business

meeting and then have discussion and demonstrations after the children leave the room.

Don't miss a chance to learn some new techniques from these great performers.

Hull Youngblood

AUSTIN MAGIC AUSTIN FEBRUARY 24TH

The Austin Magic Auction will be held on February 24, 2007 at the First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity in downtown Austin. The La Quinta Hotel, just two blocks from the auction site has a limited number of rooms at \$89 and is located across the street from the State Capitol. Over 1,000 items have been consigned to the auction. There are many items from the Richard

Garriott Collection as well as illusions from the vaults of Esther's Follies. Auctioneers included the Fantastic Kent Cummins, David Hira, Scott

Wells, Peter the Adequate, C. J. Johnson, and Bertil Fredstrom. Admission is just \$10. Doors open at 8 a.m. and the auction begins at 9 a.m. 250 "live" auction items will be auctioned from the stage and includes apparatus from Owens, Babcock, Viking, Collectors' Workshop, Supreme, and Mikame Craft. There will be over 800 items on the silent auction tables. No further consignments are being accepted for this huge one-day auction as we are full. There will be a Texas Collectors' meeting on Friday night and will feature lectures from Richard Garriott, Ron Cartlidge, Trixie Bond, Claude Crowe, and others. Visit the web site today:

www.austinmagic.org/sam/auction2007.html

MAGIC MANIAC

This is Kent Cummins, and Doc asked me to write an article for the January issue of our assembly newsletter. Before I had a chance to write, I got this wonderful article from Dal Sanders, a professional magician from Dallas and my newest National Deputy for the SAM.

I think you will enjoy reading...

Dal Sanders'

MagicManiac

Recently I did something new. I accepted the invitation of Kent Cummins, the South Central States Regional Vice President of the Society of American Magicians to become a National Deputy. I have been a member of the S.A.M. for a long time and several of my friends in the Association have been encouraging me for many years to step up to the plate and get involved. With this in mind I attended the National Council Meeting in Pensacola, Florida.

I have to admit, my eyes were opened by the experience. The Society of American Magicians is an amazing organization. It is the oldest magic fraternity in America (the second oldest in the world) and it is full of rich tradition and ceremony.

The Society of American Magicians is a huge world wide organization with members in over fifty countries. They help young people with an interest in magic to develop their skills through the Society of Young Magicians. They

also help people in need through the Magic Endowment Fund and the Houdini Fund.

The S.A.M. was also instrumental in getting the United States Post Office to issue the first stamp honoring a magician when the USPS released the Houdini Stamp a couple of years ago. Right now they are working on more stamps that would have interest to magicians. They are also working with Congress and local Governments to establish an OFFICIAL National Magic Week that would be celebrated each year.

If that isn't enough, please remember that somehow The Society of American Magicians was able to "steal" the editor of Magic Magazine, John Moehring, to edit their magazine M.U.M. In my opinion, John forced all national magic magazines to be more professional looking and more interesting through his eye for design and love of good writing. (You will notice that this column isn't in his magazine).

With that in mind I now offer The Top Ten Reasons to Join the Society of American Magicians (can I have a drum roll please).

10. Great place to meet the man or woman of your dreams. (Just ask Jeb and Kristi).
9. Meetings are a good place to see that magicians are people too.
8. Get to hear a lot of twisted magic humor that you can share with friends.

7. Get a chance to suck up to “professional magicians.”

6. Get your fill of Bennigan’s/IHOP/Denny’s after each meeting.

5. Get to watch classic magic videos from the S.A.M. video library.

4. Get a chance to enjoy the plush new S.A.M. National Headquarters and Museum which is going to be built in Austin.

3. Get access to take out Liability Insurance for your shows from the S.A.M.

2. Feel good about the fact that through the Magic Endowment Fund, your association is helping fellow magicians who are in need.

And the number one reason to join the Society of American Magicians...

1. So Chuuuuck will have one less thing to cover in his monthly announcements.

This is Kent again. Dal is talking about Chuck Lehr in the Dallas assembly, but it might apply to Ron Cartlidge in the Austin Assembly!

I know that you are probably already a member if you are reading this newsletter, but Dal’s comments give you good talking points when trying to get nonmembers into our assembly.

Kent Cummins

AN EVENING OF PARLOR MAGIC

In the past year or so, Texas Magic Supply has hosted Bill Malone and Michael Ammar, for separate weekends of shows, workshops, and lectures. On Saturday January 13, 2007, our always generous friends at Texas Magic Supply added the legendary “Daryl” to that stable of professional performers that they have sponsored in Austin. It was an evening of drinks, dinner, close-up, and professional parlor magic, and it was a pleasure to be there.

The River Place Country Club is always an enjoyable setting for a good meal and a fun evening of magic. After a quick stop at the cash bar, there was lots of visiting with magic groupie friends like Lou Hornung (creator of the “do-not-miss” IBM Ring 60 magic clinics), Patrick McKeever, Arsene Dupin, Richard Turner, Doug Gorman and his sparkling wife Fran, as well as the gracious Cody and Debbie Fisher. There were lots of people outside the local magic group as well. Several members of the River Place country club attended to see what real magic was like, and lots of people from Cy Albertson’s church were there, to see how Cy did. So, the crowd was a good mix of magic insiders, and “normal” people.

Ken Jones and The Wizard of Boz were providing close-up magic during the dinner hour. At our table Ken Jones did a twist on “oil and water” as an homage to the great card manipulator Richard Turner; and it was a good one. Ken even left the deck of cards at our table, which Arsene immediately confiscated and used to fool everyone and teach me a variation on the Elmsley count. Eddie “Wizard of Boz” Boswell did his energetic card effects. I always

enjoy Eddie's magic and that deceptive grin of his. It was especially fun to watch his father Bill, as he watched Eddie working the room. Eddie is good; and getting better all the time.

About 7:30 everyone moved into the ballroom that was set up as a theater. This time dinner was served in one room and the theater area was all theater – with no dining tables to force people to the back of the room. By the time everyone was seated, there were about 100 in the audience.

The show started late, but the stage was much better arranged than in previous shows. First, the lighting was better (thanks to the tech savvy Chris Walden and his lighting equipment) and second, the audience was closer to the performing area. I hope both of those improvements become permanent in future programs. Cy began as the MC for the evening, and even though his first card effect did not go as planned, you gotta love Cy. We have all had things fall apart, and Cy was really good natured about it. He got the show running by introducing Chris Walden.

Chris performed an expanded version of his award-winning “Lunch Break” routine. His opening effect, the torn & restored newspaper got gasps from the audience when he threw open the fully restored newspaper. He egg/billiard ball production is one of the most entertaining you will see and is, blessedly, not too long, as many are. His use of the Peanut butter and jelly effect for adults is a great testament to Chris's creativity. Chris is an artist, and more of a true actor than most magicians, and it shows. His dedication to

improving every aspect of his routines, and creating audience pleasing magic, is evident.

Next up was 3-D magic, (“Dad, Daughter Duo”) better known as Roger and Stephanie Gorss. They performed my two favorite effects of theirs. Their version of Head Twister is perfect for them. They are so relaxed as Stephanie’s head is twisted 360 degrees and the interplay between them about the eternal parent-child struggles over cell phones and curfews is a pleasure to watch. The hand chopper that reveals a selected card is also great foil for their good natured banter. The fact that Stephanie is talented and gorgeous is just an added benefit.

Cy redeemed his errant first card trick by spreading another effect out over two of his introductions. First he had a card selected and by “Tom” in the audience. A corner of the card was torn off, kept by “Tom”, and the torn, signed card was returned to the deck, and placed in the card box. That was placed in another box that was tied with a ribbon and placed on the floor by the stage in full view of the audience. All of this was done without Cy touching the cards. After the next act was completed, the ribbon on the outer box was untied and Tom found that the card box inside the package was empty – the deck had vanished. Tom found another card box in Cy’s coat pocket, and in that card box Tom found his signed and torn card frozen into the center of block of ice. After chipping off the ice, Tom announced that the torn off corner fit the frozen card perfectly. Good save Cy.

John Maverick, the “Goth Johnny Carson”, closed out the local talent. John’s opening effect is classic Maverick, and I really like it. With every overstated flourish possible, he performs the Needle in Balloon to the music of 2001: Space Odyssey. The entire thing is off-balance, off-center, unexpected, and entertaining. He continued with Topsy-Turvey bottles, and ended with his now famous “Teapot Routine. The whole routine is a colorful, crowd-pleasing act, and John upheld his reputation by “doing his part to keep Austin weird.”

Daryl was the headliner, and he filled his role superbly. I decided not to take notes during his performance because I wanted to watch without having to work too hard at it – and I am glad I did. He did his well known 3-Fly routine with three coins that moved invisibly from hand to hand. He did card tricks that surprised everyone, and his rope routines were astounding! He had two cards selected and announced that the two jokers would be his blindfold as he looked for the two selections. He showed the two jokers and balanced them inside his glasses in front of his eyes so that he could not see the deck of cards. He then produced the two selected cards – one in each hand. When he turned them over, he stood there with a joker in each hand and a card over each eye. Of course, the cards over his eyes were the selections. Daryl’s version of the Professor’s nightmare is a dream. It is smooth, it is deceptive, and it keeps an audience interested. (I found out later you can learn this routine from Daryl’s encyclopedia of Rope Tricks DVD – Vol. 3. Get Volume 3 – more for your money.) Daryl ended with his acrobatic knot. A knot on a white rope jumps onto a red rope. There are several twists and turns as

the white knot on the solid red rope jumps on and off at Daryl's will. He ends with untying the white knot on the red rope, to show that the red rope is only partly red, and that the portion of the red rope that was tied into a white knot is actually white. It is one of his signature routines, and obviously so. He delighted the crowd with all of his magic, but the acrobatic knot was really superb.

Daryl is a gifted performer, and uses an array of character voices (ghetto thug, New Yorker, Japanese, hip hop cool guy, etc.) to fill his routines with lots of fun and entertainment. We are fortunate to have an opportunity to see Daryl perform in Austin, and we are even more fortunate to have our friends at Texas Magic Supply host family magic events like this.

Don't miss the next evening of magic from Texas Magic Supply. Rumor is that Richard Turner – yes, that Richard Turner, the card man of card men – will be the headliner. The opening act will be one of my favorite performers – Doug Gorman. I am glad I was at the Evening of Parlor Magic with Daryl, and I will CERTAINLY not miss a chance to see Richard Turner.

Hull Youngblood

AUSTIN MAGIC IN SAN ANTONIO

On Thursday January 25, 2007 a loosely (very loosely) arranged convoy of Austin magicians drove to San Antonio to present the program for the monthly meeting of IBM Ring 18. As you may recall, the SA magicians sponsored the SAM 206 meeting in August last year. Our trip to SA

was to return the favor for such a great evening presented by the SA Magicians.

John Maverick contributed his act and his sound system. Chris Walden made the whole show look dramatically more professional by contributing his light system to the program as well as his “Lunch Break” routine. (CHRIS – I don’t know what you have named that routine, so until I know, that is my name for it!) Chris and John got to the Beethoven Halle a couple of hours early to start setting up the infrastructure, and the rest of us arrived around 6:15 for the 7:30 show. Let me mention that a 1.5 hour drive in a car with Cody Fisher, Doc Seaton and Ian Varella is, by itself, enough entertainment to last for weeks. The stories about CJ Johnson were the best!

After a short business meeting the program was turned over to the Austin contingent. I (the Incredible Hull) assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies, and I must say that I was, well...well.... INCREDIBLE! What would you expect! After a spectacularly entertaining card trick, I introduced Doc Seaton. After the usual thank yous, Doc made various announcements about Austin Magic activities, including the upcoming auction, and then presented a plaque to IBM Ring 18 for their “program of the year” that they presented in Austin.

John Maverick took the stage as the first performer and did his now almost legendary “2001: A Balloon Odyssey”, and concluded with the topsy-turvy bottles and the “Teapot” John had to deal with an errant billiard ball, but he handled it good naturedly and kept things moving.

Sensei Strange brought his unique style to the SA show. He began with his linking ring routine that has very unusual moves – and a finger ring and string routine (actually ring and chain) that really confuses audiences – in a good way. Sensei has added some psychokinetic spoon bending and breaking to his act, and he has the right style and temperament to make it look mysterious, mystical, and interesting. He ended his routine with his much requested contact juggling. There is something mesmerizing in the way he makes those luminous spheres move, roll and change.

Chris Walden opened the second half of the program with his award-winning “Lunch Break” routine. Chris’s routine is so different from most magic acts, that the audience is caught off guard by his easy going, what-will-happen-next nature. They are engaged, fooled and entertained. As usual, Chris got great audience response.

The irascible Ian Varella next brought his puppet Alfred to life. The bottom line is, no matter how long Ian performs, his shows are always too short. I was standing near the back watching Ian, laughing along with the crowd, and watching an 11 year-old boy who was laughing so hard he doubled over on the table in front of him, and pounded on the table while he laughed. Ian had everyone, I mean everyone, absolutely hysterical when he brought Doug Gorman up as a live dummy, who then said his name was Linda. Ian was a riot.

International lecturer, comedian, and prolific magic inventor Cody Fisher closed the show. He presented his well known card to any wallet routine, but since it was for an audience of magicians, he added a twist that only magicians could appreciate. As he searched for his wallet, he found at least 6 wrong wallets in his pockets that he could not use. As he put each one in the volunteers hands to hold he would mumble some descriptive line like “that’s a Mullica, nope”, “that’s the English Guy, not that one”, or ‘Fire wallet that doesn’t work”, etc. until the volunteer was holding a literal pile of wallets. Cody finally found the right wallet, and the signed card inside. Cody closed with his newest commercial effect, his personal take on Bill in Lemon. He added some special twists for magicians in this effect as well, but I won’t spoil them. It is an astonishing fooler. This thing is so clean, that Cody has been accused of using stooges to make the effect work. No stooges are involved, it just fools people, and Cody fooled that crowd that night – he really fooled them – and they loved it.

The crowd was appreciative and after a standing ovation for the all the performers, we said good night, packed up, and headed home. There is talk of making this exchange of programs an annual tradition. It was certainly a great time and we just might try to make that annual idea work.

Hull Youngblood

ASSEMBLY NOTES

Members, I'm sorry but I just deleted the file with personal notes about members and cannot retrieve it. I'll do better next time.