



Heart of the RING

“Quality Ring Award Winner”

June 2007 Newsletter

www.ring129.com

Regular Meeting
June 7—7 PM
The Radisson
Teach a Trick by
Jason Dean

Board Meeting
Check the Website
and/or e-mail

**Close-Up Magician of the
Year Contest**
June 16—5:30PM
RPCC

NEXT MEETING

June 7, 2007 7:00 P. M.
The Radisson,
95 St and I-35
Lenexa, KS



OFFICIALS

President

Mike Blum 913.383.2586
Vice President
Julia Clark 816.478.9787
Secretary
John Hicks 913.334.1392
Treasurer
Kirk DeWeese 816.224.5000
Sergeant at Arms
Mike Melito 816.459.8314
Board Member
Rod Sipe 816.916.3655
Board Member
Ken Reedy 816.734.1484
Board Member
Eric Woods 913.709.1606
Past President
Chuck Macan 913.681.0368
News Editor
Eric Woods
2719 S. Vermont Ave
Independence, MO 64052
ewoods20@hotmail.com
913-709-1606

Summer's Here—Vacation's There (Branson, MO) by The Woods'

This year may be the time for you to take a brake and head down to Branson for some good, wholesome family entertainment. Even if you have other vacation plans, the short trip (for us Kansas Citians) makes Branson an excellent choice for an extra getaway that doesn't have to cost too much. Either way next time you find yourself in Branson make sure you stop by and visit David Sandy at Music City Centre.

While on our honeymoon we did just that and enjoyed 4 exciting shows at Music City Centre. The 4 shows currently at Music City Centre are *Red, Hot... & Blue*, *Red Skelton: A Tribute by Tom Mullica*, *Tony Roi's Elvis Experience*, and *The Haygoods*. In a moment I will give a review of the shows, but first I would like to tell you about the Theater and the host, David Sandy.



David Sandy

*Explaining
how he books
the acts at
Music City
Centre.*

When we arrived in the theater the first thing we noticed was the aroma coming from the Starbucks located in the front of the building. To the left of the box office was a hair salon, also the

average patron will notice a nice gift shop on the same floor as the theater. When we were greeted by David Sandy and got the full tour of the place though, we discovered there are some unexpected businesses with in. Off the beaten path (behind those closed doors) there is a dance studio and a top notch recording studio.

David took us to his office and explained how the theater worked and what his job consisted of. David is involved with all the operations in the building and on our tour even stopped to help some guest at the concessions. He produces all the adds for his shows (that you will see all over town) and performs the daunting task of organizing all the shows so that each show runs consistently each month. That way anyone selling tickets knows what Music City Centre shows are playing each day of the week.

While that is just a portion of what he does at the theater I wanted to tell you a few things that many club members may or may not know about David. First, he still lives in St. Joseph, Mo, so if you want the best route to Branson you should ask him because he takes it a lot and knows where traffic is bad this week. Also he does still perform magic, mostly for corporations.

One question I asked him was why he didn't have more magic acts with all his connections in the magic world. The answer was simple he didn't want to compete against himself, not against David the performer, but against demographics. The more variety of shows the more he can reach targeted audiences. (continued on page 2.)

(Continued from page 1)

According to David the Haygoods and Red Skeleton are all age shows. Tony Roi will appeal to those 40 and up and Red Hot and Blue will appeal to those 50 and up.

The following is a brief review of the shows. *Red, Hot and Blue* is a high energy dance show that features music and dances from the 1920's through today. *Red Skelton* this is a 90 min. comedy tribute show, rated as one of the top five Must See shows in Branson. Performed by well known magician Tom Mullica. (Note to the magicians: I asked David and he said Mullica is not currently and does not plan on performing any magic act in the near future.) *Tony Roi as Elvis* is perhaps the best Elvis impersonation you will ever see. Roi was voted best male vocalist in Branson, that's out of hundreds of singers. Backed by some amazing musicians he puts on a great show that people of all ages will enjoy. *The Haygoods* were also voted a must see in Branson. They are simply amazing. They Haygood performers are 7 brothers and 1 sister all with many talents, all of them play multiple instruments, and participate in highly choreographed numbers that will leave you amazed. It was the most high energy show we saw in Branson.

Besides the shows in his theater David produces other performers most notably Darren Romeo. Darren's show is filled with music and magic featuring many elaborate stage illusions and songs sung by Romeo and his lovely assistant, Kristy Michelsen. As to not spoil the show for you I will leave out many details but point out how David has influenced the show.

A few suggestions of David's that Darren incorporated in his show were one, to lower the sub trunk from the ceiling on chains to the stage so the audience had a chance to view all sides and the and top and bottom before the illusion. Then in an illusion where an assistant was shot out of a cannon into a large fishbowl of water, David suggested the assistant appear holding a drivers license borrowed from an audience member (and display it on the big screen so you know it is the same assistant.) Also a good deal of the illusions are from David's warehouse. Darren's show is defiantly THE must see show in Branson.

We were honored to go back stage and meet Darren and Kristy and many of the stage crew. The entire staff was friendly and did a great job making this magic show come together and run smoothly. The night we went was opening night and Darren came out into the audience and warmly thanked David Sandy and others that have made his show a success.

All of David Sandy Productions entertainers do a meet and greet after their shows. So next time you find your self in Branson treat yourself to one of these shows and say hi to David for us.



We still meet the first Thursday of the month, but are now at our new location:

**The Radisson Hotel
12601 W. 95th Street
Lenexa, KS
(corner of I-35 & 95th Street).**



Meeting begins at 7:00pm. There is a restaurant and bar in the hotel so show up early if you like. Mention you are with the magic club and receive a 10% discount (sorry no discount on alcoholic beverages) Go to our "Calendar" page to get a map.

Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest By Alan Goodheart

It's time for the summer's Grand event - Ring 129's famed Colonel Boone's Close-up Magician of the Year Contest. Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, June 16th**. This year's contest is easy to find. It is going to be at the **Roeland Park Community Center**, at 4850 Rosewood in Roeland Park. Doors will tentatively open at 5:30 PM. We will serve dinner at 6:00 SHARP, and will adjourn to several rooms set up specifically for enjoying close-up magic after dinner.

Margaret Singer Catering who catered our Stage event this past January will be there again to bring us the best dinner money can buy! Our Ring members that have qualified to participate are (in no particular order): **Mike Melito, Blake Silvernail, Ken Reedy, Jason Dean, Laird Wilcox, Justin Brewer, Josh Chaikin, Larry Warshaw, Marty Isenberg and Stu Lewis**. The contestants will make their way from room to room performing their unique blend of magic. Then after the contest ends, we go back to the main dining area for a very special part of the evening - to experience a wonderful dessert. There will be a small program planned. And of course, we will announce the winners of the contest as the results are calculated. We are following in the same manner we produced the show last year and the way the IBM conducts its close-up contest and show at our convention. There will be no bad seats in the house. And you can be part of one of the best events of the season. **So do not hesitate - make your reservations** as soon as you can to reserve your spot. Bring your checkbooks to *this* Thursday's meeting (May 3rd) to make reservations, or **contact Julie Clark at 816-478-9787 or Alan Goodheart at 913-451-8334**.

For a full catered buffet dinner and dessert, a nearly 2-hour Close-up performance, and camaraderie with your fellow magi, you get all this for JUST \$17 per person for regular members and guests (\$15 if you are Sorcerer's Circle)!! For sure less than the cost of dinner and a movie on the weekend! And remember, if you reserve a spot, and do not attend, you will be billed for your reservations. +++++

UP Coming Lectures



Arthur Trace is rapidly becoming known for his unique style of artistic magic. Pulling from science, philosophy, art and a variety of other sources, Arthur creates mind-blowing theatrical magic that never ceases to intrigue and amaze. As the Gold Medal winner at the 2005 International Brotherhood of Magicians conference, he has gained respect among both fellow magicians and the public alike.

With his award winning paint act, Arthur magically interacts with an abstract painting. With his charm, he wins the hearts of the young and old. With his philosophical presentations, he opens the minds of those who experience him. With his artistry, he captures the imagination and challenges the very notion of what a magician is. With his love of plants, his horticultural skills cannot be denied.

Arthur Trace's originality, creativity and technical ability put him in a unique group of performers who never cease to push the limits of this fascinating art-form.



David London has the unique ability to create a surreal world of thought provoking wonder. London is capable of taking his audiences on a theatrical journey that mirrors the world of dreams and imagination. But to say that David London is a talented performer would be a gross understatement. He utilizes magic, film, art, and just about anything else that doesn't escape his own imagination, to create worlds beyond what we know.

From 1998 to 2001, David London challenged magicians to think about their art as he served as editor and publisher of the successful periodical, *Behind The Smoke and Mirrors*, devoted to creativity, philosophy and magical thinking. This project has recently rematerialized as *Beyond The Smoke and Mirrors* (www.magicalthinking.net).

In 2000, he began his three year run as the Director of Operations for the highly acclaimed magicians' conference, The Phoenix Gathering. And, from 2001 to 2002, David London collaborated and performed in *Cerebral Sorcery* with Francis Menotti. This show was later followed by a successful run of London's own one-man show titled ... *Art of Dreams* (www.artofdreams.net), directed by Hiawatha Johnson Jr., as well as the creation of *The Imagination Show* (www.imaginationshow.com), a children's performance created with Rick Maue.

Currently residing in Chicago, David London continues to push the boundaries of the visual arts. Through the use of various media, he is able to create a euphoric experience like no other.

Whether performing, directing a film, or painting a picture, David London has a beautiful mind that will continue to inspire audiences to see the magical potential of everyday life.

####



Angle of Invisibility

Being conscious of our angles of visibility is essential to successful sorcery. It is one of the first things that we learn in magic and one of the first things that we forget...or at least put in the back of our mind. We usually forget about it because it is so fundamental. All other misdirection is built upon this basic building block.

At the risk of deviating into a discussion on misdirection, I want to address the angle of visibility, or rather the angle of invisibility, to coin a phrase, as a basic "why" of magic. I have coined this phrase because it is nearly as important to know where your bad angles are as to know where your good angles are. Specifically, you need to be aware of when and where you can do the necessary something or secret move completely unnoticed.

Being conscious of your angles is something that should be foremost in your mind every time you perform. It is just as important to stage magicians as it is to close-up workers and every performer in between. To a degree, even escape artists must be conscious of their angles. Even mentalists must know who is looking at what during certain phases of their routines.

So, should you wait until you have successfully misdirected everyone and your moment is perfect before you make your secret move? You may not have that luxury as often times someone or ones are in the audience may be burning your hands. Even the appearance of the donkey and elephant on Blackstone's stage doesn't go completely unnoticed by absolutely everyone every time despite his strong misdirection. There will always be somebody who refuses to be deceived or perhaps they don't look where you want them to look because your misdirection isn't as strong as you think it is.

If you find during the course of your close-up routine that there are skeptics who refuse to look away at critical moments, then you must change your routine to fit the situation. Nowhere is this more critical than when you perform in an impromptu situation. Perhaps all it may take to adjust your angle is to bring your hands closer to your body or turn your side or back to a particular spectator for a moment; however, all performing situations are not created equal. What effects may work in one environment may be disastrous in another. What works behind

a bar may not work at the restaurant table. For example, trying to lap a shell coin while table hopping is out of the question . . . but you could use a topit. The effects that you can do while seated may be completely different from those you can do while you are standing. Even your favorite table hopping effects may not be practical while strolling at a cocktail party. You don't have the same set of surroundings nor even the same ambiance in these venues.

Take for example the routine of a restaurant magician. Most of his effects are geared for maximum audience visibility since he wants the magic to be seen not only by those at the table but also by those at nearby tables so that he can generate interest at his next table before he ever approaches them. His angles of visibility are large and his angles of invisibility are rather limited in this surrounded situation. Wide gestures and much animation may certainly attract attention and give him some misdirection for making the move and thus increase his angles of invisibility, but it may also interfere with the food service.

Accordingly he must choose his moments carefully and be conscientious of his surroundings. After all, he is working completely surrounded in most situations. For example, he may not be able to palm his final load and drop his arm to his side because the table behind him may see it. His misdirection and timing must be perfect for accomplishing the move or else he must stick with a self-working trick that defies angles (i.e. zig-zag cigarette).

Unfortunately timing and misdirection are two things that can't be practiced in the mirror. They can only be perfected under actual performing conditions. They can, however, be rehearsed and anticipated before you get into the real life situation. With much study and understanding of "why" an effect works, you can anticipate the audience's reaction so that you will know the "moment" when you will have that angle of invisibility.

Although impromptu magic can and does happen anywhere at any time, perhaps the most frequent place where you will be asked to perform in an impromptu situation will be in a restaurant dining among friends. Fortunately you are provided with more "props" at a restaurant than any other place (ie. salt shakers, napkins, silverware, glassware, etc.) plus you are seated where you may take advantage of occasionally lapping an item; however, if you overdo this powerful method of vanishing objects, then before long everyone will know where the stuff is going. You may even feel more comfortable standing for a moment and going into a few table hopping bits. But again, you must be aware of where those seated beside you are looking.

They may be able to see into your lap if seated at a round table or if you are seated on the side of a long table. Accordingly, I always try to be seated at one end or the other of long tables. I may never be called on to perform, but if I am, then I will have the advantage of knowing my angles and of being seen by everyone at the table. Impromptu magic, or as I like to call it . . . jazz magic, is never really "impromptu" because you should have complete control over the situation including knowing where your best and worst angles are.

Think of another real life performing situation . . . jazz magic aboard an airplane. Talk about restrictions! You are belted in a seat with limited movement and a spectator seated immediately beside you who could potentially be getting the performer's view at any given part of the routine. Those effects that worked so well in the restaurant now have to be thrown out the window (well, maybe not at 35,000 feet), or do they? Perhaps with a little ingenuity, some of those effects can be adapted to the skyways. Obviously your "get ready" for the double lifts and finger breaks may be detected when you can't move your body around. What you have long practiced to look natural now looks very unnatural in an airplane seat. Your arms are restricted so you can't turn your body appropriately. More than half of your repertoire has to be thrown out or reworked.

Let me suggest that some "beginner" type of tricks, if properly routined, can be made to look professional and be completely baffling and particularly suited for these restrictive performing venues. Many tricks of this genre are dismissed as we "grow" in magic and become more "sophisticated" after we have mastered the Erdnase diagonal palm shift. Let me suggest that you go back and re-read those basics. Dust off those old books and become a magician again. Think about how you can rework some of those classics that you think "can't possibly fool anybody." Just remember how you once felt when you were awed by the first effect that you ever saw. Think how you can make a simple, self-working trick more entertaining by wrapping your personality around it and you will be on your way to becoming a better, more flexible, and complete magician.

#

**Newsletter Editor
Needed:**

**Contact:
Eric Woods
913.709.1606**

April Meeting Happenings...

Teach a Trick with Jason Dean

The book *Encyclopedia of Practical Magic* aka *The Art of Magic and Sleight of Hand* (Nicholas Einhorn) will be used for teach-a-trick.

Come to next months meeting at our new location for your chance to WIN TWO FREE TICKETS to the *Renaissance Festival*. Winners will be randomly selected from the sign in sheet. Must be present to win!

A Warm Ring 129
Welcome to New Members:

Jim Hager
“Hager the Horrible... Magician”
5107 Forest KC, MO 64110
816-333-8477

Barry Nelson
13205 Fontana St. Leawood KS 66209
913-685-7992

March Meeting Winners!



Stage Winner
Joe White



Close-up Winner
Marty Isenberg

Congratulations to all the winners!!

Reminder for all members that would like to compete in the monthly contests and open performances. There is a time limit of 10 min. Please make sure that your performances are with-in the allotted time. Make sure that you are aware of the fire policy as well.

You can find all the details for performance rules on the ring website.

Thanks—Management.

Our Web Page

Go to www.ring129.com

User Name: ring129 **Password:** aj

See all the new changes that have been made and that you can download!! If you have questions, contact Ken Reedy at 816-734-1484 or email him at ...

webdesigners@kc.rr.com.

Ken Reedy

Sick and Convalescent

If you know of a ring member or their family member who is hospitalized or has passed away Contact:

Carl Macan

913-648-1465

crm130@aol.com (if e-mail is sent please contact Carl by phone to let him know to check his e-mail account)

Magician of the Month Winners

Stage		Close-Up		Stage		Close-Up	
01/07	Rod Sipe		Justin Brewer	07/06	_____		Mike Melito
02/07	Steve Steiner		Josh Chaikan	08/06	_____		_____
03/07	Dennis Burks		Larry Warshaw	09/06	_____		Blake Silvernail
04/07	_____		Stu Lewis	10/06	_____		Ken Reedy
05/07	Joe White		Marty Isenberg	11/06	_____		Jason Dean
06/07	_____		_____	12/06	_____		Laird Wilcox

Kirk DeWeese

634 SW Walnut
Blue Springs MO 64014

The Heart of the Ring is published monthly as a service to the members of IBM Ring 129. Views and comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ring 129 officers, the IBM, or the Editor.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing and earn additional Sorcerer's Circle Points.

Articles must be in the Editor's office by the 20th of the month.
ewoods20@hotmail.com

NEW MEETING LOCATION!!

Radisson Hotel
I-35 & 95th Street
Lenexa, KS

This Month

Regular Meeting
June 7—7 PM
The Radisson
Teach a Trick by
Jason Dean

Board Meeting
Check Website

**Close-Up Magician of the
Year Contest**
June 16—5:30PM
RPCC

RING 129 AGENDA

June 16 Close-Up Magician
 of the Year Contest

Aug 25 Magic 103

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Check the ring website: www.ring129.com
for up-to-date info on all lectures.

Friday, June 9th, 2007
Arthur Trace & David London Lecture
7:00 PM

Friday, October 19th, 2007
Jay Scott Berry Lecture
7:00 PM

Unless Specified All lectures held at:

US Toy Magic
2008 W. 103rd Terr.
Leawood, KS 66206

Sorcerers Circle: \$5
Regular Member \$6
Non-Member \$15