



## Ring Members Dominate Close-Up at the Midwest Magic Jubilee

### Melito Takes 1st, Chaikin 3rd

By Steve Steiner

Our Ring 129 members made quite a presence at the Midwest Magic Jubilee Convention, held on August 9-11 in St. Louis, Missouri. Mike Melito took home 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Close-up Competition, and Josh Chaikin finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both men did outstanding jobs and represented our ring very well. Another local magician, Devin Henderson, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Stage Competition during the weekend.

The convention included three evening stage shows, two afternoon close up shows, numerous lectures and a whole bunch of fellowship with other magicians from all over the United States.

I counted 16 ring members in attendance during the weekend convention. Several of them were billed as Convention "Headliners". Jason Dean and Todd Lamanske lectured and were part of the close-up talent booked during the weekend. There was a great crowd in attendance for their lectures and they were very well received. In the picture spread in the back of this month's newsletter you can see the huge



Josh Chaikin (left) and Mike Melito prepare to compete ...

crowd watching Jason's lecture and the line following it to purchase his products!

Ring member, Tom Burgoon served as Master of Ceremonies during the Friday evening show. His humor and antics alone made the evening a great one!

My favorite area at the convention was the Dealer's Room. Club members, Terry Elton,

*Continued on page 13 - (See "Jubilee")*

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## Mark Your Calendars!

### Thursday, September 6th

Regular Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
Radisson Hotel, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS.

### Thursday, September 20th

September Board Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Denny's Restaurant, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway

### Thursday, September 20th

Kendrick "Ice" McDonald Lecture  
at U.S. Toy, 7:00pm  
Sponsored by S.A.M. Assembly #30

### Thursday, October 4th

Regular Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
Radisson Hotel, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS.

### Saturday, October 6th

Sorcerers Circle Sponsored Day at the  
Renaissance Festival, Bonner Springs, KS.

### Friday, October 12th

Ring 129 Halloween Show  
Roeland Park Community Center

### Thursday, October 18th

October Board Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Denny's Restaurant, I-35 & Shawnee  
Mission Parkway

### Friday, October 19th

Jay Scott Barry Lecture, 7:00 pm at U.S. Toy

## Ring 129 Board Members

**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 Members:

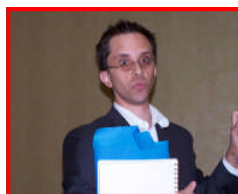
Rod Sipe 816. 916. 3655

Ken Reedy 816. 734. 1484

Eric Woods 913. 709. 1606

**Past President** - Chuck Macan 913. 681. 0368

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Josh Chaikin** - August's Close-up  
Magician of the Month!

**Gene Kean** - August's Stage Magician  
of the Month!



**Jason Dean** - August's winner of  
2 Renaissance Festival Tickets!

## SEPTEMBER Teach-a-Trick

September's Teach-a-Trick is titled  
"1089" from page 183 of the book: *Encyclopedia of Practical Magic*, aka *The Art of Magic and Sleight of Hand*, (Nicholas Einhorn) and will be taught by Larry Poague.



To sign-up to do a "Teach-a-Trick,  
contact Mike Melito at  
[mmelito@kc.rr.com](mailto:mmelito@kc.rr.com)

**Teach-a-Trick qualifies for  
Sorcerers Circle Points!**



### DON'T FORGET!

Our Next Regular Ring Meet-  
ing, Thursday, September 6th,  
7:00 pm, The Radisson,  
95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS

**INVITE A FRIEND!**



# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Jay Scott Berry Coming to Town!** - Mark your calendars for the *Jay Scott Berry* lecture to be held at U.S. Toy, on Friday, October 19th, 2007, 7:00 p.m.! A three-hour “Master Class” will also be taught by Jay on Saturday, October 20th. with pre-registration required. Complete details in next month’s newsletter!



**Special Note!** - See Special, “Late-Breaking” email message from Jay on Page 14!



**Sorcerers Circle Sponsors Renaissance Festival Event** - Saturday, October 6th has been set for the annual Sorcerers Circle Day at the Renaissance Festival. Normally priced \$17 tickets can be purchased through Ring 129 for only \$10! For tickets or more information, contact *Rod Sipe* - rod@eatfire.com or call 816-916-3655.

**Nominating Committee Election** - Ring President, *Mike Blum* announced to the Ring Board that the Nominating Committee Election will take place at the September 6th Regular Ring Meeting. The Nominating Committee will then meet and bring forward a recommended slate of potential board candidates for the total approval of the Ring Membership at the October 4th meeting. Should you have an interest in serving on the Ring 129 Board of Directors, please notify the Nominating Committee.



**Halloween Show Date Set** - The date for the annual Halloween show has been set for Friday, October 12th. Show producer, *Kirk DeWeese*, told the Ring Board that he has almost finalized the slate of performers for the show. The ring provides the Halloween show to the City of Roeland Park in trade for the use of the Roeland Park Community Center for the Ring’s Stage and Close-Up Competitions.



The Ring 129 Board is also exploring the possibility of producing an additional Halloween Show in conjunction with a local community theater organization to help raise additional funds for the Ring. More information will be released when it becomes available.



**October Mini-Lecture Set** - *Mike Melito* will present a mini-lecture at the regular Ring 129 Meeting on October 4th on the subject of “Using Ebay for Acquiring Magic”. He will include several tips and tricks that will assist not only the beginner, but even the experts in using the internet auction service.

The Ring Board has also approved a request from *Tom Burgoon* to give a mini-lecture at one of the upcoming regular ring meetings! More information will be made available after a date has been confirmed.



**Stage Competition Committee** - The Stage Magician of the Year Committee, headed up by *Larry Warsaw* has met twice and their recommendations concerning ways to improve the Ring’s annual event will be shared on September 6th, at the regular Ring Meeting. The Stage Magician Competition is annually held during late January of each year.

# LAST MONTH'S RING REPORT

## AUGUST

By Steve Steiner



Berniece & Bob Klamm

There was a very sizeable crowd in attendance for our regular monthly ring meeting, held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Rad-dison Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas. Being the third con-

secutive month to meet in the club's new location is proving to be a wise decision as we are beginning to see larger crowds showing up at the new and larger facility.

President Mike Blum began the meeting by making various announcements concerning many activities that are taking place within the ring over the next couple of months. Those activities include lectures by Paul Cummings and Jay Scott Berry, a one-day magic learning event called Magic University 103, and a ring Halloween show.

Long-time ring members, Bob & Bernice Klamm, next presented a lecture which included several tricks and routines involving comedy and magic. Bob used

the occasion to promote his latest book, "Outfox the Kids for Fun & Profit" by discussing some of the basic principles of using comedy and magic to enter-



tain both adults and children.

The night was also filled with plenty of magic as twelve people performed in three different categories.

In the Closeup Competition, Jared Millican made a signed card re-appear in another deck while Marty Isenberg performed a torn & restored napkin mentalism effect and Harris Deutsch did a series of coin manipulations. However, the winner for the evening was Josh Chaikin who did a mentalism routine which used four different selections from different Chinese restaurant menus. Josh's routine actually served as a practice run for his performance in the Close-up Competition at the Midwest Magic Jubilee in St. Louis the following week.

In the Stage Contest Larry Poague and Phil Franklin performed two different mentalism effects while 39-year member, Gene Kean drove in from Lawrence, Kansas to perform a series of different routines that included cups and balls. Gene's performance won the approval of the audience as he was declared the August Stage Magician of the Month by the members in attendance.



Jane & Duane Fields enjoy the humorous performance...

In the open competition several others performed including Joe White, Eric Woods, Mike Melito, Jason Dean, and Mark Tams.

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steves7@microdsl.net*

*The Monthly Ring Report is also published monthly in the I.B.M. "Linking Ring" Magazine.*

*This past month, Steve Steiner filled in for vacationing Ring Editor, Stu Lewis.*

**"Welcome to the Impossible"**



By Steve Steiner



Left to Right: Emma Jo, Kyle Sheel, Kat Cheney, and Blake Silvernail

On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of attending Kyle Sheel's "Welcome to the Impossible" magic show at the In the Light Performing Arts Center in Peculiar, Missouri. The one-hour and forty-five minute show included a wide variety of stage magic, manipulations, mentalism, and major illusions. I attended the afternoon show along with close to 125 others and only recognized one other magician in the audience which can only lead one to assume that most of the crowd consisted of friends, family, and community spectators.

After researching some past Ring 129 Club history, I found that Kyle Sheel has amassed quite a number of achievements for only being 17 years of age. After getting his start at the age of eight in the back of the U.S. Toy and Magic Shop, he has continued performing and perfecting his art, achieving several awards and recognitions along the way.

At the age of twelve, Kyle became the youngest member to win the prestigious I.B.M. Ring 129 Stage Magician of the Year Award. The following year, he became the youngest member to win the same award in consecutive years. In July of 2002, he traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to compete in the Society of American Magicians International Junior Stage contest, taking home the 1<sup>st</sup> place award. It was during that same year that he received proclamations from Mayor Kay Barnes and Governor Matt Blunt for his outstanding achievements.

In his August 4<sup>th</sup> show, Kyle, accompanied by his Lead Assistant and girlfriend, Emma Jo, and On-Stage

(See "Kyle Sheel", Page 13)

**Reflections From the Midwest Magic Jubilee**

*The following is a daily journal written by Ring 129 Board Member, Mike Melito of his experiences at the Midwest Magic Jubilee held in St. Louis on August 9-11, 2007.*



**Day 1, Thursday -** I must say that 7:30 rolls around pretty early on your day off. My wife and I took off for St Louis early Thursday morning for the Jubilee with Steve Steiner and Josh Chaikin in tow. We had made good time and got there a little early before the registration was open. It was fun to linger around waiting, seeing the attendees coming and going.

The first night's show was pretty disappointing. After starting a ½ hour late the first act looked like he was still setting up props and re-arranging tables during his show. Then there was an older gentleman who came out to tell a few jokes and sing a few songs. My wife commented that she was surprised to see this sort of an act during a magic convention – well, so was I.

**Day 2, Friday -** I must say 7:00 rolls around pretty early on your day off. However, there was a mandatory meeting for close-up and stage performers that morning at 8:00. Again, started late because they were waiting for all those who signed up to wake up and get to the meeting. I felt sorry for the stage guys cause only 2 showed up and the chairman changed the rule for mandatory attendance to be waived. Well, it was off to the contest!

There weren't a lot of people awake and moving around yet so they only were able to fill one room to perform in. This way we didn't have to do multiple performances. Wouldn't you know it – I drew first

(Continued on next page )

again. I had fun with the crowd waiting for the judges and timer getting set telling them Melito is spelled with one "R". Performing was a little nervous, especially when the judges are David Solomon, Mark Mason and some guy named Todd Lamske. But it was still fun.

Later that day was the first close-up show with the



Kansas City contingency – Jason Dean, former resident John Born and that Todd guy again. I knew it was a great show because there was one point when my

wife said "that was AWESOME". The evening's show had another KC native Tom Burgoon doing emcee duties with his very funny jokes and tricks. The highlight was seeing a young kid called on stage actually able to make a balloon animal that Tom tried to confuse the instructions on. The crowd went nuts when he presented Tom a completed dog.

**Day 3, Saturday** - I must say 7:30 rolls around pretty early on the weekend. I got up early to see the stage show performers. I was surprised to see that for the first contestant, the sound guy (who claimed he had done this for many years) turned off the music in mid-performance. The contestant, Jason Anderson had been in Kansas City a while ago doing a lecture with Steve Daly. Jason handled it like a pro. He stood in position waiting for the music to catch up. At the first crescendo in the music he picked up and did the same moves where he was fanning a now empty hand to send the confetti flying that had already been fanned and was now on stage. He went right along and gave a fine performance.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> close up show was a little later with Jimmy Molinari, Howie Schwarzman, Joe Young and then came Omar Ferret. I had not seen someone get a standing ovation before in this kind of close up performance. However, Omar got one in every room he performed. To see him vanish items and appear glasses filled with a drink was truly amazing. Dale Huffman commented afterwards –

"Now THAT was close-up".

They announced the winners of the contests. In stage, Jason Anderson came in first with another KC native Devin Henderson finishing 2nd. In close up, Josh Chaikin got 3rd and I was honored with first place. It was a nice award – but meeting people who came up to me to say they enjoyed the show was just as nice. The last night's show was the best. With the side splitting humor of Michael Finney, the evening was a lot of fun. Sonny Fontana gave a beautiful performance of shadow puppets that got a resounding applause. And the funniest act was watching Les Arnold and Dazzle. The humorous energy of Dazzle dancing was really the funniest part of the act.

**Day 4, Sunday** -I must say 8:30 rolls around pretty early when you've been up really late at the Hospitality suite. Still, there was a chance to meet some very nice and wonderful people. A member of the Merlin Order and also the National president of the SAM, Maria Ibanez was so nice to talk to and get to know. Oh, the people you'll meet at a convention. The final good byes to new friends was not hard because I knew I'd see them again soon at another convention.



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[mmelito@kc.rr.com](mailto:mmelito@kc.rr.com)*

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

## Lecture Review

# Paul Cummings

By Steve Steiner



FROM THE  
EDITOR'S DESK  
By Steve Steiner



Ring 129 members were treated to an awesome display of close-up card magic this past month as the talented Paul Cummings presented his "FASDIU" lecture at U.S. Toy & Magic

on August 13th. Paul's lecture was arranged by ring member, Jason Dean who certainly knows a card master when he sees one!

Paul shared several card routines that he had mastered from 30 to 35 years of working close-up magic in bars and restaurants. While Paul shared the workings of his routines, most of the 20 or so members in attendance watched with open mouths at the skills and dexterity he displayed. His use of the "side pass" was truly amazing.

Paul offered the attendees his lecture notes and CD's during the break and following the lecture. Although everyone knew that the moves and skills displayed would involve much time and practice to master, it



did not keep everyone from truly enjoying an evening of watching a great card magician perform his magic.

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[steves7@microdsl.net](mailto:steves7@microdsl.net)



I want to begin by saying "thank you" to the I.B.M. Ring 129 Club members for the multitude of compliments I have received from my ring newsletter publication last month. If you liked the last one then I know that you are going to really enjoy the added goodies in this month's edition. With this being only my second month serving as the club newsletter editor, I have to warn you that I am still feeling my way around with this "Newsletter Thing".

At the last Ring 129 Board Meeting I was asked to come up with some basic policies concerning our club newsletter, including what news and items will be considered appropriate for publication. With the board's help, I would like to share them with you at this time.

**1. The Emphasis will be Local and Personal** – A basic principle of the written media is to know whom your reading audience is and understand that people love to read and view pictures about themselves. Our club newsletter's audience is its own membership. Although I subscribe to two different daily newspapers, the only clippings that I have saved and have taped to walls of my room are the articles or pictures about myself. Now some of you may think that to be vain, but just think about it for a moment.

Have you ever gone over to a friend's house only to spend the evening watching some of *their* old family home movies? Usually the only people really interested in the movie are the people *in* the movie itself. I believe the same principle can be applied to *our* newsletter. I want to see it filled with pictures, news, information, and stories about *our* club members. I will therefore be seeking out more and more articles and stories from each of you as time goes by. Don't be surprised to get an occasional request from me to submit an article or picture for a future edition.

*Continued on Page 9 - (See "From the Editor's Desk")*

## Magician of the Month Winners

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the **Stage Magician of the Year Contest** traditionally held in late January or early February of each year.

Month	Winner
January	Rod Sipe
February	Steve Steiner
March	Dennis Burks
April	_____
May	Joe White
June	Marty Isenberg
July	Jonathan Atkinson
August	Gene Kean
September	
October	
November	
December	

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the **Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest** traditionally held Mid-Summer of each year.

Month	Winner
July	Jim Hagar
August	Josh Chaikin
September	
October	
November	
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	

**Reminder for all members that would like to compete in the monthly contests and open performances:**

- ◆ Please make sure that your performances are within the allotted time of 10 minutes.
- ◆ Make sure that you are aware of the fire policy.
- ◆ You can find all the details for performance rules on the ring website.

Check This Out

## Website of the Month



This month's "Website of the Month" is a little bit more obscure site last month's "Magic Café". It is called Magic New Zealand E-zine. The official link is <http://www.watson.co.nz/fezine.html>.

I stumbled on to this site when I was contacted by the site's author, Alan Watson, concerning a fraudulent illusion builder that had scammed several magicians, me being one. Shortly thereafter, I signed up for his weekly magic newsletter. I must say that this weekly email is remarkably full each week of magic news from around the world.

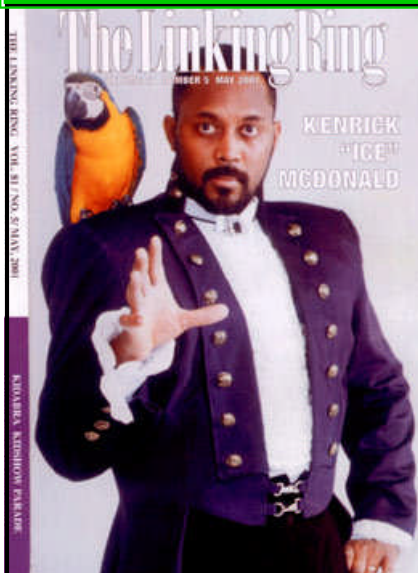
A typical week's newsletter will include information concerning conventions, magicians, contests, headlines, lectures, conventions, tours and television shows. Also included are articles submitted by a variety of independent contributors. It also features health reports and notices of broken wands ceremonies. The person who is first to submit a specific news item will receive full credit when that item is published.



If you visit Alan's website, you will see that his family has a long and active interest and career in magic. He has given our Ring 129 Newsletter special permission to reprint any article from his newsletters. As a matter of

(Continued on Page 13—See "Website")

# Kendrick "Ice" McDonald to Lecture at U.S. Toy



**Kendrick "Ice" McDonald** will be lecturing at U.S. Toy & Magic on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the local Society of American Magicians, Assembly #30. Kendrick's theme

for the lecture will be "Show No-Knows" and he will deal with both stage and close-up performances.

"Ice" has been a premiere performer at the Society of American Magicians Convention and the International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention, breaking audience attendance records. He has won numerous awards in the entertainment circles and was featured on the cover of the May 2001 issue of "The Linking Ring", the world's largest magic publication by the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

ICE was recently featured in the history-making documentary, "The Art and Soul of Magic; The Story of the American Black Magicians" filmed in New York City.

For more information about Kendrick McDonald, you can access his website:

[www.ice.mcdonald.net](http://www.ice.mcdonald.net)

"From the Editors Desk" - "Continued From Page 7)

## 2. If it is Local Magic News, Then its Fair Game! -

In the past there have been questions concerning whether it is appropriate to publish news and articles about non-club members in the Ring 129 Club Newsletter. Some may have even thought it wrong to promote events sponsored by other magic clubs and organizations. The policy of this editor will be to advance and promote *all local magic*.

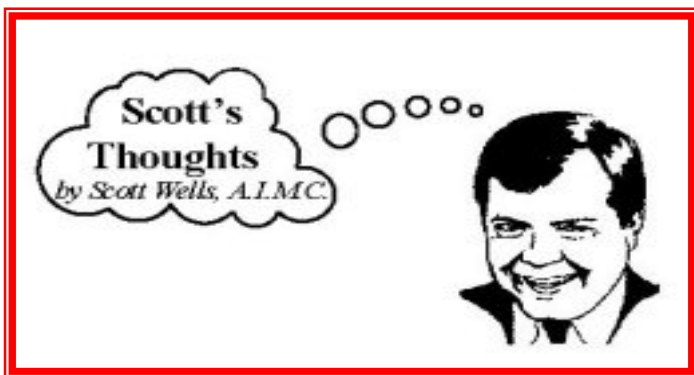
Now, I still believe that we should endeavor to bring in as many club members as possible, but we should not *exclude* the promotion of some of the local magic happenings and magicians, simply because it does not *directly* involve *our* club. If David Copperfield comes to town, I am probably going to have an article in the newsletter. If one of the other local clubs are hosting an event, then it too will probably be in our publication. We need to be leaders in the promotion of local magic and local magicians.

3. Club News First - Unless it is a major event, the "page-one" type stories of the newsletter will deal with *club* news. As editor, I reserve the right to determine the placement of all the articles in each newsletter and will try my best to make the "club news" our top stories.

4. Disclaimer - Even though this sacred, hallowed, and historical newsletter will be proofread and reviewed thoroughly each month by an expert team of 129 editors, I reserve the right to *unintentionally* omit events, pictures & news, and misspell individual's names without notice. (*Tongue in Cheek!*)



Steve Steiner can be reached via email at: [steves7@microdsl.net](mailto:steves7@microdsl.net)



## Showdown At High Noon

“Hey Dave, show this guy that you can shove a cigarette through a quarter.” “Hey Mike, can you show these guys that one where you stick the card on the ceiling?” “Hey guys, watch Frank change this one dollar bill into a hundred. You CAN do it can’t you, Frank?” “OK everybody, hang on to your watches and pocketbooks. This guy is good!”

How often have we been put in a situation where two things like this have happened? First, you are caught cold, outside of a regular performing engagement without the appropriate gimmick, and second, even if you had the necessary something for the effect, the denouement is blown. The guy has already spoiled your ending by revealing the climax. It then becomes a challenge to figure out how you are going to accomplish the effect. Perhaps your presentation is entertaining enough to put everyone off guard again and again, particularly those who are seeing it for the first time, but the "friend" who wants you to show it to his friends may be looking for the secret and has heard your clever banter several times before. He may also merely be wanting his friends to know that he knows a magician.

Several issues have been raised here, specifically: 1) are some tricks which become "reputation makers" too strong, 2) should you always be prepared to perform that "special" effect, 3) should we perform on demand like a trained seal, 4) is it possible to have alternate methods for their favorite trick. Basically, what do we say and what do we do when we are placed in a no win situation?

First of all, I believe that there are some effects that are so good that they can give you a reputation as a magician and become associated with you. Whenever that person sees anyone else doing that

trick which they saw you performing, they refer to it as "your" trick. For example, I have been performing the rising cartoon card effect known as Martin Lewis' "Cardiogra-*phic*" since it was first published. When some people who had seen me first perform the effect then saw David Copperfield do it on his TV special in 1990, they said "Hey, he's doing Scott's trick." Or when I do the torn and restored newspaper, they may say "Hey, that guy's doing Bill Palmer's trick (a local magician)." That's just the nature of this business unless you are so creative that you are doing something that no one else is doing yet. This gets into the realm of infringement and copyright problems which is quite topical now and not within the scope of this article.

There are some great effects that can become reputation makers for you that you should never have to worry about. For instance, most any illusion (i.e. cutting a woman in half, a levitation, or an impalement) necessitates you having the proper equipment before you can perform the feat...or does it? You may be in someone's home when you are handed a broomstick and asked if you can suspend someone in the room.

Then there are the dove workers who gain fame by making doves appear and disappear. If this is exclusively the kind of magic you perform, then you should be safe. More than likely, you will never be asked to make the pet canary disappear or to change it into a rabbit.

As we move down in size from the larger illusions, there are some great effects like the torn and restored newspaper mentioned earlier or even the ever flowing Lota Bowl. But even here, you may be handed a newspaper at a party and asked to tear it up and put it back together again or jokingly asked to refill their martini without going to the bar. There are some smaller, close-up effects that require some apparatus that make for a good reputation. One such effect of mine that comes to mind is the ring on stick and/or ring off rope effects. These can be performed if the friend asking you to do it has a rope or wand/stick. I once performed the effect using someone's shoelace they took from their shoe and a wooden spoon from the kitchen. How far must we go?

*(Continued - See "Scott Wells", Page 11)*

**“Scott Wells” (Continued from Page 10)**

Then we come to the “impossible” impromptu effects like the cigarette through quarter. What can we do when we are asked to perform something like this? With the larger effects that require props or apparatus, we can easily beg off saying that we don't have the proper equipment. But what about the tricks that apparently require no apparatus, no special equipment, just a borrowed dollar or coin and your renown skill as a magician? You're faced with a no win situation. You have apparently proven your prowess in a previous performance. Now you are asked to do it again for real in an impromptu situation thus securing your fame for a bit longer and building the stature of the one who asked you to do it among his group of friends.

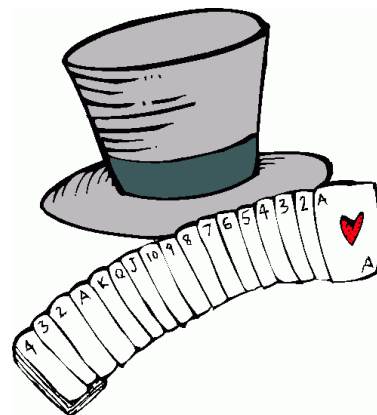
If you can't do it or anything else, then regardless of any clever remark you make, you are viewed as an amateur having no special "powers" and the one who asked you to display your talents still looks good because he “called you down”. It was high noon and you lost the showdown.

I could suggest several different responses to someone's request, but I feel that all of them are inferior to actually accepting the challenge if the request is sincere. That is, if you are prepared with the requested effect or if you can do anything else. But even if you are prepared now, will you be ready later when you are asked again? If you don't satisfy the one asking to see the trick now, then you can bet that he will ask you again at another inopportune occasion. At the risk of feeling as if you are performing on command like a trained seal, I suggest that you have something else ready to perform upon request. It doesn't have to be a "killer" effect but something to satisfy those who are seeing you perform and to prove that you are indeed a magician worthy of professional respect. And more importantly, proving that you are someone whom they should consider as the entertainment for their next affair.

Let me first address the psychological problem you may have of performing on command. If you let yourself be used, then you will be used. You shouldn't feel as if you have to put on a whole show or run through your whole repertoire; however, there's nothing wrong with doing two or three tricks to establish your position then you can use the oppor-

tunity to pass out your business cards and ask for their cards. I prefer to try down play the fact that I am a magician rather than trying to always prove that I am a magician at every drop of the hint. Only after I am convinced that they really want to see a trick will I do it. I believe that I have mentioned before that Max Malini was one of the only magicians to have been invited to join the prestigious Player's Club in New York mainly because he didn't "force" himself on everyone by offering to do a trick for everyone all the time; however, he was ready at any time to do some incredible magic when pressed into service. Believe it or not, he nearly always carried a block of ice under his cloak to use as a final load in a trick that made a reputation for him.

You might start by saying something like “Yeah sure, I'd like to show you that but first let me show you something else that's a lot better and you haven't seen before.” Then go into a different impromptu routine using anything you have at hand (i.e. coins, napkins, rubber bands, silverware, etc.). If you do any mental effects, then now would be the time to put these talents to work. Whatever you do, make sure that you can do it well and that it's not a weak trick that looks as if anyone can do it. By thus establishing yourself as more than a “trickster” you don't have to feel ashamed that you have not performed the trick requested. You may have been successful enough to make your friend forget about that “special” trick he requested. You have just performed other “miracles” that have satisfied the intent behind his request . . . that is, to let his other friends know that he knows a professional entertainer. Moreover, you have actually secured your place in your friend's mind as a complete conjurer. Someone who is able to leap tall buildings at a single bound, etc.



# Developing Your Routines

By Kyle Peron



What I have found that when I start to work on a manipulative act (or most any magic act) using non-common manipulative objects, I always go through a process that seems to work for me to generate ideas and methods. I would like to share some of these thoughts with you if I could in hopes they might help you as well.

Step One: First you must look past the object and see what the object really is. By this I mean you look past that fact that this is a bracelet or that this object is a broach. By looking past the object you then start to break down the object into its most simplest of forms. The bracelet no longer is a bracelet but is a circular object or a ring of sorts. The broach is not a broach but almost like a small coin and circular in nature and solid but also flat. By breaking the object down to its simplest form, one can often start to see how this object can be used. This brings me to phase two.

Step Two: Once you have looked past the object and brought it to its simplest forms, you can then look back into your manipulative skills and arsenal and see if you can apply certain moves you already know to these new objects. For example, if one looks at the bracelet as a ring, then you can first start practicing any type of ring on string moves. What moves for ring and string could be applied to this bracelet of which has the same type of shape? A similar thing can be said and done with the broach. The broach could be very similar in shape and form to a coin. What type of manipulative moves can be done with coins that you could apply to the broach. This brings me to phase three.

Step Three: You do not have to reinvent the wheel when you create a custom manipulative act based on objects that are not commonly used for manipulative magic. As discussed above, you can learn to study moves and use moves you already know and apply these moves to the new objects you are using. Moves used for thimbles, CDs, cards, billiard balls and coins can often be used in the same way for new objects (in this case jewelry).

Step Four: Step four is where I begin to experiment. This means really studying the object for what it is. It means looking at it, handling it and using some of the methods and moves you already know to see what may work for you. The more you get used to experimenting with the objects through the act of doing, the sooner you can realize what moves you already know may be able to be applied to this new object. It also then allows you to see if any certain move can be adapted in some way to help you achieve what you are after.

Step Five: Step 5 is where I see if there is any quality about this new object that I can use to my advantage. For example, a broach may have something on the back that I can use to allow my hands to clip it in some fashion allowing me more possibilities for moves and sequences. A necklace can be rolled up and condensed into a smaller form and so can be concealed differently allowing for further possibilities. Study the object and see if anything about the object may give you an advantage. Often times what some magicians see as a hindrance may in fact actually be an advantage.

Step Six: Step 6 is simply trying things out. Go ahead and try stuff. What would happen if I take a necklace in combination with a Fantasio vanishing wand? Hmm perhaps the wand can change into the necklace. This means you will not know unless you simply start DOING. Try things out and see what works and what may not.

Step Seven: Make sure to video tape all your practice sessions. This is very important as most of what you develop will be by a happy accident. You will want it on tape so that you can refer to it after any session. Often times something will happen by accident and you may not realize how you got to that point. The video will allow you to see your progression of ideas.

There are certainly more steps that I use and can be used, but I hope these 7 simple steps will help get you started in the right direction for creating unique manipulative act ideas. As always, I encourage you the readers to let me know your thoughts.

*Kyle Peron, Magician and Illusionist, can be reached by email: [magic4u02@aol.com](mailto:magic4u02@aol.com) or by visiting his website: [www.kyleandkellymagic.com](http://www.kyleandkellymagic.com) This article was used by permission from Magic New Zealand, Issue Number: #518, © Copyright 2007 Alan Watson*

*“Kyle Sheel” - (Continued from Page 5)*

Assistant, Kat Cheney, overcame a less-than-perfect stage environment and some occasional technical difficulties to provide a very entertaining show. It was Kyle’s poise and experience that helped make the show very entertaining for all those in attendance.

He opened the show with a flurry of manipulations that included the production of several coins and doves. Shortly thereafter, Kyle produced Emma Jo out of his torn and restored newspaper. Emma Jo and Kyle worked several major illusions throughout the day including a very well done Sub Trunk routine in which they switched places wearing straight jackets!

I found their most dramatic illusion was a shadow box in which Emma Jo’s shadow was folded up into a small square card with a real rose attached. Although I have seen them perform their Krontrum Box illusion in the past, I still cannot figure out how Emma Jo can squeeze herself into the box and miss all those rods and tubes!

Although the illusions were a big hit, Kyle’s best routines were a couple of the older and more practiced tricks. His performance of “The Sands of the Desert” had everyone spellbound and the Chocolate Milk routine had everyone amazed. It was during that routine that he poured several different drinks from the same carton of chocolate milk. The real kicker followed as he passed out the drinks and had members of the audience validate the drinks by sampling them.

Midway through the show, Kyle took a short break and handed the stage over to the young Blake Silvernail. Blake, an award-winning magician in his own right, performed two very entertaining routines showing his smooth style and poise.

Kyle and his assistants were very poised and playful and really seemed to enjoy doing their routines for the audience. Their attitudes were infectious to the crowd which should be a lesson all of us who entertain. The show ended with Kyle doing a Napkin to Rose to Snowstorm routine while Emma Jo sang a finale song.

*To contact Kyle visit [www.kylesheelmagic.com](http://www.kylesheelmagic.com)*

*“Jubilee” - (Continued from Page 1)*

Tom Burgoon, and U.S. Toy & Magic’s Dale Huffman & Corey Harris manned their own Dealer’s Booths and from the times I visited, it looked as if sales were going very well!

In this edition of the Ring Newsletter, Mike Melito shares his daily reflections from the convention in an article that you will not want to miss. Congratulations again to Mike and Josh for their accomplishments!



*“Website” - (Continued from page 8)*

fact, this month’s article titled “Developing Your Routines” is a reprint from one of his early August newsletters.

The main reason I wanted to share this particular site with you is to encourage you to sign up for his weekly email publication. There is no charge and it is easy to sign up. Simply go to the link, fill in the boxes, and send it away. The newsletter will come in text form without pictures and fanfare. It’s a great website. Try it out for a few weeks and see if you don’t agree.

*As part of a new monthly feature, I am selecting a magical “Website of the Month”. It is my hope to pass along to you each month, not only some of my favorite magical sites, but some of your favorites as well! Should you discover a new and exciting magical website, please feel free to pass it along to me.*

Thanks,  
*Steve Steiner*  
[steves7@microdsl.net](mailto:steves7@microdsl.net)

# Late Breaking News!

**Just as this newsletter was to go to press, we received an important email from Jay Scott Berry concerning his scheduled lecture on October 19th and "Master Class" on October 20th:**

**From: Jay Scott Berry**

As I mentioned, I have been able to set aside Saturday, October 20th for a Master Class. The normal price for this 3 hour, hands-on session is \$50 per person. However, I am offering \$10 off for anyone wishing to reserve a space in advance. This is recommended, as seating is limited. All they need do is email me and I will organize it from there:

[jsb@jayscottberry.com](mailto:jsb@jayscottberry.com)

The time and location details are yet to be determined. Usually we just find a convenient local meeting place, such as a member's home or conference room. If you have any suggestions on this please let me know. Details on the Master Class are at: <http://www.jayscottberry.com/masterclass.aspx>

Finally, please remind everyone about the Topit installations. This is a special service that we offer with the lecture. My wife, Lisa, is recognized as the best in the world at installing JSB Topits, Sleeve Pockets and Side Pocket Slits. Advance reservations for this are recommended. However, anyone who just wishes to bring along their jackets can decide after the lecture to have installations done. More info on Lisa and this service are at:

<http://www.sewmagical.com/topits.html>

We look forward to seeing you all in October.  
All the Best,

*Jay*

*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 Sorcerers Circle Points.

Articles should be emailed to the editor  
by the 20th of the month.

[steves7@microdsl.net](mailto:steves7@microdsl.net)

## Our Web Page



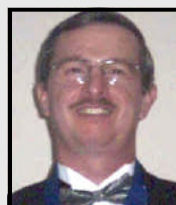
Much helpful information can be found on the Ring 129 Web Page:

[www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)

The following passwords are needed for members to access special areas of the website:

**User Name:** ring129

**Password:** aj



If you have questions concerning the ring website, contact Ken Reedy at **816-734-1484** or email him at ... [webdesigners@kc.rr.com](mailto:webdesigners@kc.rr.com).

## Dealer Booth Policy

In order to set up a dealer table at Ring 129 Meetings, the board of directors have established the following policy.

*A dealer is considered legitimate provided they meet one of the following criteria:*



- ◆ Operate their business out of an actual magic storefront or building.
- ◆ Have an actual magic dealer's I.D. or business license.
- ◆ Have a Sales Tax Number

**PICTURES-  
PICTURES-  
PICTURES!**



**Check out the 9 pages of photos  
from magic events this past month!**

### Picture Spread

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