



MAGIC NEWS

HEART OF THE RING

IBM Ring 129 - "The Heart of America Ring" - Kansas City

Jason Dean Captures Close-up Magician of the Year

Mesmerizes His Audience With Technique

What were you doing on Saturday, June 15th? If you were lucky enough to be one of the 87 guests at the Holiday Inn Lenexa, you participated in one of this year's premier events - Ring 129's own Close-up Magician of the Year Contest.

This year, **Jason Dean**, from St. Joseph, MO walked away with the honors with his outstanding performance.

This Close-up event differed from those in the past. Each contestant passed through three event rooms filled with as many as 30 guests performing their individual routines. Judges strategically placed then evaluated their acts.

The results awarded to the magicians are as follows: Winner - **Jason Dean**, 1st Runner-up - **Larry Warshaw**, a tie for 2nd Runner-up - **Matt Grunwald** and **Brent Ahsmuhs**. Other participating Ring members were: **Harris Deutsch**, **Stu Lewis**, **Keith Leff**, and **Kyle Scheel**. And those that qualified to perform but chose not to were: **Israel Rivera**, **John Hicks**, and **L. C. Collier**.

The evening started with libations in Salon E where everyone socialized and discussed what they were about to see. We then adjourned to the three smaller salons to see close-up magic like it was meant to be seen - CLOSE-UP! After the one hour and a half of performances, we



Jason Dean & 1st place plaque

returned to Salon E for a great array of desserts, ice cream, and more great beverages.

Alan Goodheart was chairperson for the event. He wishes to thank those that helped make this such a fun time for all. He thanks **Carl Macan** for taking reservations, **Carl and Mike Blum** for working the door, **Kirk Deweese** for the trophies, **David Sandy** for the Runner's-up certificates, **Larry Warshaw** for his work on the rules committee, and the floor set-up, Room Hosts **Dennis Burks**, **Dale Huffman**, and **Dave Buttram**, and **Jay Godwin** for getting judges and working with the judges committee. Lastly **Rod Sipe** and **Todd Lamanske** for donating their time to oversee the judge's tally. Without the hard work of all these members of the Ring, this event would never have been as good as it was. Please express our thanks to each of these guys next time you see them.

We all learned a lot from this year's event, and next year it will be bigger and better. The Ring

Johnny Thompson Visits Midwest

Professional Magic At Its

When this year began, what did you think was the chance you could see a Las Vegas professional magician close up and personal? Well, hopefully you were lucky enough to be at the Ring meeting June 6th when **Johnny and Pam Thompson** graced us with their presence. **Johnny** gave us all a chance to see a series of great magic using balls, silks, coins, and cards, of course. His unique style and ways he handles the props mentioned gave each of us different ways to perform our acts than we may have thought. **Johnny's** smooth technique made everything seem mind bending. Thanks for the

Workshop Winner Chosen At Close-up Contest

Each month we participate in the Ring magic contests. The honor of winning got you a chance to win FREE registration at the Workshop Reunion this coming October. Randomly drawn, the winner of this great prize was **Ken Reedy**. Starting this month, make sure to share magic in some way each month to have your "International Convention 2003 in KC" fees taken care of. Good Luck!

Upcoming Events

July 3rd thru 6th, 2002
75th Annual IBM Convention
 San Diego, CA

July 11, 2002
Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
 (One week late due to IBM Convention)
 Holiday Inn
 95th and I-35
 Lenexa, KS

July 25, 2002
Board Meeting
 Dr. Mike Blum's house

August 1, 2002
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 Holiday Inn
 95th and I-35
 Lenexa, KS

August 14, 2002
Jim Cellini Street
Performing Lecture
 Holiday Inn Lenexa
 95th and I-35
 Lenexa, KS

SPECIAL THANKS

Carl Macan wants to thank all of the Ring members and their guests for responding to his phone calls regarding reserving space for the recent Close-up Magician of the Year Banquet held June 15th. Those that returned his calls from messages left, both "YES" and "NO", were greatly appreciated.

Letter From The Editor

By Alan Goodheart

This month only one thing to say – a very special THANK YOU to the entire Ring. I was so proud to see the turnout at the Close-up Contest June 15th. You could feel the pulse of the crowd all evening. The new venue, the change in format, and the great line-up of performers all contributed to what we can expect future events to be like. For if we continue with this enthusiasm through the end of the year to the International Convention here in KC in 2003, we will far surpass our own expectations of fun and magical times to be had by all involved.

Those of you that were there, you know what a great time you had. For those of you that were *not* there, hop aboard the next

Ever Think of Performing Street Magic?

Jim Cellini Comes To Lecture August 14th

We know you have heard this before, but this time we mean it! Clear your calendars and mark the date of **August 14th**, for that is when Street Magician **Jim Cellini** comes to the Holiday Inn Lenexa at 7 p.m. Cellini is known as The King Of Street Performers. He is truly a legend in his own time. Cellini will perform his street set as his famous Gypsy Character. He will also perform a set as his Old Man Character. He will lecture on Ropes, Cards, Slydini Knots, Coins, Cups and Balls, and his fabulous Two Ring Linking Ring Routine. Cellini shows the pouches he wore and demonstrates how he used them on the street. He shows how he incorporated the pouches into his suit which has all the advantages of the pouches but still looks like a suit. The man is an absolute wealth of knowledge.

Jim Cellini is charismatic and attention-getting. You are walking down the street and a friendly voice invites you to "watch this one." You stop dead in your tracks as you watch a full sized magic wand instantly

vanish before your eyes. Almost immediately, he pulls out a small purse from which he, incredibly, extracts the same wand! You stand rooted to the spot as cigarettes suddenly appear and disappear...then coins...suddenly you are aware that a small crowd has gathered to watch with you.

A rope appears. It's cut in half and restored a few times. You are aware that this man, dressed in a gypsy outfit, might be from another time and space dimension. You know that he is special! His smile charms the hardest heart. Already he has transformed you from adult to delighted child (easily his greatest trick). You laugh and applaud with everyone else as chosen cards are found, and rings are linked and unlinked. By the time he's half-way through the cups and balls you've already made up your mind that this man is the greatest magician you have ever seen; that he's traveled in time to be here; and, most of all, you feel honored and lucky to witness him in action..."

Please make sure to attend this lecture – one not to be missed!

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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. Articles must be in the Editor's office by the 20th of the month. Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing.

Ring 129 Website

<http://www.ring129.com>

Magician of the Month

JUNE 2002

Stage

Dale Huffman

Close-up

No participants this month

Remember to visit our Ring's website at:

www.ring129.com

Those Who Support Magic Around the Country

The following list of suppliers of magic contributed to the Close-up Magician's contest by donating prizes. They are:

- Aldo Colombini of Mama Mia Magic,**
- Dick Barry's Magic,**
- Magic of Boris Wild,**
- Bob Klamm's Magic Shop,**
- Proof Positive Magic**

SORCERER'S CIRCLE POINTS SHEETS

If you are not already, you should be keeping track of your Sorcerer's Circle points on our helpful points sheet available on-line at www.ring129.com, or if you do not have internet access, please see a board member to get a copy. Thanks to **Jay Godwin** and the SC committee for making our lives easier to track our SC points. No excuse for more of us getting into this fine group. Show



President's Column
By
Mike Blum

My wife finally bought a new car this week. She had been looking for quite some time for the right car for her. When we went to pick up the car, the salesperson, who was labeled by the others at the dealership as the “guru” for this type of car, had the car all cleaned and in the showroom. He was going to give us the instructions for all the little details of this car. We were ready. It did not happen! He had to refer to the manual for even little things that most of us could have figured out by intuition. Although I didn't say anything to my wife, I was somewhat disappointed. He was supposed to be the “expert” and did not put on a good show. New car? Magic? Get to the point!

expected that this person should know everything about his product. When a magician performs, he or she should be able to perform most of the routine in a seemingly flawless fashion. The perfection of any routine is practice. Like the tourist who stopped the New Yorker in Manhattan and asked the question: “How do you get to Carnegie Hall”? The answer was simple: “Practice, Practice, Practice”! How do we get to be good magicians...practice, practice, practice!

The open session at our club meetings is a great opportunity for you to practice your routine. We have had requests to allow critiquing of the routines. No problem. The meetings are open for everyone to improve their art of magic. There is no better place to practice than in front of your peers and friends at a Ring 129 meeting. If you want feedback of your routine in open session, just ask! My best wishes for a Happy, Safe and productive holiday.

Stage Winner
Dale Huffman



**SORRY,
 NO PICS**

Since his early beginnings, Dale Huffman has yearned to learn more about the magical world. He has seen many magicians, both in person and in film and television, and said “I bet I can do that!” Even though he does do some close-up magic, his real love is being up on stage. Dale says “I feel most comfortable on stage with the audience out in front of me at a safe distance where I am more in control.” He truly enjoys every opportunity he has to perform his acts. He is currently a member of both the I.B.M. Ring 129, as well as the S.A.M. where he currently serves as its President. Though he has had venues that he has per-

formed for in the past, he currently is not scheduled to create his own magic. But as all of us are, he is eager to make that next booking count. And when asked to compare himself to any type of tree, Dale chose a palm tree. When you think of a palm tree, being cool and calm comes to mind, as well as being able to weather the storm. All of these attributes makes Dale Huffman “cool as a cucumber” and a great asset to our Ring. Good luck as you prepare to compete in the “hurricane” stage event next January!

**WORKSHOP
 REUNION
 IN ST. JOSEPH**

Our Ring is sponsoring the **WORKSHOP REUNION** in St. Joseph, MO scheduled to be held at the Ramada Inn from **October 8th to October 11th**. Reservations can be made by logging onto www.ring129.com or by calling **David Sandy** at 816-233-4177 (if no answer, leave a message and he will

**LETTER TO
 THE EDITOR**

Annie and I had a lot of fun preparing and presenting our Nearly Normal Entry to the Annual Close Up Contest. I have been around magic clubs since the mid 1970's but never considered entering contest. A few years ago, while talking with Duane Fields, I was able to see a different side of contest. He describes the event as a chance to give back to the club. I really like that attitude. We vote the contest, an absolute success. It is great to see our newer and younger magicians have such a strong showing. I

As a extra bonus The Nearly Normal Show now has an alternative opening to both our stage and close up act. Sure it would have been nice to win or place, but as the Zen Magician once said, "The journey is much more important then the destination.) Annie, (Nigel) and I learned a lot about the our program as well as about each other.

Harris "Nearly Normal" Deutsch
 Laughologist
<http://expage.com/nearlynormalmagic>

OBITUARY

Gladys Naylor, wife of “Gigs” Naylor, both past members of the Ring, passed away June 21st, 2002. Her third husband was who got her interested in magic, and she supported it with a flair rarely seen. Her fun and spirit will be dearly missed.

**TEACH-A-TRICK
 REMINDER**

Don't be late to the beginning of our regular meetings. Because that's when **Teach-A-Trick** is happening! (Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.) Come early and learn some new and fun magic! (Mini-lectures will take precedent over Teach-A-Tricks).

MAGIC NEWS RING 129 NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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Ring 129
Lecture Fees

Unless listed otherwise,
are as follows:

Non-Members \$15

Members in good standing \$12

Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10



Your Close-up contest participants: (front row) Harris Deutsch, Jason Dean, Larry Warshaw, Kyle Scheel. (Back row) Brent Ahsmuhs, Keith Leff, Stu Lewis, Matt Grunwald

Been Out Of Touch? You've Missed A Bunch

*Special Thanks to Stu Lewis
From his Linking Ring Report*

We've been so busy lately attending lectures (four during a six-week span) that we've hardly had time for any other magical activities. We previously reported on Alan Marchese. Next came Charles Gauci, from Australia. His presentation was mostly on mentalism, with a few more visual effects thrown in as well. He spent some time with a deck-stacking system which could be used in place of a memorized deck. There was some good, usable material, though perhaps there was a bit too much salesmanship for my taste.

Our June meeting consisted primarily of a lecture by Johnny Thompson, with about 65 in attendance. He showed us a number of classics-balls to net, coins through table, eggbag, etc. It's always a treat to see an "old pro" like Johnny share

his thinking about these routines. It was good to see an act that one can fit into one's pockets. He was gracious in spending time with people after the lecture to go over some of the sleights he had explained. For example, there was a useful tip on controlling a peeked card. At times, he seemed to be covering a bit too much, but most of what he taught is on a single video. And of course one cannot comment on Johnny without paying tribute to his charming wife, Pam, who is diametrically opposite the klutzy, rude woman she plays on stage.

My personal favorite of the four lecturers was Steve Dacri. His approach is to do the close-up routine that he performs at Caesar's and then break it down element by element for us. He pointed out that too many magicians focus on what's new, whereas their audiences are still entertained by the classics. He also spent some time to show us how he organizes his props. Among the routines taught were the color-changing deck,

coins through table, and sponge balls. I enjoyed the way that he explained the psychology of each routine. It's true that he does a bit of name-dropping, but why not, when you can drop names like Vernon and Slydini. (Johnny Thompson also has worked with all the great masters). Steve's lecture is virtually a mini-course in the art of close-up magic. Like Johnny, he was more focused on teaching than on selling. Most of the routines were included in one of his two sets of notes. He had a number of sponge rabbits for sale, but the principles he taught could be used with regular sponge balls as well. We recommend him highly to other rings.

Our June meeting also included a brief stage contest. Dale Huffman won the two-person contest with the production of a lemon and the removal of a card from a locked deck, which wound up inside the lemon. The other entrant was Stu Lewis, with a mental routine including divination of cut-to cards and a magazine test. Next up-our close-up contest and

