



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Close-Up Contest

Our February meeting is our highly anticipated first competition of the year... The Close-Up Contest! Do you have what it takes to claim 1st place? Do you have a set of routines that are polished and prize money worthy? Are you looking to showcase your charm,



The 2011 Close-Up Winner, Leo Sy

and close-up magical talent? If so, this is definitely the chance for you to shine!

This contest is limited to only 12 participants and we will not accept ANY entries to the contest after February 7th. Please do not show up on the meeting night expecting to compete if you have not previously signed up with Syd. Also, the format of the contest this year is different than years past. We still have the very strict time limit of 8 minutes per performance (anything over and you will be disqualified), however, we are now only requiring you to perform your set 4 times (it was previously 8 times or more). After each performance, you will be given 1 minute to break down your act and move into an "out" position. From here, you will be able to reset your routine and/or watch your competition. If your act requires anything extra (music, speakers, special close-up mat, table, etc.), please bring that on your own as the ring will not have anything to provide.

As with all of our contests, there will be a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. If you are interested in signing up for the contest, please contact Syd Segal at 619-300-1344 or bt16380@aol.com. The contest is limited to 12 people, and once those spots have been filled, no other entries will be allowed. Also, as mentioned before, no entries will be accepted after February 7th so DO NOT delay.

— Syd Segal

March Auction

At the March meeting Ring 76 will be having its bi-annual magic auction.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



It was decided, by the Board, that to free up more meetings for magic, we would alternate the Swap Meet and Auction every year. This year it is the Auction and all members are encouraged to empty out their closets and magic trunks and bring those usable treasures they want to pass on.

The rules are simple, and designed to insure that as equal a chance for all is achieved.

First, each person wishing to auction their treasures is restricted to five lots. A lot may contain as many items as the seller wishes, but each lot will be auctioned off as a single unit. So, you may have a lot that contains five or six books, another that is just one large illusion, and a third that a combination of cards, coins, and DVDs. The choice is yours. We will be auctioning off the lots, not the separate items in the lot.

Next, each seller should include a description of the items in each lot, so the auctioneer can present it in the best possible light. The seller should also include a minimum starting bid. If you have a Zig-Zag you are not going to want to start the bid at \$1, so tell us where you want the bidding to begin. What is the minimum you will accept for your lot??

Finally, Ring 76 collects 10% of the selling price. That is the fee for services rendered. Keep that in mind when you decide on your opening bid.

The Ring is trying to secure the ability to accept credit cards, which will benefit everyone. If you

have the ability to accept credit card transactions at the Lion's Club, please contact the Treasurer, Richard Ustick at rustick@flash.net. Any other questions should be directed to him as well.

Remember, the auction is at the Ring Meeting, March 12. It is always a spirited evening with bargains and riches for all. See you there.

— Richard Ustick

Classic Magic was, well ... A Classic

Our January meeting was a tribute to the great magic of great magicians in bygone eras, with the added stipulation of no cards.

President, Kenny Shelton called the meeting to order and allowed for a few announcements. One of particular interest made by John Coulter, a visitor to the meeting. John is a newcomer to San Diego; he is a member of IBM, and most likely will be joining Ring 76. He announced that he is planning of have séances at the Whaley House, San Diego's legendary haunted house, during the week of Halloween. He is looking for an actor to play the role of a butler, but prefers a magician, as the actor will be privy to magical secrets. This will be a paid position; if interested, call John at 619-795-6677. (Hey, this sounds like GREAT FUN! I'd love to do it if I wasn't tied up with my Haunted Hotel and a Las Vegas trade show! How about we get a group together from the Ring and book one of John's performances?)

Mike Stillwell introduced a couple guests as Sam and Dan. Both guests participated as volunteers in magic routines, but this reported has yet to learn their last names. Kenny announced a David Regal lecture at the only local brick and mortar magic shop in San Diego County, 3 Generations of Magic, which is owned by members James Kellogg, Jr., and III. Also, Syd Segal, our First Vice-President, announced that his great Magic-Con convention returns to San Diego

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Photos from the January Meeting



Malcomb Campbell (l)



Bob Meigs



Derek Ostovani



Don Holcomb



Photos from the January Meeting



Jeff Marcus



Joe Mystic



Kenny Shelton (l)



January Performers

How to rate your magic

By Joel A Moskowitz M D

25 January 2012

Wayne Kawomoto in his online column Guide to Magic and Illusion offered Levantino's check list as a guide for reviewers of magic shows. Here's Levantino's "check list" so reviewers may evaluate and score all shows in a qualitative unbiased manner - with one point awarded for a 'yes' and zero points awarded for a 'no':

Dr. M. disagreed with Levantino's criteria for assessing a magic performance. What do you think? This response is not meant to excite disputes but hopefully will alert interested magicians how some reviewers measure their talent.

1. Is the act original? DR M: If the reviewer is assessing an original version of a established routine, one might give the performance special praise. Cups and Balls and Linking Rings are classic magic and for some are a measure of the magician's capability.

2. Is the show engaging? DR. M: The definition of 'engaging' is a matter for interpretation. If by 'engaging' one thinks that the audience is attentive, even mesmerized.

3. Is the audience enjoying what they are experiencing? DR. M.: That is the purpose of any performance. Here again the definition of 'enjoy' is variable and idiosyncratic. A horror show elicits for those who like that kind of excitement to a state of 'enjoyment'.

4. Is the presenter always 'politically correct' (i.e. no insults or crudeness)? DR. M.: The use of the word 'always' cancels out the value of this criteria. Some shows thrive on satire, making fun of situations. Blue humor is the inverse to quality.

5. Does the show continually hold the audience attention (i.e. no 'flat' spots)? DR. M.: In the best of performances there will be no lag times.

6. Is there lots of audience participation? DR.M.: If one defines audience participation as laughing, applauding, crying, stamping etc etc this criteria has importance. A stage show aka The Phantom of the

Opera has 'little' audience participation except as an audience. Magicians, and mentalists and some illusionists reach out to the audience to have members identify with the miracles.

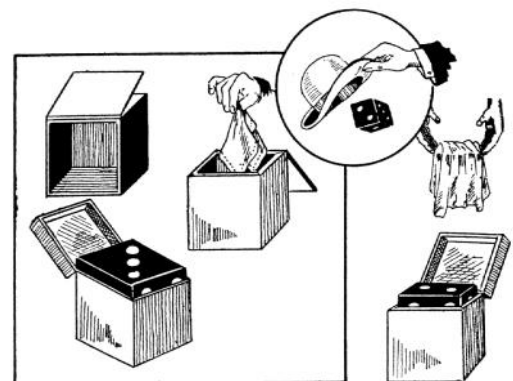
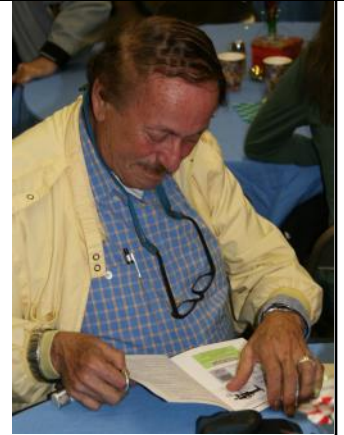
7. Is the performance highly polished? DR. M.: If by polished, one means rehearsed, this index is a measure of the worth of the act.

8. Does the audience gasp at the 'wow moments'? DR.M.: Certainly, the optimum response is that unguarded spontaneous reaction.

9. Does the audience regularly burst into 'unprompted' spontaneous applause? DR. M.: Another display which satisfies those on the stage.

10. Does the audience talk positively about the show as they leave the venue? DR.M.: The show's presenters would do well to post disguised persons in the lobby who could record the remarks of the leaving audience. Thereby, they might gain some useful insights about what was good and bad about their show.

11. Does the show give 'value for money'? DR. M.: How does one measure that? Are illusionists who have a myriad of barely clad dancing girls giving more for your ticket price? There are some one man/ women shows with a dearth of scenery who are worth multiple "Bravos".





(Classic Magic— Continued from page 2)

in April <http://magic-con.org/>. There are still a few registrations available at the “early” discount price.

Then came the magic: Bob Meigs opened with a true classic, Conradi’s Mysterious Cubes. But Bob’s performance was made all the more interesting by everything that could go wrong doing just that. Malcomb Campbell followed with a mistake-free Mystic Key. Derek Ostovani, with Tony Perinne assisting, then performed a remarkable ring vanish and double transposition – WOW!

Donald Holcomb did “The Coffee Trick,” straight out of Professor Hoffmann’s Modern Magic, and Jeff Marcus followed with his original and truly outstanding Chinese Linking Rings. Joe Mystic was our last scheduled performer, with a mystifying rope penetration. As it was still early, so Kenny Shelton stepped up with an impromptu prediction routine.

All in all, Classic Magic was a great night – a classic! “Old-old” wasn’t “same-old” - it was “new-old.”

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“He escaped from a milk container? No WAY!”

Next meeting will be a good one too – the annual Close-Up Competition. And if you missed it last year, this can be one heck of a show!

— Bob Meigs

For Sale Tables

Each month (almost) the Ring is offering members a chance to have their own mini-swap meet before the meetings. For a small fee, two or three members can set up tables and sell their wares. The Board instituted this because we will not be having a Swap Meet every year, and it gives members a way to keep their closets neat and tidy.

If you are interested in getting a table for the next meeting, for a fee of \$10, contact the treasurer, Richard Ustick, at rustick@flash.net.

The tables are set up before the meeting, as early as 6:00pm, and selling and bartering can on until 6:50. At that time, ALL selling must halt and the tables close. It is important that this curfew be observed so we do not have any delays in starting our regular meetings. For that reason, this time limit will be strictly enforced, and we ask sellers and buyers to respect it.

— Richard Ustick

Masters Contest for Ring 76?

The NFL has the Super-bowl, Golf has the Masters, and Nascar has the spirit cup. Is it time for Ring 76 to raise the bar and have a Master’s contest of its own? That is the topic the Board addressed at the last meeting.

What the Board is proposing is an event that would not only pit the cream of the Ring against each other, but do so in a more public forum than a regular meeting. The event would be a contest in which only those members who have placed first in the Stand-up or Close-up competition may participate, and the forum would be the Del Mar Fair. It would

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(Master's Contest — Continued from page 6)

then be opened to the public, and judged by a panel, rather than a vote of the populace.

The advantages to such a contest are numerous, but to name a few:

The Ring would get public exposure. I still meet people who are surprised that magicians even have a club, let alone an international organization. The winner would get exposure beyond recognition from his fellow magicians. A public contest, where the participants are past winners, pits the best of the best. "Winner of the Ring 76 Masters Award" would look good on anyone's resume.

Details are still being worked out and the Board is asking the Ring for its opinion of this idea. Any suggestions are appreciated and should be addressed to any of the Ring Board members. Is this a good idea? Is this in keeping with Ring 76 principles? Would you like to see a public contest of past Ring Champions?

We want to hear from you. Please talk (or send an e-mail) to any of the Board Members if you have concerns or suggestions about this idea.

— Richard Ustick.

Ring 76 Web Updates

There have been two significant additions to Ring 76's website this month.

The first change is that we are now publishing the Rules and Procedures for the Ring 76 Close-Up and Stage Contests. Have any questions about these contests and how they will be run, this should be the first place that you look for answers.

<http://www.ring76.com/html/contest.html>

The second addition is a Ring 76 Hall of Fame where we will display the names of those who have been named as Ring 76's Performer of the Year and Member of the Year as well as the winners of Ring 76's annual Stage and Close-Up Competitions. This

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Feb. 13	Close-Up competition*
Mar. 12	Auction
Apr. 9	Teach-A-Trick Night
Apr 10	Lecture
May 14	Stage Competition*
June 11	Hi-Tech Magic*
July 8	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

page is a work-in-progress as the names of pre-1999 honorees are still needed. Any help in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.ring76.com/html/hof.php>

— James Thayer

Magic Notes

Magic-Con, San Diego's premier magic conference, is taking place from April 12th to April 15th at the Mission Valley Double Tree Hotel. This 3rd installment from Syd Segal and The Buck Twins appears to be just as good as the first two. Headliners include Dani DaOrtiz, David Blaine, Cyril Takayama, Michael Weber, Jim Steinmeyer and Piff The Magic Dragon! This full 3 day conference is filled with shows, lectures, discussions and interviews from some of the world's smartest magical thinkers and innovators. There is also a nice reception on Thursday, April 12th which is open to anyone that would like to come. Registration is currently \$199 but will soon be increasing to \$299. If you would like to attend, get a discount on your registration, or to get more information, please contact Syd Segal at bt16380@aol.com. You can also register for the conference or get more information by going to www.magic-con.org.

