



MagiCurrents

President's Message

by Gary Schwartzwald

As your newly elected Ring 76 President I thought I would give you a brief look at my background in magic. Please have no fear, as I assure you this will not become my version of the John Booth chronicles. I know I'm reaching way back butbefore I was born my father took a magic class from a part time magician. My father enjoyed the class but did not get bit by a magical bug. The teacher suggested that the class members each by a copy of a book titled *Greater Magic*. Years later I did fall for magic and the first book I read on magic was *Greater Magic*. As I began to misspend my youth I read *Greater Magic* cover to cover and worked through what I could. My other main book was the *Royal Road to Card Magic* which I worked through many times.

As a teenager I took two Adult Education courses on magic. The classes were taught my Jack Ferero who was a magician and closely associated with Lou Tannen's Magic Shop. As a sixteen year old I was the youngest member of the class by over twenty years. Everyone treated me as a peer and we learned magic from Jack Ferero and from each other. That atmosphere of sharing, learn-

ing and everyone having something to offer is what I still look for today. I hit the magic shops of New York including Flosso and Hermann's and made friends with several semi-professional magicians. I performed for parties and gatherings and once was even a small part of a local stage show. The generosity of the people I met was amazing. They were always will to teach a trick instead of just show it and were willing to lend nearly anything they had. The first two magicians I went to see were Frank Garcia and then The Amazing Randi. I was called up on stage to help tie Randi up. You know how that worked out, he worked out of the ropes quickly and often. They were both talented but also friendly when approached after their shows. Garcia was willing to stay and sign autographs, show tricks and even techniques. There is more to my background in magic but I hope what I wrote gives you

an overview of where my roots in magic are. I was exposed to some great books, great magicians and kind amateurs. I am curious to where your magical roots are. I like a good story.

I hope our club can provide you with an atmosphere where you feel welcome and safe to show your magic, share your thoughts, ask questions, question answers, and feel like you are valued. Those are the things I'm looking to get. Please come to the meetings and give me and your new board a chance to meet your needs. See you in August.

Gary S

INSIDE

PAGE

President's Message

1

Ring 76's July Meeting

2

Tape Talk

4

Installation Banquet Pics

5

Jack White's Book Review

6

What's Happening

8



I.B.M. Ring 76

1997 Board of Directors

Gary Schwartzwald - President
6135 Haas Street
La Mesa, CA 92042
(619) 697-9468

Tom La Chance - Membership VP
447 Nila Lane
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 441-3747

Dick Dale - Entertainment VP
2447 Nielsen Street
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 562-7379

Julie Dale - Treasurer
2447 Nielsen Street
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 562-7379

Don Soul - Secretary
10068 Branford Road
San Diego, CA 92129-3223
(619) 484-3492
fax (619) 484-4832

Tom Kasner - Sergeant-At-Arms
12859 Calle De Las Rosas
San Diego, CA 92129-3014
(619) 484-0695

Greg Wauson - Past-President
11007 Red Robin Place
San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 566-5654
wauson@incom.net

Bill Monroe - Member-at-Large
31980 Corte Albano
Temecula, CA 92592-6702
(909) 693-4613

SUBSCRIPTIONS to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of the area magicians.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS should be sent to the club treasurer, Julie Dale. All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

*MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76. All rights reserved. Articles and contributions should be sent to:
MagiCurrents
10068 Branford Road
San Diego, CA 92129*

Ring 76's July Meeting

by Don Soul

After drawings for door prizes, outgoing President **Greg Wauson** welcomed 55 members and guests to the 48th annual installation banquet of Ring 76 officers which was held at Van Winkle's restaurant in Santee. He then summoned the rest of the outgoing officers - Vice President **Sherry Luft**, Treasurer **Bill Monroe**, Secretary **Gary Schwartzwald** and Sergeant-at-arms **Tom Kasner** - to assemble for the presentation of appreciation plaques.

Past-President **Rick Bruce** presented the special award to the Ring's favorite Member of the Year, Bill Monroe, for his dedication and efforts throughout the past year. Rick then proceeded to install the new officers: President **Gary Schwartzwald**, Membership Vice President **Tom La Chance**, Entertainment Vice President **Dick Dale**, Treasurer **Julie Dale**, Secretary **Don Soul**, Sergeant-at-arms **Tom Kasner** with **Greg Wauson** Past-President and **Bill Monroe** Member-at-Large.

Official business out of the way, the remainder of the evening was a treat as our featured performer, **Daryl**, was in the spotlight. Ropes, cards and coins became entertaining props in **Daryl's** hands and his clever patter kept us all in stitches. Since moving from Southern California a few years ago, it was a

pleasure to see **Daryl** in performance once again and he was warmly received. **Daryl's** lecture was given the next night.



Daryl

About Ring 76...

- Members must be at least 12 years old
- Non-members may attend three Ring 76 meetings at no charge (except for special events)
- Local dues are \$20 per year (under 18 years is \$10)
- Membership in the IBM international organization is required. IBM dues are \$40 the first year. You will then receive "The Linking Ring" magazine, one of magic's best publications.
- Prospective members are required to perform a five-minute magic audition at a Ring 76 meeting.
- Ring 76 members receive the monthly MagiCurrents newsletter and may attend all monthly meetings at no charge.

July Board Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

The Ring 76 board meeting took place on July 28th and started promptly at 7 pm at the home of president **Gary Schwartzwald**. In attendance were **Dick Dale, Tom Kasner, Julie Dale, Tom La Chance, Don Soul** and **Greg Wauson**.

The first order of business was a review of active members and the encouragement of past member's interest through phone calls by the board. Tom Kasner will provide the current list to the board members for that purpose. Also, new International membership application forms have diminished and Tom La Chance will attempt to obtain more.

Next, the raffle situation was discussed. Dick Dale opted to improve the quality of prizes and will pursue obtaining wholesale pricing. Also, the board agreed to restore the "Chinese food carton" method of raffle participants selecting which trick they'd like to try for. Dick proposed starting with one prize and, with each significant increase of income from ticket sales, another prize would be added to the raffle. All members agreed. Tom La Chance will conduct the raffle and prices were established to be one ticket for a dollar, five tickets for \$2 and 10 tickets for \$3.

Gary then announced that board meetings shall be conducted on the fourth Monday of each month. Any member is invited to attend.

Next, the selection of meeting themes for the next three months was determined to be Linking Ring tricks, comedy magic and a lecture. In addition, it was proposed by

Dick Dale that at least two competitions could serve as themes during the next 12 months with awards to be presented at the installation banquet. The board was very enthusiastic about the possibilities.

The Ring 76 library, in the custody of **David Lane**, was reviewed and decided to be resurrected, after an inventory, in the form of offering library items by a request at any Ring meeting. The item would then be provided at the next meeting.

Finances were then examined. The combined tally of installation banquet/lecture receipts vs. expenses plus previous Ring 76 rollover resulted in the amount of \$948, estimated by Tom Kasner.

The subject of dues arose. Dick suggested that the \$20 dues charge might be topped out and possibly needs adjusting. The board deferred the review for a later date since the annual dues aren't to be collected until April, '98. Also discussed was a possible change of venue for the monthly meeting, however, it was agreed that further investigation of possible sites needs to be considered.

Greg then brought up the subject of the Ring 76 Internet website. The outdated page needs to be maintained but Sean Keys, the manager, cannot continue to operate it without financial support. A "perpetual", undated information page was suggested by Tom Kasner. Greg will contact Mr. Keys and discuss options.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

This and That

Tom La Chance says the Magic Castle's *It's Magic!* performance, held annually in the L.A. area, will also be putting a second show together for San Diego using the same cast. Among the performers listed are Mike Caveney and Tina Lenert. It'll be a one-nighter, November 1st in Escondido at the California Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets at the box office or Ticketmaster.

The new Ring 76 board is looking into the addition of three new categories of awards to be presented at next year's banquet. How do you get one? Practice!

The new awards will be for Entertainer of the Year - selected by monthly votes at the regular meetings - in addition to honors for the winners of a close-up contest as well as a stand-up contest, as briefly described in the minutes on this page.

The reason for informing you now is so that you'll have time to prepare a killer routine (not more than 10 minutes in length) and compete. Specific details about the competitions will be given at upcoming regular evening meetings and in the newsletter but tentatively the board has selected January as the close-up contest and June for the stand-up acts.

The night of the monthly board meeting has been changed to the fourth Monday. As always, anyone interested in sitting in on board activities is welcome. Next month's will be at **Dick and Julie Dale's** in El Cajon. For a list of meeting dates and times, be sure to check out the last page of MagiCurrents.

TAPE TALK

by Bill King

"Close-Up Astonishment"

by Paul Harris

Hello friends,

Paul begins the session with a commentary on "that moment of astonishment." His current goal is, as it is with all of our performances, to capture that blink in time and hold it for as long as possible. Known essentially as a card man, Paul displays a range of presentations that are a bit different than that of many other performers.

The opening effect is entitled "Bizarre Shrink." Two jokers are introduced back-to-back with a rubber band around the pair. The band removed, a four of hearts is taken from between the two face-up cards. The four is then placed back between the jokers and adjusted into a 'T' shape. The four is now grasped at the narrow end by the spectator between forefinger and thumb. The joker and four are then pulled away leaving a miniature four of hearts in their grip and the two jokers in the performer's hands. As with most "in-the-hands" transformations, this one is strong stuff! "Cue Cards" is a take-off on Larry Jennings' "The Visitor." A card is selected and placed in the left hand packet. It mysteriously jumps over to the face-up right hand packet turning face-down as it goes. The sequence is repeated and the two selections are then revealed in yet another place in the deck. The "Flop Change" as Paul coins it, is a very nice revelation in the form of a card change. I have had a little trouble with snap changes, but this one is a piece of cake. A null card is transformed into a selected

card in the blink of an eye. Easy to do and really stunning!

"Screwed Deck" is a unique way to get into a card sequence. Two halves of a card box are shown from the ends, one with a screw and the other with a screw hole. The box is then assembled by twisting the two halves together, but they are backwards when tightened together. The complete deck is removed from this screwed-together box, but the cards, mirroring the outside of the box, are backwards as well. Not to worry; a simple twist and the cards are ready for your first effect. This thing looks pretty goofy, but if you are looking for something beyond simply taking the deck out of the box, this could be for you.

"Fantasy Aces" is a four ace production cooked up by Paul and Daryl Martinez that is a bit different. It is fast and flashy, so check it out. "Card Cuffs" from Brainstorm in the Bahamas is a seemingly innocent pick-a-card thing, but this one has a twist. The spectator selects a card, signs it, and sees it lost in the deck. A spelling sequence begins with the signed card appearing at the last letter of the helper's first name . . . but the plot thickens. A different card is fashioned into a pair of cardboard thumbcuffs which the performer places on their thumbs. Trying to spell the name again the performer fails. However, the thumb cuff card is now removed to and turned face to the audience revealing the signed selection. "Rubber Band Scam" is a four ace production using a rubber band to encompass the deck a number of times.

There is next a short philosophical discussion with Paul sharing the idea that you, as a performer, have

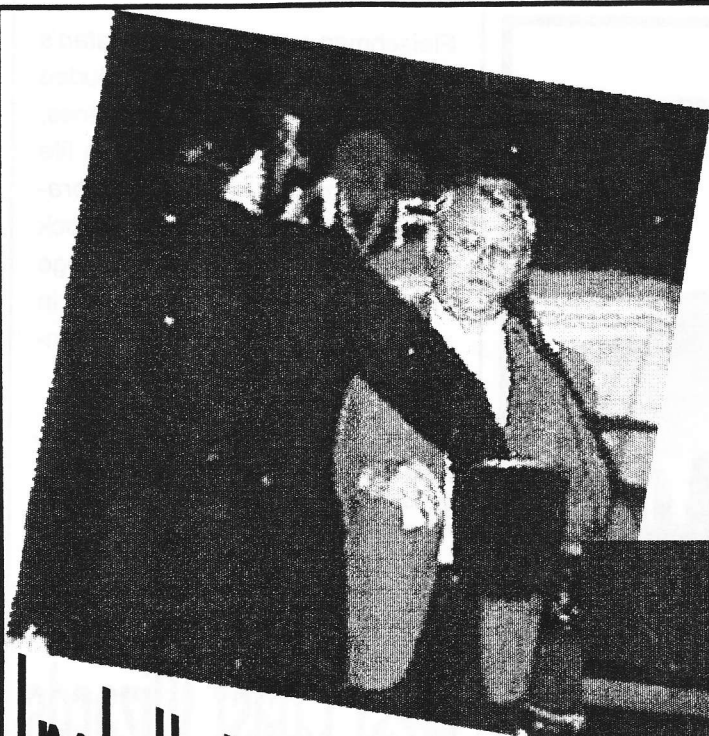
to "start from scratch." His meaning is that your presentation should be yours alone using the influences of your mentors.

"This one (Cardboard Connection) gets your scribes' pick-of-the-tape for pure visual WOW!"

"Sugar Shocker" caught my eye as a neat coffee shop stunt that can give you some impromptu recognition. This bit of business was reported from the one of the Tom Mullica tapes recently reviewed. Paul adds a wonderful little nuance that strengthens the effect by the power of two. As the packets are being numbered, simply turn a few of them over to confuse the onlooker as the elimination process is happening. I tried the effect on my daughter without Paul's addition and even though she wants all of Dad's stuff to be cool, it died. The sides of the packets that were numbered were all the same and the final one was the only one turned upside down. It was evident that nothing magical had occurred. Paul's thought to tear the final packet open and add the contents to your coffee destroys the marking on both sides of the forced item.

"Quick Con" gives the old three card Monte a new look. Two like cards, the two black jacks in this case, begin on the table face up. A third card is fairly cut, pulled out, and the balance of the deck is laid aside. The three cards are handled briefly and the question is posed . . . where is the odd card located . . . top, middle or bottom? Both hands are turned palm-down and the two like cards are dropped to the table face-up. The final question . . . which hand is holding the odd card? Both palms are turned up to show the vanish of the money card! The deck is spread face down to reveal the money card face up in the center of the spread. "Gambler-Mentalist-

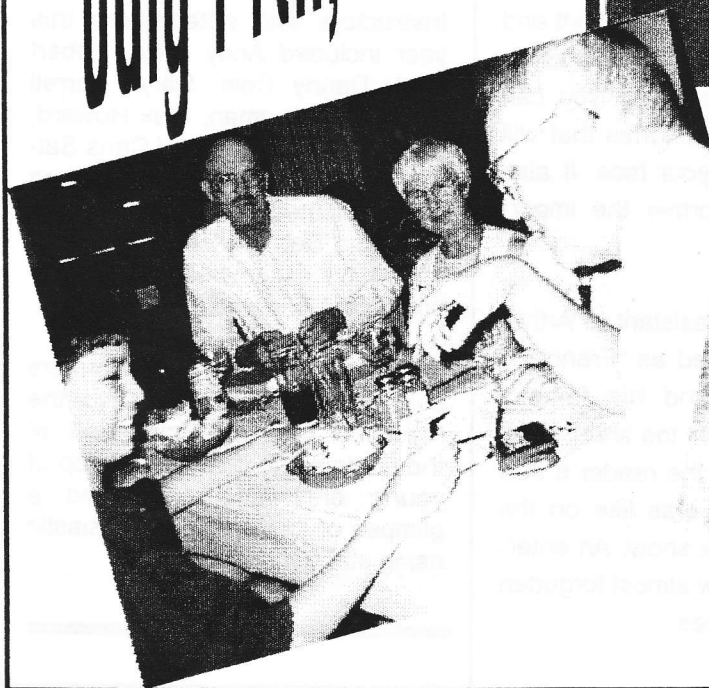
(Continued on page 7)



Installation Banquet July 14th, 1997



Van Winkle's Restaurant



THE ABRACADABRA KID

a book review by Jack White

If you grew up in San Diego and are interested in magic this is a book you will find hard to put down. Written by Sid Fleischman, it is the story of his life in San Diego during the depression years. He was a magician, a successful author of short stories and novels and was a screenwriter.

Of particular interest are his efforts as a shy 14-year-old trying to become a member of the "San Diego Magicians Club". The club was tightly run by a San Diego real estate salesman by the name of C. W. Fait. Mr. Fait had the unique ability to adhere four half dollars to his forehead and nose. He would then ask a spectator to point to one of the coins and it would fall off of his face.

Sid Fleischman's father was a struggling tailor with a shop on San Diego's Fifth Avenue. Instead of learning the skills of needle and thread, Sid became skillful with a deck of cards. This was something his father did not always look kindly upon. He learned his sleight of hand from a book and later from friendly local magicians. There is a wonderful photograph in the book of a young Sid Fleischman and Mrs. Harry Houdini enjoying an afternoon in Balboa Park.

When Sid and another school friend were seventeen they hit the road with their own magic show performing at WPA camps in Northern California. He didn't know

Ring 76 Online

<http://www.websmart.com/ring76>

Sponsors:

**SEAN KEYS
WEBSMART**



**Ring 76 Web Page sponsors
needed.**

**Support Ring 76 and get a
web page, too. Contact
Greg Wauson at (619)566-
5654 for details.**

it at the time but he was beginning to gather material and stories that one day would become the plot lines for his children's books.

Sid Fleischman is an excellent and witty writer and, while his book is not filled with tricks that you can perform, there are stories that will bring a smile to your face. It also instills in a performer the importance of practice.

His tales as an assistant to Arthur Bull who performed as "Francisco the Magician," and his famous Ghost Show are all too short, however it does give the reader a true feel for what life was like on the road with a spook show. An entertainment form now almost forgotten by magic audiences.

Fleischman wrote *The Charlatan's Handbook* in 1993, which included many of his pet trick and routines, as well as a little bit about his life as a magician. But *The Abracadabra Kid* gives us a deeper look at the life and times of a San Diego magician who made it to the top in his field. It is published by Greenwillow Books.

ed. note - Thanks to Jack White of KGTV television for an enlightening view of magic in our city. We'll all be looking forward to future newsletter contributions.

West Coast Wizards

by Don Soul

Once again, Dave Goodsell's **West Coast Wizards** magic camp in the mountain community of Idyllwild, two short hours from San Diego, proved to be better than any of the previous five meetings. 92 kids from all over the U.S.A. attended the one-week crash course on magic to be taught from master magicians throughout the country.

Instructors and entertainers this year included Andy Amis, Robert Baxt, Danny Cole, Daryl, Karrell Fox, Dale Hindman, Max Howard, Billy McComb, Dale and Chris Salwak and George Schindler along with dedicated staffers Kent Cummins and Bob Markwood. The talent which assembles for this annual event is incredible!

It's great to see name performers but it's more important to savor the results of their mentoring and, at the finale show, this year's crop of young entertainers provided a glimpse of tomorrow's enthusiastic rising stars of magic.

TAPE TALK

(Continued from page 4)

Magician" is a variation on the previous effect. "Double Decker" is a color changing deck piece.

"Cardboard Connection" allows the performer to tear the center out of two playing cards and link them together. The linking display is a good convincer and the finish is top notch. The two cards only a moment ago visibly linked together are now placed over each separated outstretched thumb of the helper. This one gets your scribes' pick-of-the-tape for pure visual WOW! Paul wraps up with something you'd least expect a card man to show- the "Balducci Levitation." To make this thing effective the angles have to be just right. Paul's collaboration with Jerry Griffin is a performance-for-one that is really spooky. Your standing body actually appears to raise off the floor by six inches!!

"This tape is hot!"

The tape has some discussion as to Paul's opinion of what makes an outstanding close-up artist. He observes that people skills are more important than magic skills. Relationships quickly formed, interaction with your audience, and making a "magical conversation" stand out is the hallmark of the better close-up performers. This tape is hot!

Thanks for listening,

Bill

Just a word to let everyone know that Fred Rohrer underwent emergency triple bypass heart surgery last month at Scripps Clinic Green hospital. After a short stay, he's recuperating nicely at home and out of danger. Flowers were provided by Ring 76 during his bed rest at Scripps.

— DS

HARRY BLACKSTONE

submitted by Dick Dale

The following was recently posted on the Internet:

Now that the smoke has cleared a bit...

The Blackstone family would like to clear up some of the inaccuracies in the Associated Press news stories regarding Harry. I am writing this on their behalf.

First: Harry Blackstone, Jr. did not die of pancreatic cancer, but rather Sepsis (a severe bacterial infection), complications from the aneurysm, and pneumonia.

Second: Gay Blackstone is wife number 3, not 2. They were married almost 23 years (October 14, 1974).

Third: Not all the children are from previous marriages. Bellamie Blackstone is 17 years old (born January 8, 1980), hence she is their daughter.

Fourth: Cynthia Blackstone lives in Valencia, California, not Harlingen, Texas. Adrienne Blackstone lives in Costa Mesa, not Winter Park, Florida and Tracey Blackstone Crosby lives not in Hollywood (for the last 27 years), but in Diamond Bar, California. Harry Blackstone III died in 1984.

Fifth: Harry has been photographed with other people (including Marriette Hartley) at later dates than the Today Show 1980. (Can't imagine why they used this photo!).

Hopefully, this will serve to clear up the goofs made by the press. Although this is often a futile endeavor, we thought we'd try just this once!

Additionally, keep your eyes open for upcoming information about the "Harry Blackstone Celebration of

Life and Magic" (tentative title), an event which will be happening later this year. It will be the kick-off event for the Blackstone Foundation, and we hope you all can be involved.

Magically, Lesly Evans
(Harry's secretary)

ed. note: Thanks, Dick, for keeping an eye open on the Internet for this informative story. I'd like to add that, in honor of his late friend, Dave Goodsell of the West Coast Wizards (see pg. 6) has christened the WCW performance theater as "Blackstone Theater."

Break Out Your Linking Rings

The theme of the August 11th meeting of Ring 76 is Linking Ring magic. We want to see how many performers can dig into their old stash of I.B.M. journals and come up with a trick to entertain us.

In addition, before the regular meeting begins, we'll have several speakers providing us with information on performing in a hospital environment...a venue where a magician's skills are very much appreciated.

6:30 pm, Monday, August 11th, the Frances Parker school in Linda Vista. Be there!

Roy & Betty Armstrong
2548 Littleton Rd.
El Cajon CA 92020

Magic Currents
10068 Branford Road
San Diego, CA
92129



What's Happening

- August 11** Ring 76 Meeting, 6:30 pm
Frances Parker school, Linda Vista
theme: Linking Ring magic
pre-meeting: Hospital performing
- August 25** Ring 76 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dick & Julie Dale's home
- September 8** Ring 76 Meeting, 6:30 pm
Frances Parker school, Linda Vista
theme: Comedy magic
pre-meeting: Rope/String Teach-in
- September 22** Ring 76 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Dick & Julie Dale's home
- October 13** Ring 76 Meeting, 6:30 pm
Frances Parker school, Linda Vista
Guest Lecturer - to be determined
- October 27** Ring 76 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Tom Kasner's home

Now Playing at the Magic Castle

July 28 - Aug 3	August 4 - 10	August 11 - 17
FUTURE STARS WEEK Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Josh Sadowsky Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Gavin Greer Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Wesley Edberg Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Matt Marcy Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Bob Dorian - M.C. Danny Cole Brian Dow James Holguin The Krzanowskis Bryan Stoops	Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Marvyn Roy Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Brian Gillis Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Billy McComb Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Howard Jay Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Martin Lewis Dale Hindman Joe Harrison & Lisa	Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 The Magic Baron Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Michael Forbes Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Marvyn Roy Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Fernando Keops Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Mike Caveney Tina Lenert Darkwing
August 18 - 24	August 25 - 31	September 1 - 7
Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Bob Busch Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Fernando Keops Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Maritess Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 David Sandy Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 David Avadon John Carney Goldfinger & Dove	Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Mike Barger Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 David Malek Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Mark Edward Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Gary Norsigian Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Tom Ogden Ice McDonald Craig Dickens	Close-Up Gallery Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 Jeff Parmer Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Johnny Ace Palmer Parlour Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Fitzgerald Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Chris De Palma Palace of Mystery 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 James Warren Jerry Layne Amos Levkovitch