



RING  
76  
IBM

# MagiCurrents

HONEST  
SID  
GERARDT



## President's Message

by Gary Schwartzwald

As you read about our August meeting you will see that we are planning a variety of changes. In January there will be an evening of close-up performances by members. On a similar note there will also be an evening of stand-up performances at our June meeting. Although there will be 'winners' of the close-up and stand-up 'contests', I hope that you will view these as opportunities to perform, not compete. I strongly encourage you to participate in both these evenings as it will be a great chance for you to show us your favorite routine and to perform in a non-threatening environment. Winners will be announced and honored at the Installation Event at the end of the year (July). If you are interested in performing at any of our meetings please contact Dick Dale.

The September meeting will be at a new location, **Patches**. Please join us there so you can

tell us if it is the right place to have future meetings. We should have at least two membership auditions in September and I know we are all looking forward to the opening trick which will be performed by Tom La Chance (no pressure Tom). Bring a rope to the September pre-meeting (6:30 sharp) and you will be led, teach-in style through a variety rope tricks and tips.

I truly enjoyed my first meeting as Ring 76 President. We had a large turn out with a variety of members performing. The magic was great. The door prizes were outstanding and I

even won one. The September theme is comedy so I know we'll have even more laughs than usual. Even if you're not ready to perform a trick, please participate in the meeting by sharing your ideas, experiences and humor. For those of you who haven't been to a meeting in a while, we're trying new things, so give us a try. I look forward to seeing you on Sept. 8th at **Patches**, and please, let me how we're doing.

*Gary S*

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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.*

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MagiCurrents  
10068 Branford Road  
San Diego, CA 92129*

# Ring 76's August Meeting

*by Don Soul, secretary*

There was a feeling of freshness from the opening minute of this month's meeting as our new President **Gary Schwartzwald** called the meeting to order and introduced the new board. We had three new guests, two of which, **Ken Dear** and **Craig Beresh** are magicians and **John Stephens** was the third visitor. Before the main meeting got under way we were treated to a panel discussion on entertaining at hospitals by guests **Eric** and **Debbie Hansen** from the Armed Forces YMCA working out of Balboa Naval Medical Center. Joining them were Ring 76 former officers **Sherry Luft** and **Dick Bush**. Rounding out the panel were veteran members **Roy** and **Betty Armstrong**. From the discussion we learned that one must be aware of hospital restrictions when it comes to the use of certain props like balloons or food but performing for hospital residents can be rewarding for both the entertainer and those being entertained. If such performing is of interest to a magician, he or she should contact the volunteer offices of hospitals, be they for children, psychiatric, orthopedic or whatever's out there.

After a brief break, our regular meeting opened with the announcement of many innovative items the new board has come up with to make the meetings more interesting. It began with Gary's introduction of a new feature called Pass the Mat in which, once a month, one of the board members will open the meeting with a performance. Doesn't sound too tough, right? Well, let's not forget that lots of us aren't professionals and this is the board's way of encouraging others to perform. By way of introduction, Gary showed us a pretty slick routine of Harry Lorayne's "Four Coins Across" then passed the mat to Membership Vice Presi-

dent **Tom La Chance**. Tom will have a month to prep. With that, Gary had Tom present Ring 76 Membership certificates to auditioners **Myron Joseph** and **Sumit Dua** and Official International Brotherhood of Magicians Membership certificates and pins to **Paul Thomey**, **Gabe Travers** and **David Ebert**.

Afterwards, Gary offered a brief announcement regarding the possibility of a new meeting site. Several members offered enough positive response that further research will be conducted by the board. Also, it was announced that three new award categories will be honored at the next installation banquet - Entertainer of the Year (determined on a monthly accumulated vote), Best Close-Up Performance and Best Stand-Up Performance.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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.

## August Board Meeting

by Don Soul, secretary

The board met at **Dick and Julie Dale's** home and was attended by **Gary Schwartzwald, Tom Kasner, Don Soul, Tom La Chance** and **Jeff Marcus**. First on the agenda was the selection of a lecturer for October. Dick has been in contact with Christopher Hart, well-known for his excellent Zombie routine. Don Soul has contacted Bob Markwood who is also ready to give a talk. Depending on circumstances, one or the other will be our guest for the October meeting. The lecture will be free to members and \$10 to non-members.

Next, future Ring 76 meetings held at Patches Sports Bar and Grill will most likely occur based on membership enthusiasm. It is hoped as many members as possible attend this month's meeting for accurate feedback.

Tom Kasner supplied the board with an up-to-the-minute membership/mailling list whereupon it was suggested that a Ring directory be made available to all members. Citing the possibility that some members may not wish to be listed, it was motioned that an announcement to that effect shall appear in the newsletter.

I.B.M. literature and Ring 76 applications have been accumulated for distribution to Brad Burt's magic shop. Tom La Chance will handle the chores.

Julie Dale then gave a treasurer's report, stating that the account contains over \$1,200. Our future meeting agenda was then discussed as as Gary Schwartzwald reviewed theme

plans from this point through February. Upcoming meetings will include a video teach-in, collector's corner, a pot luck Christmas party with entertainment provided by the membership, paper magic and our close-up competition in January.

Day of Magic, or Magic Heritage Day as it has been called, was reviewed and the board felt that if any interest in propagating this venture is desired someone must step forward in a leadership capacity, since the board is incapable of doing so due to various personal commitments. It was also determined that such event would occur in a month other than October since there is not enough time to assemble it adequately. The subject will be brought up to the membership during the September general meeting.

Ring 76 has a chance to become recognized by the I.B.M. as an outstanding Ring, the details of which were brought up by Dick. It was agreed that we should pursue this opportunity. Also determined is that the board should at all times maintain the Ring library to which Tom Kasner volunteered to assume responsibility.

In view of the fact that video teach-ins are a welcomed pre-meeting fare, the board authorized the purchase of video equipment and Tom K. will shop for same.

With no further business pending, the board adjourned.

## A.C.E.S. SCORE BIG

Last month, on August 15th, marked the debut stage performance of the junior magician's group **A.C.E.S.** and it was stunning. Under the direction of Rick Bruce, these talented entertainers gave the audience almost two hours of non-stop magic, be it on stage or in the lobby.

In Act I, the cast was summoned by rather ominous beings whereupon Rick appeared and introduced a Big Surprise, which was held by an audience member throughout the show. Next, Rick performed Lee Earle's Manila Miracle/Bank Night routine followed by the venerable Gypsy Thread, only this time with a twist; it was set to music. Great!

Aethan Friday was up next with a version of Twisting the Aces called Waving a Classic and Rick returned doing Eugene Berger's version of Ashes - on - the - Palm. Youngster Leon Bennett took center stage with a mentalist bit called Star Turn which would have made Kreskin envious. To close Act I, Russian magi Misha created a floating paper rose for one lucky female spectator then magically changed it into a real rose.

During the intermission, several members of the cast performed close-up stuff in the lobby. Talk

(Continued on page 5)

# TAPE TALK

by Bill King

## "Mental Masterpieces" by Larry Becker

Larry's second tape has some very exciting happenings that bring out the depth of his performing experience. As in the first edition, he is assisted by his lovely wife, April.

"H. G. Wells' Time Machine" begins with an audience member invited to the stage. The helper is asked to merely think of any year in this millennium. There is no force involved here. The participant then handles a British penny which they place into an envelope then seal. The thought-of year is then noted on a label on the back of the envelope out of the performer's view. The envelope is held between the spectator's palms which represent the time machine. Following a bit of by-play, the envelope is torn open to reveal a transformation of the copper coin to a pirates' silver doubloon. Larry identifies it as being minted in the year 1631. The spectator then affirms that the thought-of year is indeed--1631.

"Out Of Body" is, as strong a mental effect as can be produced with nothing more than 52 regular playing cards and the card box. Strong words you say, well see what you think. A deck is produced, taken out of the box and given an overhand shuffle. As the performer's back is turned, the spectator freely cuts the deck and completes the cut. This action may be repeated. The card which was cut to is noted, replaced and the cards are returned to the box and the flap is closed. The performer secures the box with two rubber bands and it is held between the palms of the spectator. The mentalist then creates an "out of body" experience for five seconds. He then proceeds to divine the identity of the cut-to card. By the way, the helper is not a confederate. Friends, properly presented, this stunner will bring gasps to your audience. No pre-show work, just good acting required during the performance. Umm . . . um.

"Casino Royale" finds the mentalist setting the stage with an imaginary trip to Las Vegas. A goblet full of different colored casino chips is displayed as a spectator is asked to join you on-stage. Several chips are noted in the goblet and it is handed to the spectator to shake up to mix the contents. The helper now closes their eyes and selects one anywhere in the vessel and upon request places it in their pocket unseen by anyone. An amount of money to be wagered is determined next by the spectator cutting a number of bills at random, placing them into an envelope and sealing it. The helper finally selects two cards, one face up and the other face down. The selection of the cards is handled entirely by the spectator counting cards until the deed is done. (The force is as diabolical as they come.) The two selections are placed in the gentleman's--in this case--outside breast pocket for all to see. A prediction having been in full view from the start is opened and the spectator is invited to read along with you. Each event, the casino to be visited, the amount to be wagered, and the outcome of the game has been foretold. Larry comments in the explanation section that if you don't get a standing ovation after all this, I give up!

Larry's next offering is entitled "Kolossal Killer III." Larry asks a spectator to join him on stage and to be prepared to commit "legal arson." The helper is requested to imagine burning the black or the red cards. The answer is the black ones, so a small piece of flash paper is ignited. The spectator is then asked to select the hearts or the diamonds for destruction; responding the diamonds, another bit of flash paper is burned. Larry takes advantage of a small lack of following requests when the helper lazily drops his hands in front of him when asked to hold the "invisible cards" up to his face and merely think of one. Larry's comment is that one card has been inadvertently allowed to fall to the floor. "Please don't worry because we are now going

to incinerate the cards left in your hand." One last bit of flash paper--poof. The helper is now asked to name the card that was dropped accidentally. So stating the five of hearts, Larry now opens the wallet to display a six of hearts, just one card off. Now comes the KILLER part. Noting that the cards are off by one, he calmly turns the six over to reveal a prediction . . . I predict that even though your card and mine are the same color and suit, the values will be off by one! The equivoque in this piece is absolutely wonderful. Folks, in your observer's opinion this is a three thumbs up!!!

The next item on the tape is entitled "Clearly Predictable." A bit of pre-show work is involved in having a spectator select a classified ad and marking a bill out of their wallet or purse. They will also be asked to bring a sealed envelope to the stage along with the bill. A prediction scenario is posed and the pre-show spectator invited onstage. A see-through plastic bag is displayed with a newspaper inside. The sealed envelope is next placed in the bag in front of the newspaper. A card is selected by an audience member and placed face down in the clear bag along with the paper and the sealed prediction. The bill signed by the spectator is then handed to the performer and it too is put in the bag. The bag is now opened and the newspaper removed. The selected card is now visible and the paper is opened to show a large six of spades printed inside matching the identity of the card. The paper is further opened to show the ad that was circled earlier and it, along with the signature is authenticated by the spectator. The sealed envelope is now removed and a second person comes up to read the ad. The first helper reads a prediction from the envelope and the second person verifies this to read exactly the same. Finally, the second helper reads one more prediction from the envelope and it turns out to be the serial number of the bill that was marked earlier.

"Calendar Caper and A Cut Above" is a personalized onstage birthday greeting to an audience participant. The helper is asked to simply think of their birth-month. While the performer's back is

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## A.C.E.S. Score Big

(Continued from page 3)

about hard workers! Act II opened with a fever-pitched, spectacular special effects number and one which shouldn't be forgotten by anyone in attendance. It was called Nightdreams/Nightmares and it is beyond description except to say that the juggling talents of Josh Hall are so far beyond most hacker's abilities, such as this author, that it leaves you breathless.

Next was something called the Trans-Atlantic Experiment, an on-the-level (and expensive) long distance call made to A.C.E.S. member Ronen Gradwohl in Israel. Although temporarily out of the country, he still wanted to be part of the show and, with the aid of someone in the audience with extremely capable ESP powers, Ronen proceeded to divine information as though he were right there in La Mesa on stage. Misha returned



*Skipper Frank demonstrates his new product, Spunky Spooky Spoons.*



### The Dr. Dale hypnosis show was a big hit!

*Actually, this is from the August pre-meeting panel discussion on hospital magic.*

*From l. to. r., Eric Hansen, Debbie Hansen, Sherry Luft, Dick Dale, Betty Armstrong, Roy Armstrong and Dick Bush presented info. on entertaining at hospitals.*

with his trusty interpreter Rodney Reyes and gave the crowd some hilarious comedy which we, at Ring 76, all had a chance to see at the swap meet meeting last April.

Several members of the cast then joined on stage to attempt to gross out the audience with Needle-Through-Arm and other illusions. It worked. Also included was a great illusion in which one performer entered a box after which she was skewered by two large tubes and various swords. (Has anyone heard from her lately?). And in the final performance of the evening, Josh Hall encored with a great musical pantomime routine exhibiting many of the classic effects which made people like Lance Burton and David Copperfield stars. Title of his appearance; A Class Act. What else?

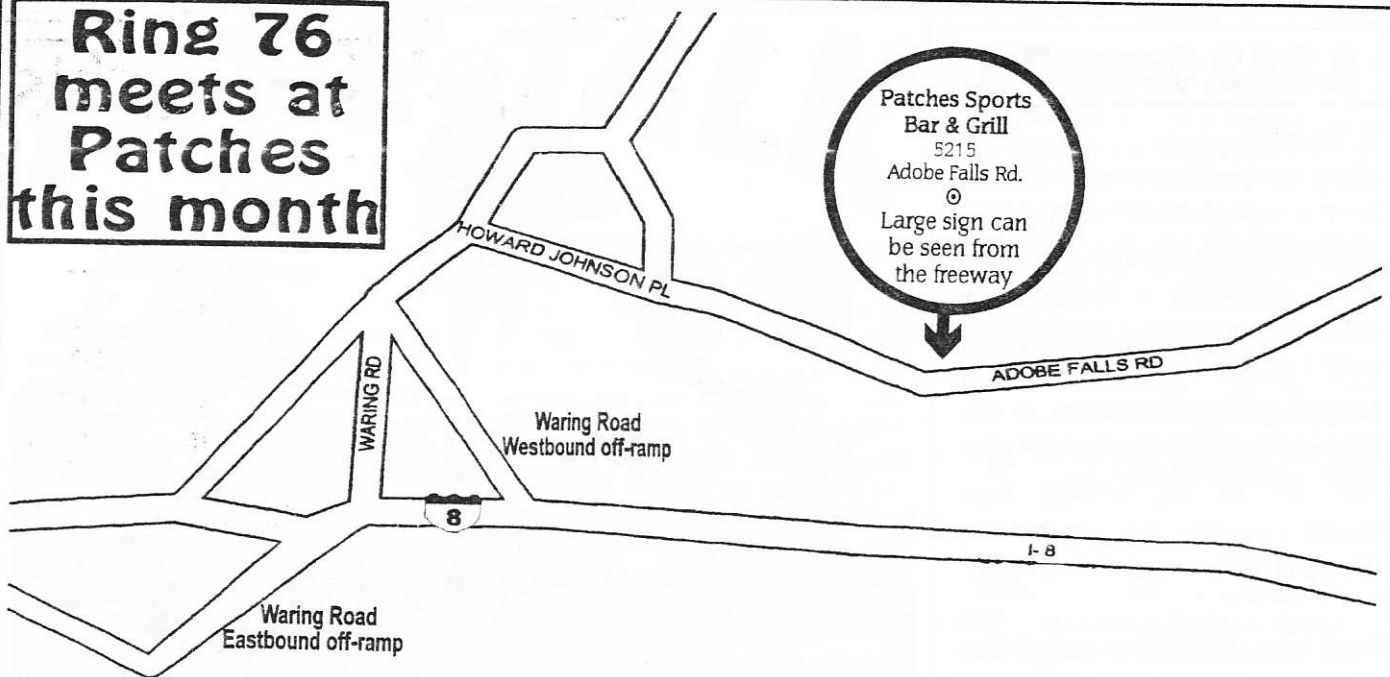
If you were not one of the lucky five Ring 76 members and their families who were at the Lamplight Theater that night, you were left out of something terrific and if you ever hear of another A.C.E.S. stage performance elsewhere, you'd better not miss it.

— DS



*Card sharp Sumit Dua amazed August meeting members with his skills.*

# Ring 76 meets at Patches this month



No, don't go to Francis Parker school.  
Join the crowd at Patches Sports Bar & Grill.



How 'bout a safari to the Magic Castle in Hollywood? Anyone interested? There are enough Castle members in Ring 76 to bring in as many Ring guests as we want. If you've never been there you're missing "the adult Disneyland for magicians" and it's a chance to see why so many Ringers have joined. This isn't a recruitment campaign for the Castle. Instead, it's what would be a full evening of fun and excitement in the company of fellow magic lovers. Make it known to any board member at the meeting or otherwise and we'll get something together.

Ring 76 Online

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

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## Ring 76 August Meeting

(Continued from page 2)

mance, each contest held as the monthly meeting for January and June, respectively. Past-President **Rick Bruce** then took the floor to announce that his youth group, A.C.E.S., will present their first stage performance August 15<sup>th</sup>. A full report on the event will be offered later.

Official business out of the way, it was time to proceed to the evening's theme "Linking Ring magic." Eight members turned into performers this night presenting effects gleaned from the pages of the I.B.M.'s monthly journal. Entertainment Vice President **Dick Dale** started things off with something he found in the September, '92 issue. He told us of his uncle, Ebenezer Tate, and the compass he invented but I hesitate to report any further on the state of Mr. Tate for I might misstate and cause a debate. Gabe Travers stepped up next with a nice combination of two effects from the November, '95 issue - "Utility Beating Heart Bill" and "Message Balloon," after doing a card force. Creativity and youth go hand in hand. Good job, Gabe. Our next performer was Past-President **Greg Wauson** with a mentalism effect "Thanks to Fibonacci II" from the June, '97 issue. The workings of this puzzle are based on mathematics and the outcome is baffling. Read that one! Secretary **Don Soul** took the stage next to demonstrate Tony Griffith's "Datacard" from the August, '97 issue. This one is a novel presentation of Brainwave using a regular deck of cards and it works! Sumit Dua hasn't received the Linking Ring, having just become a new member, but he did entertain us with "Twisting the Aces" and "Slap Card". Myron Joseph followed Sumit's routine with Al Thatcher's "Thot Spelling" from Tom Craven's column in the November, '96 issue, having the spectator spell the name of his card from a well-buried, mentally-selected card. Skipper **Frank Herman**, who once

had his own One-Man Parade in the Linking Ring, took the spotlight next and showed us his latest item heading for the market "Spunky Spooky Spoons". Without revealing too much, they live up to their name. The last performers were Roy and Betty Armstrong with a delightful presentation of Harries Super De Luxe Parasol Mystery set to music. In a vague way, it is Linking Ring magic since Roy had purchased it from an ad more than forty years ago!

## Tape Talk

(Continued from page 4)

turned, the participant places a number of cards from a well shuffled deck in the box corresponding to their month of birth. Twelve additional cards are counted into their hand and a prediction is produced. It reads: "I, Larry Becker predict on this date a member of the audience, born in the month of April will subsequently select his lucky card, the two of clubs." The helper's birth month is April. The spectator then counts four cards into the performer's hand, the fourth card being the two of clubs. No pre-show work here sports fans.

The tape's final presentation showcases an effect whose older brother "Flashback" has been in my kit for years. Having seen Al Cohen in Washington, D.C. demonstrate it, I had to have one. It is a great walk-around effect that can be repeated if need be. This, in your scribes' opinion, the best all-around book test in the business, bar none! Your writer has been performing this piece for over a year and as other effects claim to deliver "commercial results," this one really does.

Friends, I suppose it's fair to say that your scribe is a Larry Becker fan, but please check this video out.

As always, thanks for listening

Bill

## This Month's Meeting

Comedy magic is featured at the September 8th meeting this month. We're hoping to see some funny bits from all the members. (Remember our Christmas party and Bob Prior's wonderful Snake-in-the-Basket routine? That should be inspiration for you.)

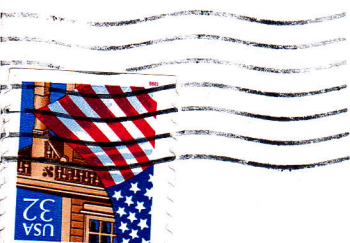
Hey, you don't have to be the Amazing Jonathan here, just figure out a presentation from a comedic point of view.

Dick Dale will offer a rope and string teach-in as our pre-meeting kicks off the evening. If it's possible for you to bring a couple of feet of string and cotton rope it would help.

And don't forget, we meet at Patches Sports Bar and Grill, 5215 Adobe Falls Rd. at 6:30 pm. The map is on page six. Going east or west on Interstate 8, take the Waring road off-ramp and turn right at the first street - that's at the Howard Johnson's. A little further down the road will be Patches.

Roy & Betty Armstrong  
2548 Littleton Road  
El Cajon, CA 92020-2041

Magic Currents  
10068 Branford Road  
San Diego, CA  
92129



## What's Happening

- September 8 Ring 76 Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Patches Grill, Grantville  
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  
Patches Grill, Grantville  
Guest Lecturer - to be determined
- October 27 Ring 76 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Tom Kasner's home
- November 10 Ring 76 Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Patches Grill, Grantville  
theme: Turkey magic  
pre-meeting: Video teach-in
- November 25 Ring 76 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Tom Kasner's home

## The Magic Castle Performers

August 18 - 24	August 25 - 31	September 1 - 7
<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Bob Busch</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Fernando Keops</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Maritess</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>David Sandy</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>David Avadon</b> <b>John Carney</b> <b>Goldfinger &amp; Dove</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Mike Barger</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>David Malek</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Mark Edward</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Gary Norsigian</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Tom Ogden</b> <b>Ice McDonald</b> <b>Craig Dickens</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Jeff Farmer</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Johnny Ace Palmer</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Fitzgerald</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Chris De Palma</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>James Warren</b> <b>Jerry Layne</b> <b>Amos Levkovitch</b>
September 8 - 14	September 15 - 21	September 22 - 28
<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>David Yee</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Michael Ammar</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Bob Fellows</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Andrew Goldensherah</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Joe Monti</b> <b>Chris Broughton</b> <b>Darren Romeo</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>Chuck Fayne</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Billy McComb</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>Stan Gerson</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>Michael Ammar</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>Huber Marionettes</b> <b>Ed Alonzo &amp; Co</b>	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <b>David Regal</b> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 <b>Jeff Davis</b>  <b>THE PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 <b>George Tovar</b> Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 <b>John Carney</b>  <b>PALACE OF MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 <b>T.C. Tahoe</b> <b>Loren C. Michaels</b>