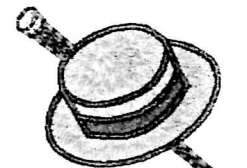


Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XVIII 10 October 2004

Magic Day at the S.D. Blood Bank

Last fall Ring 76 helped the San Diego Blood Bank gather donations of the gift of life, blood. Again this year members are being asked to donate a few hours of time and their talent of doing magic for others. The date is Saturday **October 16th**.

Members are asked to visit one of the donor centers in the North County, East County, South Bay or San Diego to entertain people who have or are about to donate blood. Last year 24 members of Ring 76 volunteered to entertain countywide.

Michael E. Johnson told MagiCurrents he was involved in producing a full evening show in Escondido, but he still found time to work two different donor centers in the North County.

Bob Ingalls and Jack White went to work at the Hillcrest blood center at 9 in the morning and that afternoon showed up at the Escondido center to relieve Lou Heck and Phil Tuttle, who spent 4 hours doing their magic.

Bob Pozner showed up at the San Diego donor center with his derby hat and a special table to work his magic for blood donors, as did Ring President Diane Lane.

This year's event is Saturday, October 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can select the hours you can volunteer your services and the locations closest to your home. This program is a great way to give back to your community. At one time or another we all need blood; no one can live without the gift of life. This is an opportunity for all of us to make a difference.

If you can give a few hours of time to perform, contact Jack White 619-299-9037 or Michael E. Johnson 760-747-4627. They will get you signed up and arrange for a location and time.

Siegfried & Roy cover story in People Magazine

Siegfried & Roy are on the cover of People magazine for September 27th. The headline heralds "Roy's Road Back" after almost being killed by a 600-pound tiger during his stage show at the Mirage Casino Showroom in Las Vegas last October 3rd.

The People magazine article reads very much like the Maria Shriver NBC Television special of a week earlier. It talks openly about Roy Horn's stroke, as well as the wounds he received from the tiger bite. The yearlong medical drama and Roy's efforts to walk and talk again are described in much detail. The article itself is much longer than the usual superficial People magazine writing and is well illustrated with nine recent color photographs.

Again Roy makes it clear he was not attacked by Montecore, the 600-pound white tiger. Instead, Roy says that the huge animal was trying to help him by dragging him off stage. Roy also tells People magazine that he knows the days ahead will not be a bed of roses; he says: 'I have no illusion about that. But I can handle it.'

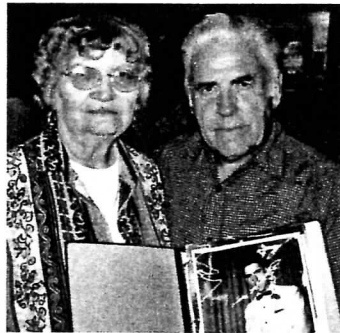
(Continued on page 9)



September Ring Meeting will be a tough one to top in the future

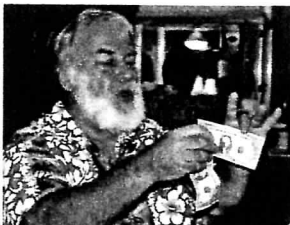
Our September 13th meeting is going to be a tough one to top. Your editor has received comments from members saying this was the most fun they have had in years at a Ring 76 meeting. It was truly packed with exciting events and lots of magic.

The evening began with the arrival of Dick Rowe, who was one of the original charter members of Ring 76 in November of 1956. Dick and his wife, Jan, brought with them several albums of photographs of the past. Rowe has been interested in magic since he was a teenager and for many years presented a magic act under the name of "Wondini." He was watching Diane Lane's television program "Magical Moments" and heard her talking about IBM Ring 76, an organization he was surprised to find was still active and healthy. It was great to have the Rowes as guests, and we want them to know they are always welcome at Ring 76 functions and meetings.



*Jan & Dick Rowe
Charter Members*

A representative of the San Diego Blood Bank was introduced and briefly asked for volunteer performers to take part in "Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank" Saturday, October 16th. Magicians are asked to volunteer two to four hours to do close-up magic for those who are about to donate or have just donated blood. The Blood Bank has five donor locations throughout San Diego County. For more information on this annual event see the story on the front page of this issue of MagiCurrents. More performers are needed.



Joe Mystic

Prior to the beginning of our meeting Joe Mystic drew a large crowd of people wanting to learn his unique method of changing two one dollar bills to a two dollar bill. Joe not only took his audience through the

workings of the effect, but he taught us how to make up this very clever effect. There was very high energy in this teach-in that was very educational to all Ring members. For our October meeting Jacques Lord will teach a four ace routine that is simple but effective. Our teach-in's begin about 6:30 p.m. and usually end about 6:55 p.m.

President Diane Lane conducted our induction of new members to Ring 76. New members included Mago Ruly, Toni Perrine, Julie Marshall, Sebastian, Alex Greenbaum, Ed Greene, and Mrs. Greenbaum. Congratulations to all of our new members. New member inductions are held twice each year. The



Diane Lane inducts new Ring members

next scheduled induction ceremony will be in January.

Jack White introduced Julie Abbott Marshall, who presented a brief but very informative talk about her grandfather Percy Abbott. Abbott was an Australian who early in life traveled the world doing magic and finally settled in Colon, Michigan, where he and Harry Blackstone Sr. established the Abbott's Magic and Novelty Company that became a major mail order magic supply house to magicians all over the world. Julie told many stories about her



Julie Abbott Marshall

grandfather and family. She then presented a 13-minute film of her grandfather performing some of the famous Abbott's magic. This clip of film was in color and featured one of the cleverest routines of finding the lady this writer has ever witnessed. This was a very rare film, and we thank Julie Marshall for

sharing it and the stories about her family with our members.

Next, Roy and Betty Armstrong, who are honoree lifetime members of Ring 76 and have been performers for more than 60 years, brought along several beautiful Abbott's props from the past. Roy made his super production cabinet really shine as he produced a ton of beautiful 36-inch Rice silks followed by a 6-foot Rice Dragon Silk. This prop sold for \$22.50 in Abbott's number 13 catalog of 1940. Today this prop commands very high prices from collectors. The Armstrongs also presented a great Abbott's children's effect called "Humpty Dumpty." It's one of those items that has been in the magic catalogs for years but you seldom saw it presented. It is a very beautiful effect and prop. We thank the Armstrongs for sharing their props and giving us this look back at Abbott's magic of the past.



*Roy & Betty Armstrong
Abbott's Production Box*

Several members of the Ring brought along some of their favorite Abbott's props to show off during an interesting show-and-tell portion of the program.

Joe Mystic had a beautiful Abbott's Duck Pan that he popped popcorn in for our audience. Michael E. Johnson did Abbott's Rice Bowls with a breakfast food routine. Jeff Marcus has been working to restore an Abbott's Dove Through Glass effect and does the trick with a silk handkerchief that was a very effective routine. Jack Evans brought along an Abbott's exclusive "Atta Boy," a wonderful old card effect with a very



Michael Johnson

clever prop that does all the work to make this a true miracle.

We had a group of performers from South of the Border take part in our meeting and one member of that group presented a sensational novelty and



Mr. Alex

magic act.: "Mr. Alex." who dazzled our audience with his top spinning and juggling as well as a delightful sequence in his act where he turns into Charlie Chaplin. Mr. Alex is a charming performer who very professionally blends magic, novelty, and juggling into an entertaining 8-minute act. We look forward to having him and all of the gentlemen from across the border back again soon. We thank Mago Ruly and Armando Torres for bringing these folks to our meeting and introducing them to Ring 76. Two of the gentlemen visiting our meeting operate a magic shop in Tijuana.

What an evening! Many folks stayed around to do some close-up magic, others wanted to talk to Dick Rowe and look at his scrapbooks.



*Armando Torres & Mago Ruly and
Mago of Mexico*



Jack Evans & Atta Boy

*Left: Jeff
Marcus
Abbott's Dove
Thru Glass trick.*



*Roy Armstrong &
6-foot Rice silk*



Percy Abbott

Jason Latimer lecture's on misdirection at Ring 76

As you read this article, Jason Latimer is in the principality of Monaco doing his magic for Princess Stephanie, among others. On Monday evening, September 29th, he was in San Diego, presenting his first lecture on the "Science of Misdirection." About 30 members and guests of Ring 76 turned out for the free event.

Jason opened the evening with his FISM award-winning cups and balls act.

Following his 8-minute routine, he began his lecture.

He told his audience that he owed much to the Magic Castle in

Hollywood. He was one of the junior magicians there, and all he had learned over the years came from listening and reading at the Castle. He made it a point to thank many people by name for his advancement; one person he named was Ring 76 member Bob Ingalls.

He credited much of the information in the lecture and his lecture notes to Dariel Fitzkee and Fitzkee's book "Magic by Misdirection." Jason believes that Fitzkee was right on track when he said: "The true skill of the magician is in the skill he exhibits in influencing the spectator's mind. Good magic is completely a thing of controlling the spectator's thinking."

Jason believes that misdirection is as important as the secret gimmicks that magicians use in their

illusions big and small. He also believes we should hide the misdirection just as much as we hide the secret move or gimmick. That was the basis of his lecture.

He talked about how he used misdirection in his FISM act, and he also gave the audience several card tricks that involved misdirection. The "Slide of Sleight" was created by Jim Patton, and Jason used this effect to show how distance can be important in misdirecting the audience from seeing what is actually happening. The trick is simple: you have a selected card appear between two different cards upside down. Simple with good misdirection.

Another card effect that Jason spent some time explaining was the "Patent Transposition" using a wine glass. This effect was also the brainchild of Jim Patton and is very visual if performed with all of the right elements. You guessed it; the right elements included a good helping of misdirection.

Because this was the first time Latimer has

presented this lecture, there was some hesitation at points and some questioning of the audience as to whether they understood what was being said. Jason admitted to the audience he had this presentation firmly planted in his mind,



Jason Latimer shows close-up
pad his dad made to Bob Ingalls



Jason Latimer showing
lecture notes to Greg
Wauson

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Latimer lecture Continued from page 4

but its evolution in real time was still emerging. He was having the lecture video taped so he could study the video and strengthen the areas he felt were weak.

Misdirection is an area all magicians know about and want to learn more. In time this will become a classic lecture and will be in much demand at magic meetings and conventions. If you attended you will be able to say, I saw it first at Ring 76.



Jason Latimer takes time to go over his lecture notes with Lou Heck and Phil Tuttle. This was Phil Tuttle's first magic meeting since his recent open heart surgery.

New San Diego Online Magic Shop open for business

Ring 76 member Tom McCarthy has been busy all summer long putting together a new full-service online magic shop that will be operated out of San Diego. McCarthy will be stocking a wide range of new tricks, videos, DVDs and books. He is also making arrangement with J.P. Jackson to include an interesting used and collectable department of magic for sale.

The new online store address will be shopformagic.com. When MagiCurrents tried to call up the new address, we were unable to find it. But Tom assures us that his new enterprise will be up and operating in the very near future. This is pretty much of a one-man operation and some of the logistics in setting things up have taken a little longer than expected.

Tom has promised an exclusive story and full details of putting this effort together for our next issue of the newsletter. So stay tuned; more information is coming. If you would like an e-mail address for Tom McCarthy try tom@shopformagic.com That should get your message through to him.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman

Michael E. Johnson's Column will return next month in MagiCurrents.



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"Well, no wonder! The warranty on this thing has expired."

My Magical Summer by Joel Ward

(Editor's note: Late last June I called Joel Ward and asked him to do his dove act at our Ring installation banquet in July. Joel told me he was packing to leave for a two month run at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I told him I expected an article on his show for a future issue of MagiCurrents. Joel is back and here is his description of what happened to him during July, August, and early September. I think you will enjoy what you read and agree it was a magical summer for Joel.)

The call was for 7:00 p.m., and the first show of the evening started at 8:00 p.m. I arrived backstage at the wonderful Tropicana Showroom, a lovely theatre with over 2500 seats. It is truly the largest theater in Atlantic City. I arrived at my dressing room, number 5: it was located all the way in the back, so I wouldn't be bothered with all the stage moms getting their kids ready for their acts. The show was a revue show, yet it had a different twist. It was called *Prodigy*, and the acts were all under the age of 21, except for Atlantic City's Veteran Grandfather, Comedy Magician, Lee Allan, who emceed the show. He opened the show with his famous balloon breaking contest with contestants out of the audience wearing hideously funny looking masks; this routine really gets the audience going.

The first act in the show after Lee Allan is a 15-year-old break-dancer, who has appeared on many network Music Television shows. He is followed by 10-year-old harmonica player, who rocked the house with his Stevy Wonder sounds. Then a video of me doing some magic is projected onto a large screen. I walked up the steps from my dressing room to approach stage right. The video was already playing my introduction. It was only 2 minutes in length showing the audience a brief overview of my career.

I walked behind the lavish set and walked up another flight of stairs to a curtain that a stage tech

would pull open after my name was announced. I took off my mini disc player, which played music that calmed me and pumped me up at the same time; then I took a few last deep breaths before a deep voice announcer said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, The Magic of Joel Ward."

The curtains opened and I walked down the flight of stairs to greet the audience with a smile as the music played "Let's get ready to rumble." I went through my bird act, which had changed every night since I had started. The doves were in good form, and everything went smoothly for the first portion of the act. I took a final bow to a round of applause as my doves mysteriously changed to helium balloons that floated way up to the proscenium.

I then greeted the audience speaking for the first time in the show and performed my favorite ring and rope routine while I made a few jokes in an off-handed way. After my little standup routine I asked the audience if they wanted to see one more trick; they broke into applause and with great enthusiasm I said, "Maestro." That was my cue to the audio booth to play another music track, this time a swing song with a drum and bass backline.



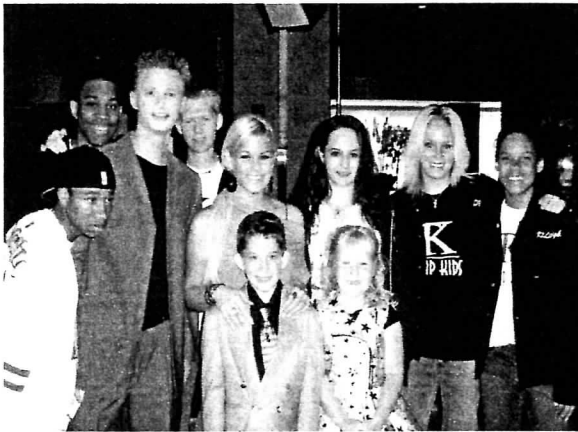
Joel Ward and
friends

The stage had been struck and re-set with my final illusion during the ring and rope routine. As the lights came back up, I came running back onto stage while the audience clapped passionately. I approached a triangular illusion, about five feet high and turned on a red light that was hanging in the middle. Without pause I pulled up a screen on both sides of the illusion so you could see a light illuminating from within. I produced a mask from my side and showed it to the audience as it quickly burst into flames and disappeared. I looked back at the triangle and there it wasn't only inside, floating there in a shadow. I looked surprised and approached the triangular illusion to get a closer look and placed my hand on the screen. When I removed it the hand was still there. I did the same thing with my other hand, and, when I removed it, another hand had appeared as a shadow in the box. I raised both of my hands up at the same time, and the shadow in the box moved with me. With a look of astonishment on my face, I approached the box and removed the screen. Sitting in the box was the break-dancer who had appeared just a few acts before me.

As he danced out of the box, we ended back-to-back, arms crossed, facing the audience as the music faded and the lights came down. I thought to myself, "Another show," as I took my final bow and ran off stage left quickly to find my bird cage sitting

there so I could re-set my props, put my doves away, and get ready for the finale.

The rest of the show consisted of a 7-year-old singer named Brandy, a group of dancers called The Tap Kids, and a 15-year-old Russian kid named Roman that closed the show with his amazing aerial artist act. For the finale everyone did something small and I came out and produced a large American flag, and then levitated a glass from a champagne bottle. We took our final bow and ran out to the front of the theater to greet guests and sell merchandise. It was all in a night's work, and I came backstage to gather my belongings and headed back to my hotel room, just nine floors above the theater. The excitement



Joel Ward and the cast of "Prodigy" at the NBC Studio's in New York City, promoting their Atlantic City revue.

was over, and there I sat, alone in my room. Show business can be a lonely life.

It was pure adrenaline the first few nights of my two-month engagement in Atlantic City. Then as I got comfortable with size of the stage and the cast I began to think. Is this what I want to do for the rest of my life? Surely it was fun being on stage seven days a week. We did two shows Tuesday and Wednesdays, a matinee and an evening show, and I performed my act well over 90 times. But I wanted something else. I did not know what it was at the time, but I surely felt I needed something more. With television specials to appear on, spaced out throughout the summer in Philly and New York, and newspaper reviews and interviews almost every week to advertise the show, I grew bored fast. I missed home, my friends, and family, and the way San Diego had a feeling of comfort and stability. Living in a casino was not the coolest place to hang

out. People come in to gamble, drink alcohol, and be entertained. It wore me out quickly. I was ready for something a little different.

I began to spend time with another cast member from the show named Michael Boston. He was a Canadian who had pure energy and passion for life. Together we started brainstorming on this new show concept. We looked at each other with pure delight. It had never been done before. We started writing and notes filled my hotel room on napkins and every square inch inside my laptop. This was it. This is what I needed to get me through the summer. I needed something new. And here it was, right inside of me just waiting for someone to help me get it out and on paper.

The rest of the run was fun, but when it was time to come home, I could hardly wait. I was bumped up to a penthouse suite for the final night of the two-month run because of a card trick that had seemed to impress an employee at the Front Desk. So I invited the cast over to my new digs to say our goodbyes.

The next morning a Limo took me back to Philly where I flew back to San Diego.

I arrived back home with pure joy in my heart. The next day I had something great to do, a Kid Show, and I was so thrilled to do it. I performed in a small living room and made the birthday girl extremely happy. I realized that this was it. This was the magic that I lived for. It wasn't the big fancy shows or showrooms that seemed to impress me, but the real magic that we give and perform everyday.

I am back to my old restaurant gig in the North County and doing local shows for benefits and parties and feel wonderful! I think I brought home something very important from the show in Atlantic City. I realize now for the first time that I no longer want to become David Copperfield or Lance Burton, and that I really do not ever want to be owned by a Casino. I found that I wanted solitude, happiness, and the only way I could find it would come from within. So here I sit, reading *Carter Beats the Devil*, planning my next journey, this time as a writer, coming up with a brand new way to present magic. I hope somewhere down the line I will be able to share it with you!

(Editor's note: Joel, we look forward to your next adventure and thank you for sharing these words about your "magical summer." By the way, Joel turned 21, September 27th.)

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Books In Review: Don't miss these!

Those who enjoyed the monthly Magic Menu periodical, or its two-volume bound edition reprints of the first ten years, take note:

The final four issues, which were newly formatted and expanded from the usual 12 pages to around 40 pages per quarterly issue, have now become available as a bound volume. The thrust of the periodical changed over the years from a restaurant magic perspective to a wider general close-up magic perspective, but years 1-5 and 6-10 are still very much worth your money and to study. In the final year, the periodical changed into a perfect-bound journal, and issues cost \$15 each, justified by more than tripling the page count and still having no ads or other extraneous material in them.

The bound volume, price-pointed at \$25.00 plus shipping, has become available in the last week. The publisher, MM former staff member and associate editor Andrew Pinard, has a free shipping deal currently to introduce the bound volume, so the four issues can be had for \$25 instead of the original \$60.

I have no financial interest in MM, I just loved it and wanted to share the info on the Final Four issues bound volume. The bound volumes of the other 10 years helped seal the demise of the periodical, as people quit subscribing and waited for the bound compilations just as the MM was finding a new and larger audience with its wider perspective.

Years 1-5 and 6-10 are available through L&L Publishing, as they have been for the last several years. The new Final Four volume is available through Andrew Pinard's online store:

<http://www.threeshellgame.com/shellshop/>

I have had several fine dealings with Andrew, and he even phoned me personally to tell me when my MM: FF book had been shipped. If you love close-up, or restaurant

magic, or if you want help learning how to convert magic from a hobby into a paying career, check out Magic Menu: the Final Four. I read mine from cover to cover in two evenings, and I will read it again as time goes on.

The Review: The book has regular columnists who have ongoing subject matter that you will enjoy. The Front Page by editor Jim Sisti is an overview of each issue's contents and the thematic intent of the issue, plus Jim's usual commentary on some relevant magical topic. In the Trenches, edited by Paul Green, is a true story segment submitted by working magicians detailing occurrences "in the field." Lost and Found by David Acer is a review of older, half-forgotten magical classics, examining whether each is still worthy of your study. The Financial Wizard by Eric Henning is an important article for working pros (or those who wish to be so), as it deals with the thorny issues of taxes, life insurance, liability insurance, health insurance, and much more. Richard Robinson's Virtual Magic, ostensibly about how to use a personal Web page to market your magical services, is more often than not a commentary on the sad state of magicians and how it can be improved. Scott Davis's Real World Marketing, which only appeared in the final issue 64, is a tantalizing beginning of a short course in how to market yourself as a magician; the list of topics that were to be covered in the ensuing months was intriguing, and it is too bad that the MM folded after year eleven. Andrew Pinard's Nuts and Bolts deals with practical matters in professional performing, such as requesting testimonial letters from satisfied clients and how to set your price points for shows. Mark Zacaria's Perspectives: Magic in Review is an in-depth review of one or two new magic products on the scene at the time of publication. Tricks for the Trade continues its history of teaching "worker" effects from a "who's who" of professional performers. As if all of this were not enough, there is space given to guest columnists and interviews/overviews of working professionals and their careers. Want more? There is good starting information on working trade shows, performing at Project Graduation lock-in nights, and still more awaiting you in this volume. **184 pages, perfect bound. Highly recommended for those who like to think, rather than just learn another magical secret.**

Those who are looking for worker material from a working pro should check out the Scott Guinn Trilogy, Great Scott! It's Magic! Volume 1 (It's Card Magic!) and Volume 2 (It's Coin Magic!) of the Trilogy are in their second editions, having been revamped in format and expanded in both illustrations and descriptions. Volume 3 (It's More Magic!) is in its third edition, and features

rings & ropes, sponge balls, cups & balls, finger rings, and much more.

The books are clearly written and photo illustrated. Few of the tricks have original plots, but Scott has welded together fine routines from bits and pieces (favorite moves, if you will) from his favorite fellow professionals. Extensive crediting and careful tweaking of moves make this a fine reference set if you want to pursue Guinn's influences for other material. Twenty + years of field testing has honed these routines into tightly crafted workers. At first read, some of them seem so bold as to be unworkable, but after my success with the similarly bold Multiball (see September VFCS), I can see how these bold moves can work.

None of the material is difficult to execute for an intermediate magician. Much of it has instant or automatic reset for table hoppers or walkaround party magicians. There is plenty of material in each book, so a whole repertoire could be carved out here with patience and practice. Scott's GUB (Guinn Utility Backslip) in the card book is a great utility move that will find lots of application in your card work, especially if you don't deem yourself a card specialist.

For those who prefer video for learning, Scott does have one DVD, containing a healthy dose of much of the material here. The DVD is similarly titled Great Scott, It's Magic! However, there is much more material in the trilogy of books. Both the books and the DVD are self-published, and available directly from Scott. Most of the copies available from dealers are earlier editions, and you definitely want these expanded versions.

Be advised that Scott is returning fully into performing, and getting out of publishing/lecturing altogether. That means that these books and the DVD will not be available much longer, since Scott has already dismantled his Web site and stopped most of his advertising. Try contacting him directly through an email:

greatscott@4safe.com or scottguinn@peoplepc.com

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Each book can be purchased separately, but Scott is very low on copies, and he has no plans to reprint. Additionally, Scott is closing out the few copies that remain at a special price for the set of three. If you value field-tested worker material, try these books before they vanish completely.

Siegfried & Roy Continued from page one

Both the NBC Television Special and the People Magazine article leave the door open that some form of the Siegfried & Roy Show may return to a stage somewhere in Las Vegas in the future. On network television, Shriver asked Siegfried, with Roy sitting nearby, if they would return to performing again? Siegfried's answer was, "You can never tell what the future holds." In the People magazine article the closing paragraph reads: "The pair have even begun to consider the Vegas stage once more. It will only be together as a team, of course – both Siegfried and Roy. Otherwise, "I would feel I was cheating the audience," says Siegfried."

Following the NBC special, MagiCurrents did a brief poll of Ring 76 members who watched the program. Most said they enjoyed it and had a better understanding of what happened on that fateful night a year ago in Las Vegas. Others said they were drawn by the devotion that Siegfried has for his injured and recovering partner. Most commented on the grueling physical rehab that Roy has gone through just to take that first step on his own.

People magazine does answer the question of what happened to Montecore, the big white tiger that was rejected by his mother at birth and raised with his sister white tiger by Roy Horn. Montecore still lives at the Mirage's Secret Garden zoo compound. He is not on public exhibit but lives in his own habitat and will be allowed to maintain anonymity for the rest of his natural life there. Roy Horn visits the tiger regularly and has long talks with all of his animals.

In the People magazine article, Roy Horn says, "Thank God I'm a cat with nine lives. I'm on my ninth life now, so I still have a little bit more to do."

Magic Notes from Jack White**Rodney Reyes, producer of magic videos**

Some of you may remember a talented young man by the name of Rodney Reyes, who was a superb sleight of hand performer and loved to teach others the tricks of the trade, so to speak. In the late summer of 2000, Rodney set up a three-week study program here in San Diego and taught his brand of close-up magic. Rodney's magic style was not for everyone; he had a chip on his shoulder and a fast, hip hop way of performing, but his upbeat personality drew many students to his classes. After teaching his 4-day a week three-week course, he packed his bags and headed for Florida to study filmmaking.

Over the years I would get an occasional note, an e-mail or a phone call from him asking that I let everyone in San Diego know he was doing fine and still very much involved in close-up magic. This past August at the MagicLive gathering in Las Vegas, we met and had an opportunity to sit down and talk. Rodney brought me up to date on his past adventures and his plans for the future; they are all exciting. If you are a Rodney Reyes fan then here is a quick update on his life in magic.

About two years ago after finishing his courses at film school he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, and during a conversation with magician Mike Close was introduced to two



Rodney Reyes behind the camera

young men about his age (23) who were starting an online magic shop called "Penguin Magic." These young entrepreneurs wanted a series of well-produced DVDs to sell in their line of products. Rodney worked on their first video called "Born to Perform Card Magic" featuring Oz Pearlman of New York.

Once he finished his work on the DVD, he went to work helping Penguin set up their online magic Web site. All of this was pretty much of a full-time job. Rodney's real love, however, was producing magic videos. Earlier this year he met magician and writer

Paul Harris, who just happened to be looking for someone to produce his new 10-disc DVD project called "True Astonishment" which will borrow greatly from his book "Art of Astonishment."

Rodney quit his job at Penguin Magic and formed his own company called "AOI" or Art of Illusion. The company makes magic videos and one of his first clients is Paul Harris and the True Astonishment project. In addition to Paul these videos will also include a number of other prominent magicians. Rodney expects to have this marathon project wrapped up in early 2005 and ready for release during the summer of next year. His hope is to present to the magic-viewing public a ground breaking series of magic videos.



Paul Harris
writer & magician

Living in Las Vegas, the magic capital of the world, one would think there would be a lot of opportunity for a performer with the skills of Rodney Reyes. But he told me that Vegas is a dog-eat-dog world when it comes to performing. He has not even tried to market himself as a performer; in fact, he seldom performs at all these days. Instead he spends much of his time writing and attending to the production chores surrounding the Harris video project.

Reyes says he almost never goes to magic conventions; he attended MagicLive because it was a who's who of famous magi, and he wanted to get the word out about his new production company. He does not belong to the IBM or any of the various magic clubs in Las Vegas. He says he has never really been much of a joiner when it comes to magic, and he just does not have the time to go to magic meetings or become involved in the politics of the magic scene in glitter gulch. Rodney hates clickish groups, and he says magic organizations in Vegas are very clickish. But he says he does miss his friends in San Diego and Ring 76. He also knows the importance of networking with other magicians for future projects. He says he will no doubt, in the

future, be forced to attend organized magic meetings and conventions.

Even though he does not do much magic anymore he says he is still a purest when it comes to sleight of hand and today he tells me that the effect has become more important to him than technical side of the flimflam. He told me something that I never thought I would hear him utter: "Simpler is better than a lot of intricate and difficult sleights and moves." Coming from Mr. Technically advanced in magic, that came, as a real shock to me; was I talking to the real Rodney Reyes? He said he has just changed his thinking on the presentation of magic. His advice to today's younger performers is: "Forget about 'being cool' and play with your audience and have fun with them."

People that may have had something to do with that change in thinking include names like Jeff McBride, Eugene Burger, and Mac King. Rodney says he is a great admirer of what McBride has done with his magic school in Las Vegas, and he thinks that Mac King has one of the best magic shows on the Vegas Strip. He also had good things to say about David Copperfield and David's executive producer, Chris Kenner. I should also mention that Paul Harris's



DVD cover for Rodney Reyes first big magic video. "School of Hard Knocks."

name was high on the list of magic performers Rodney admires.

His biggest dream is producing a big magic TV show featuring some of the top names in the business. As soon as he completes the Paul Harris series, he says he will turn his attention to that effort. He says

magic is still his life, but now he gets far more pleasure out of producing educational videos and entertainment programs, rather than performing himself. But he did admit there are times on a quiet evening that he picks up a deck of cards and thinks about a sleight or a routine that he has mastered in the past and wonders, if he worked at it, where it could go in the future?

Trade Show Magician Tom Craven presents "free" lecture Oct 21st.

Thursday evening, October 21st, veteran magician Tom Craven will present his lecture "A Hat Full of Stuff" at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. This lecture is sponsored by Ring 76 and is "free" of charge to all Ring 76 members.

Tom Craven, from Ohio, is well-known in the trade show field and will talk about making tricks work for sponsors and special groups you are working for. After 43 years of performing for a living, Tom Craven has learned a lot about presenting magic and will reveal some of the secrets he has learned during that time.



Tom Craven
Trade Show Magician

Craven is also a columnist in the Linking Ring magazine and writes "Havenly Close-up" which always features a clever effect with easy to follow instructions and props that you can find around the house. You will find his San Diego lecture is made up of the same ingredients.

**Loch David Crane
Says:
Thank You**

***for your support during his
recent illness and troubled
times.***

Message from the President



Hello Ring 76 members,

Now's the time to get out the "Spooky" Halloween props for a magical Halloween! All through the month of October, the kids love the "spook shows," have fun with it!

The San Diego Blood Bank has come to us for their help again performing magic at the centers. The date is Saturday, Oct. 16th. All the centers will need magicians that are willing to volunteer their time. Jack has the sign-up sheet; please let him know what time you can perform. This is a great opportunity for all members to entertain and do great charity. Please help out!

We have Tom Craven coming in for a lecture in October. This is a free lecture for all Ring 76 members and a nominal charge at the door for non-members. I know everyone that showed up at the Jason Latimer lecture had a great time!

I'd like to thank Joe Mystic for the great job he did at the last month's teach-in. He brought glue and shared with us his signature effect \$2 to two \$1's. It was well-presented and received!

This coming month we have Jacques Lord teaching a card routine and money effect. Here's his description of it. The card effect is a nifty flourish before launching into your favorite 4-ace routine, and the money effect is a toast to a couple. Building on Joe Mystic's teach-in from September, Jacques will outline his torn-and-restored one into a two that makes for a unique wed-

ding or anniversary toast. The magic is an exclamation point to the sentiment. You can tear your own money or Jacques will supply you with paper blanks for the teach-in.

It's been working out very well having the teach-ins before the general meeting. We would love to encourage more members to spend the quality time after the meetings performing close up magic. We have the bar and a few round tables available for close-up work. Hang out! It's ok!

A big thank you to the North County Guild for donating the magical video tapes to the club. We will be putting them in our library and they will be available to all members.

Phil Tuttle who had more heart surgery in September, will be leaving Southern California and moving to Bend, Oregon, in October. Phil has been an important part of our Ring and an important part of "Magical Moments." We will all miss you Phil.

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76



Resident Magician &
Goodwill Ambassador at
the Corvette Diner
1987 - 2002



Member of Hollywood's
Prestigious "Magic
Castle"
Since 1981



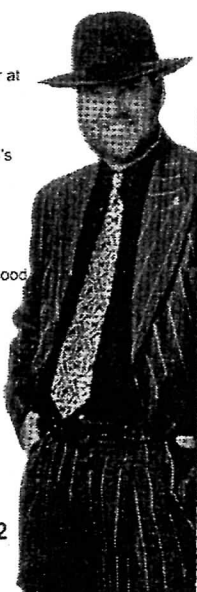
Member of
International Brotherhood
of Magicians
Since 1976



Member of
Society of American
Magicians
Since 1974

"Magic"

Mike Stilwell
(619) 660-9662



P.O. Box 1166
Rancho San Diego, CA 91979
email: magicmikeofsd@aol.com

Ring 76



Board of Directors

Diane Lane
President
858-278-1669
dvlane@san.rr.com

Bob Ingalls
1st Vice President
858-571-3340
bailysgp@san.rr.com

Sherry Luft*
2nd Vice President
sluft@secor.com

Jack White*
Secretary
619-299-9037
prestooone@cox.net

Richard Ustick
Treasurer
619-463-2407
rustick@flash.net

Kenny Shelton
Sgt. at Arms
vettesbro@aol.com

J.P. Jackson*
Member at Large
858-569-0096

Terry Lunceford
Member at Large
dveditman@cox.net

* denotes past Ring 76 Pres.

News

David Copperfield brings his touring magic show to San Diego's Civic Theater Friday and Saturday October 22nd & 23rd. Tickets are on sale at the Civic Theater box office downtown, for all seats other than the first three rows. Those front row seats are for sale on Ebay, the online auction network. When last we looked those seats were going for \$150 each. Copperfield will do five shows during his two-day appearance in San Diego.

Belinda Kaesler, past president of Ring 313 and the IBM Territorial Vice President for Central California, will have an exhibit at the Del Mar Pumpkin Patch next to the Del Mar Fair grounds. Belinda has operated a craft and costume shop in Orange County until recently. She will be selling her costumes in one of the tents at the Pumpkin Patch that features a wide variety of Halloween attractions, including two haunted houses and several rides for the children. She will be at Del Mar from Oct 8, through the 31st. Drop by and say hello.

At the Harvest Festival held at the Del Mar Fair Grounds September 24, 25 & 26 **J.P. Jackson** located an exhibitor who manufactures very unique folding tables that are suitable for magicians and magic work. If you are a working magician and need a table, be it close-up or parlor, you should check out this very different unit. J.P. has an extra one for sale.

Dana Daniels appeared at the Gateway Community Church on Lincoln Avenue in Escondido, Saturday, September 25th, with his "psychic" parrot, Luigi. Daniels was part of a family comedy show presented by the church showing that laughter is the best medicine



for people. Dana Daniels was voted the best comedy magician of the year for 2003 by the Academy of Magical Arts in Los Angeles.

Bob Ingalls underwent gall bladder surgery September 28th. Bob put off the surgery until the day after **Jason Latimer's** lecture in San Diego. Bob and Jason are good friends, and Bob wanted to be present for his lecture so he politely told his doctor the surgery would have to wait. His doctor reluctantly gave into Ingall's demands. Bob is at home resting up and hopes to be at the October 11th meeting.

Jack White has finished editing the two-and-a-half hour IBM Stage Competition that took place July 1st in Cleveland, Ohio, at the IBM Convention. There are 23 contestants in the competition, and this year Jack was determined to show everyone's complete act. The two-disc DVD of the show will be available from the IBM in the near future. The cost of this DVD has yet to be determined. Jack and **Bob Ingalls** videotaped the entire program.

Julie Abbott Marshall has sold her home in San Marcos and will be moving to Michigan by the end of October. Julie's husband, who is a medical technician, has been offered a job he could not turn down at a Michigan Health

Briefs

Center, so they are **packing up** and getting ready for the move. Julie has promised to keep in touch with Ring 76.

Mike Stilwell has always been a Padres baseball fan; now he has figured out a way to see the games and get paid for it. He is doing his magic dressed in a Padre's blue and white zoot suit on the members-only club level at Petco Park. One of the effects he does for those attending the games is a chop cup routine with **Mike Rogers** miniature baseballs. The Padres management has been impressed with Mike's work and have invited him back for more magic during the 2005

season.

There have been many excellent reviews about the movie, "**The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam.**" But the film has not received wide spread distribution and has not gone to DVD as yet. It will be shown at the Asian Film Festival in San Diego, Sunday October 24th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mann Theaters in the Mission Valley Hazard Center. Chinese-born Long Tack Sam was an acrobat, magician, comic, and a headliner in vaudeville during the last century. Canadian filmmaker **Ann Marie Fleming** traveled the globe to unravel the mystery of her great-grandfather, whose act opened for the **Marx Brothers** and he became **Orson Welles's** mentor. This documentary is part mystery, part memoir, and a playful mix of interviews, old snapshots, and innovative animation. This is a rare opportunity for Ring 76 members to view this film.

Dick Dale announced the **Mike Close** lecture is Nov 1, at Jack's Magic Place 7 p.m. \$15 at the door.

Coming Attractions

October 11th, meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. It's favorite Halloween and spooky effect or routine; everyone is invited to take part. This has proven to be an exciting evening in past years. Many members attend the meeting in costume. A special surprise at this meeting-a-real Haunted House from Ed Greene.

November 8th, meeting is our annual Teach-in session. We will have six instructors presenting special sessions. You will come away from this meeting having learned several new tricks and sleights. This is always a well-attended session.

FREE LECTURE for all Ring 76 members will be presented Thursday, October 21, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. Tom Craven, veteran trade show magician, will present his "Hat Full of Stuff" lecture. This lecture is free to all Ring 76 members: guests are welcome but will be charged a \$15 fee.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, October 18th, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

Return Address:
IBM Ring 76
4275 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92105