



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Woody Pittman Lecture

The feature for June's Ring 76 meeting will be a lecture by Woody Pittman. This lecture will be free for all paid-up members of Ring 76. For non-members, there will be a \$10 door charge. (*Editor's note: June is also the month when dues are due!*)

Woody will open his lecture with a short performance. Following this, he will speak on "Character Development" for magicians. Rather than doing generic routines, when you create a character that comes from within, then YOU will be the only person doing that character and routine.

Woody has been working full-time as a Comedy Magician for the last 20 years. Amongst the venues he has performed are the Magic Castle, comedy clubs, cruise ships, and corporate events.

In his spare time, Woody has created in his "Wonder Factory", some magic products, and produced several delightful short films. You can see more of Woody, and view some of his wonderful silent films on his website, www.woodypittman.com. He directed and performs in these Silent Films with his wife Katie Cavera. Katie is the musician who created the fabulous music that accompanies these silent films. Enjoy!

— Belinda Kaesler

Ring 76 Officer Election

In addition to the lecture, Ring 76 will be electing a new Board of Officers for the coming year at the June meeting. This is important, as it is they who direct the Ring and provide you with all the education and entertainment you have come to expect from being a member of one of the largest Rings in the I.B.M.

All members in good standing are allowed to vote. You must be present to vote. No mail-in ballots will be accepted.

— Richard Ustick

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

WWW.RING76.COM EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM



May Meeting Showdown at Jack's Place

Monday, May 10th was the showdown at Jack's Place — our annual Stand Up Competition.

In a short business meeting, an updated slate of officer nominees was presented to the membership. Several new people have been nominated since the April meeting. Candidates now include:

President:	Kenny Shelton:
1st Vice-President:	Belinda Kaesler Sebastian
2nd Vice President:	Donna Greenbaum
Treasurer:	Richard Ustick
Secretary:	Bob Meigs
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Sherry Luft
Member-at-Large:	James Thayer Terry Lunceford Robert Gordon JP Jackson.

The membership voted to close the nominations.

Richard Ustick made several announcements: member Timmy Qafiti has been accepted into the Magic Castle Juniors' Program. In his audition at The Castle, Timmy performed Red Magic, a routine he performed for the Ring on Favorite Trick Night in March. James Kellogg, Jr and family will be opening their family magic shop, 3 Generations of Magic, on May 15. The June meeting will feature a lecture by Woody Pittman.

Then, the awaited moment arrived - the lights dimmed, the music began, and the evening turned magical.

Bob Meigs, assisted by Donna Greenbaum, opened the competition with four-effect routine, including a blooming rose bush and a startling decapitation. Toni Perrine followed with her own version of Technicolor Prediction. Loch David Crane did his popular Great Karnac routine, and Greg Wausen

performed a series of original effects that he simply called "Greg's Routine".

Professor Howard then did a very deceptive version Bill in Orange. Mago Ruly performed a series of silk and feather effects, and a comedy effect called Nude on Line. Joe Mystic opened with a Tray of Doom routine, and then performed Killer Cut and Joe Monti's 3 Card Monti.

Donna Greenbaum did an original "card-fly" routine, that she calls Transporter. James Kellogg, Jr. then performed a beautifully choreographed dove routine. Sebastian concluded the competition with a dramatic, medieval version of Tubed Out.

Belinda Kaesler scheduled the performances and Richard Ustick handled the lighting and music. Audience members voted for their favorite performers in a secret ballot, and the winners will be announced at the Ring's Officer Installation Banquet in July.

As is our tradition, the meeting concluded at 9PM, but many of us moved on to the nearby Denny's, where the camaraderie continued over coffee and sun-dae.

— Bob Meigs

Dues Are Due!

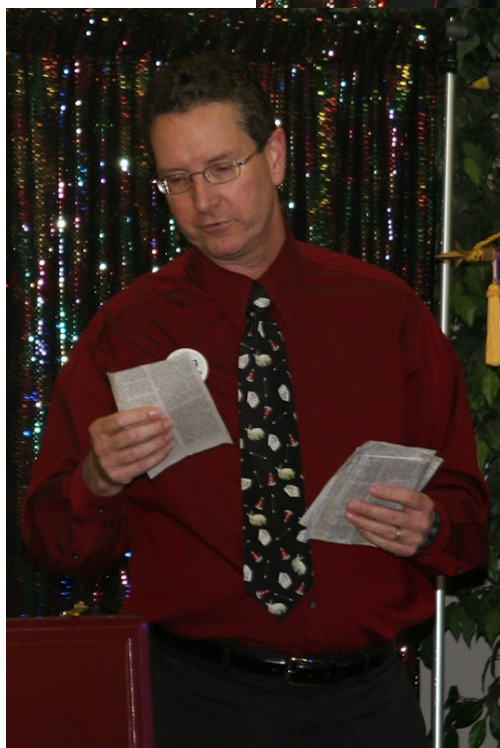
June, apart from being election month, is also the time when Ring 76 dues are due. This year your Ring 76 dues are still \$25, as long as you pay sometime during the month.

The treasurer will be collecting dues at the next meeting, June 14th, before this month's lecture. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept credit or bank cards for payment. We do accept checks, as well as cash, but please do not bring bills larger than \$50.00.

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Photos From The May Meeting





More Photos From The May Meeting



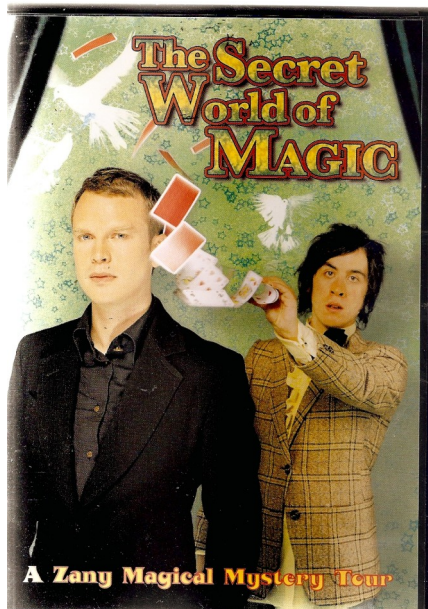
A Tour de Force

“The Secret World of Magic” with Pete Firman & Alistair Cook (2 set DVD)
Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz MD

Conjure with this: a world tour directed not by Rick Steves, the impresario travel expert, but by a fellow magician, Alistair Cook (the Yorkshire-born star of short films where he plays a psychotic character as well as The Enchanter, The Crime Fighting Magician). Cook is blended with Pete Firman whose credits include performing disgusting tricks with animals.

These eccentric wizards pursue the celebrated and — to this audience — unknown but very accomplished magicians the world over. For example, their adventure searches for and finds Mago Migue, a pop star morphed into a world class cardist. Also in Madrid, of course, they hunt for Juan Tamariz. They find the Tamariz School of Magic (did you know that existed?) and perform there to a sitting ovation. The two DVD photography is clear and whether focused on the architecture and geography or the dazzling jocularly of these two matched magical foils, the audience is bound to like what they see.

The viewer is not anaesthetized by the deft but mind numbing sleight of hand juggling but instead these personalities force you to like them and what they do. Encountering their mistake in local language, their gaffs turn quickly into laughs. The French scene consists of them mixing with Gaeton Bloom in a topless bar vs Dominique Duvivier’s magic bar. Lay people will not know that these are revered prestidigitators. Not to worry. You can show these DVDs to anyone for pure 4.333333 hours of fun.



Jetting to the colonies (they are British you know), in New York they interface with Harry Lorayne, David Acer (a wandering Canadian), and bluff their way into the Monday Night Magic venue. Can you imagine these two let loose on Coney Island? A running dialogue of quips, asides, inflections by these well experienced actors studs their interviews and experiences.

Zip to Las Vegas where our duo is forced to watch semi-clad showgirls — the sacrifices they tolerate for their art. Mac King walks and talks with them. Jeff McBride’s face is a mask. Penn and Teller (paradoxically Teller tells nothing).

One must wonder what these character’s budget for travel was. Not content with North America, they wander to Buenos Aires for the tango? Viewers are treated to a sample of Rene Levand’s stellar performing skills.

Did this reviewer forget to mention Ali and Pete’s meeting with Max Maven or that they visited and performed at The Magic Castle in Los Angeles...but then you knew that.

These DVDs are bereft of magic instruction but the discerning viewer will be able to glean much of

what makes for entertainment. Plus, in these days when expeditions to other parts of the world are so costly and arduous, these DVDs are a wonderful substitute. The Secret World of Magic...A Zany Magical Mystery Tour featuring Pete Firman and Alistair Cook is highly recommended. Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5).





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If you cannot make it to the meeting, you can mail your payment to:

Richard Ustick
Treasurer, Ring 76
251 Thrasher Way,
El Cajon, CA 92020

Please make the checks out to Ring 76.

After June, dues are \$30, so please be sure to get your payment in by the end of this month.

— Richard Ustick

Installation Banquet

This year the annual Ring 76 installation banquet will be held Sunday, July 18th, at the home of Ring member Robert Miegs. Because of the pressure and expense of the upcoming I.B.M. Convention, the Board has decided to make this year's installation a little more casual and relaxed, as well as economical.

Instead of a catered affair, the Ring 76 Installation will be a potluck. Everyone is asked to bring a main dish,

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



salad, chips & dips, or dessert large enough to feed ten to twelve people.

If you have any questions about what to bring, please ask Richard Ustick at the June meeting, or e-mail him at rustick@flash.net.

More details will be announced at the June meeting and in next month's newsletter.

— Richard Ustick

The Convention is Coming!

We are the host Ring for the IBM National Convention in San Diego, July 6-10. The convention will be headquartered at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. There will be three big stage shows at the Balboa Theater in the Gaslamp District on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. If you haven't registered for the convention, you may so at www.magician.org

We need a lot of volunteers to work this convention. Remember, this is Jack's big event, and we want it to be a huge success, so let's step up! (All volunteers must be registered for the convention.) Volunteer positions are listed below:

A couple of strolling close-up performers for registration, noon to 3PM Tuesday, July 6.

A three-person team to pickup VIPs at the airport all day Tuesday (this can, of course, be several shifts). A van would be helpful.

Assistants to Celebrity Performers We have about 20 celebrity performers, who need a local they can call on to learn where to find things and perhaps get a ride. A member most likely can handle 2-3 performers in this regard, so we have, say, 7 to 10 positions. This is an opportunity to get to know some celebrity performers quite well. Assistants

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should be on site much of the time, but, of course, we will work in shifts.

A couple of stage hands to help with setup for the Big 3 Illusion Shows, 1PM on Thurs., Fri., and Sat.

People to monitor admission to the Dealer's Room. There will be plenty of shifts - see convention events schedule at magician.org.

Ticket takers at the Wednesday banquet (this should be someone who will be attending the banquet - we'll save you prime seating!

In addition, we can always use a few "utility people" to handle the unexpected.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Bob Meigs, Secretary, at thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net

In addition, everyone is invited to participate in the Strolling Olympics Competition at 11PM on Saturday, July 10. Sign-ups will be during the convention.

— Bob Meigs

Godfrey the Magician to Perform at the County Fair

Godfrey the Magician (Terry Godfrey) will be performing his unique style of comedy magic at the San Diego County Fair. The fair dates are June 11 to July 5. San Diego County Fair is closed on all Mondays except for July 5th.

Godfrey will be performing close-up magic and a stand up show. On week days you can experience his close-up magic from 10:15 AM to opening of the fair at the main front gate. During the week fair opens at 11:00 AM, however if there is a large crowd sometimes they open early. On weekends, he'll be at the front gate performing from 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM.

Stage shows are about 25 minutes long and are at 1:00, 4:00, and 5:30 in the infield. He will be

performing at the same staging area has Doggies of the Wild West.

Ring 76 T-Shirt

Once again, Ring 76 will be offering a T-shirt at the IBM Convention when it comes to San Diego. Jim Whiting (our resident cartoonist) came up with the wonderful design (*shown below*). As with our 2002 IBM Convention Shirt, there will be a certain secret something included in the design of the shirt. The price will be \$20 and will be available at the Ring 76 table near convention sign-in.



Ring 76 Calendar

June 14	Lecture, Election & Dues
July 18	Awards Banquet & Installation of Officers
Aug 9	TBD