



Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
July 2010 www.ring16.org

Essential Magic Conference

John Campbell, President

This is the month of the Essential Magic Conference, known more commonly by its acronym, the “EMC.” The EMC is a new concept in magic conventions – part of what the techies call “Web 2.0.” It is an online conference, broadcast primarily from Portugal, to which attendees have access through the internet with a user name and password, though in-person attendees are welcome as well, as most presentations occur in a studio with a live audience. The EMC is modeled after TED, a “new idea” online conference in which speakers prepare twenty minute single issue presentations on a wide variety of topics. The structure of the EMC, like TED, allows for presentations by many speakers from all over the world at a substantially reduced cost to both the presenters and the attendees.

As I write this, the EMC is in its second day. I have watched several of the presentations, though not live. One thing I’ve noted is that this format does provide a tremendous variety of information in a relatively concise period of time. The presenters I’ve seen have been uniformly excellent with focused demonstrations covering many areas of magic. I didn’t have to fly anywhere to see all these guys, and it only cost me \$75! That is an amazing savings in time and money over traditional magic conventions.

But as I was watching these presentations, I thought how much more fun it would be to be there. And that led me to recall many of my best memories from magic conventions, which invariably occurred not at the lectures, but late at night in the common areas conversing with other magicians, watching them perform for me, and returning the favor. Those conventions always remind me that magic is a community and it is first and foremost about making connections with people – either your spectators or other magicians.

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I Dream of Mindreading Review

Bill Canaday, Vice-President

Fellow Ring 16 Members: In recent articles for our newsletter, I have submitted reviews that I hope you find helpful. This time, I am submitting a review of a routine I performed at a recent meeting of Ring 16. The routine is I Dream of Mindreading, by John Lovick. The effect is that the performer explains to the audience that he is going to perform the World’s Greatest Mathematical Trick. The performer chooses a volunteer from the audience, and has them MENTALLY select a card. The performer then has the spectator use some mathematical moves, in accordance with the card they have merely thought of. The performer then looks through the deck, and “finds” their selection. At first, the spectator and audience are impressed, however, not too much, as the performer stated that this was a Mathematical Trick. The ending is a surprise one, as the performer says that this is not really the World’s Greatest Mathematical Trick; it is pure Mindreading. As the Mentalist says this, he spreads the deck face-up, and surprises everyone, as the entire deck is blank. This is a good routine, which gets a great response. Mr. Lovick supplies you with the deck, complete and thorough instructions. This method is included, as is his original version of this routine. I really enjoy this trick, and I really enjoyed not only Mr. Lovick’s details, I also learned some extra ideas for this routine, as Mr. Lovick included thoughts from Joshua Jay. Joshua Jay was intrigued by this routine, and he offers some really great presentational touches to this effect. I feel that this routine would work well, if you added it to your repertoire. I hope this has helped you. We look forward to seeing you at our July meeting, and Wayne Houchin’s lecture the following week.

♣♦♥♠

July Meeting - July 26th

Annual Magic Auction

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The EMC is an excellent idea that serves a particular need quite well, especially in tough times like these, when our free time and disposable income is often tight. I hope it succeeds and grows over time. But I also hope it never replaces, or even marginalizes, the traditional magic convention. Technology is a wonderful thing that can improve our lives in many ways. But it should always serve the goal of bringing us together rather than isolating us.



June Business Meeting

John Sorrell, Secretary

Old Business:

* Dan Harlan lecture was great with 19 in attendance.

* OB - Our July and August meetings will be held on the 4th Monday. The July meeting is our annual Magic Auction with 10% of the proceeds going to the club treasury.

* Don Lefkowitz, who is heading up the local "Healing of Magic" program at Baptist Rehab, is participating on Tuesdays. He welcomes additional help but is handling the current workload of patients.

New Business:

* Aldo & Rachel Colombini-Rachel needs a heart operation. You can donate directly. You can buy an eBook from Lybrary.com. Their website has a buy one, get one free offer.

* Martin Seiler say John Pyka show in Nashville called "Swinging at the Roxy". John Pyda has a lecture called "Theatrical Magic." John runs magictalkforum.com per Margarette.

* Grayson Smith shared info about Emory Williams who has a mobile magic shop that will be traveling through Memphis on August 18th. Emory's shop is part of WilliamsMagic.com and is based in Arizona.

* July 6-10 - IBM San Diego Convention. Margarette LeClaire will be the convention interpreter for several deaf magicians in attendance.

* Grayson Smith is the current Graphologist or Tree Reader for the Botanic Gardens monthly Tuesdays on the Terrace.

* The South Main Trolley Tour event was well represented by Tim Grant and others.

* NB - Grayson shared an IBM medallion and discussed the possibility of our Ring producing something similar. Business cards or brochures were also discussed as a way to promote the ring to the outside world. Richard

Oakley mentioned that the 'Buttonhole Puzzle' or Pencil with Loop was used years ago as a promo item.

Lectures - Wayne Houchin is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3rd at 7pm. The club voted to book Dan Fleshman for Tuesday, October 5th. The club voted to pass on Mark Wogan, but John will email a list of lecture possibilities to the membership and we may re-consider Mark. The club voted no on Jonathan Pendragon. He may be lecturing in Little Rock.

Visitors included Ben Jackson & Liz, Ray Banks from Houston and Max Wu, a graduate student at the University of Memphis.



June Meeting Open Magic

Tim Parker - Scribe

Cool Gimmicks was the theme of our June meeting, and Grayson Smith started things off with a bang using an Abbot's Exploding Wand followed by a demonstration of a classic: Jack Dean's Electric Brain.

Next up, Margerette LeClaire took a break from her usual escapes to show us some celebrity themed mentalism.

Margarette's guest, Ray Banks performed an amazing card effect, Mind Blocker. Not bad for a rocket scientist.

Tim Parker was up next with a card prediction using his iPhone called Magic Card.

After the open magic, we were treated to a front table by Neal Talley on homemade magic props. Neal shared his secrets of where he finds all the things he uses to make gaffed card decks, Zombie balls/gimmicks, and more. The local dollar stores are the main source of his inexpensive props.



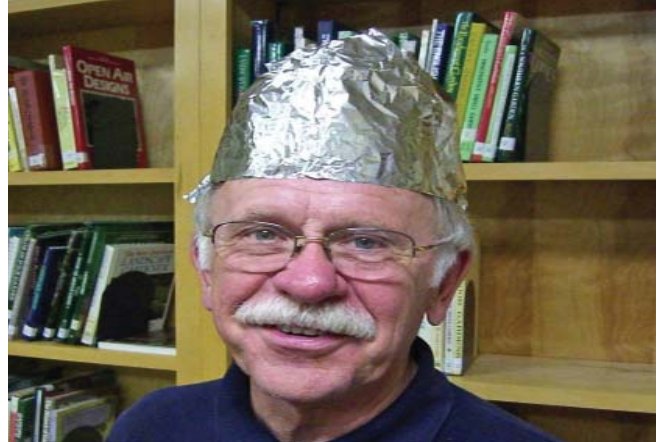
Wayne Houchin Lecture

Tuesday, August 3rd
7:00 PM

Dan Fleshman Lecture

Tuesday, October 5th
7:00 PM

June Meeting Photos - Grayson Smith



TJAM on the Road 2010

John Sorrell

Last month, I included an article with a photo of Mike Blumenthal and his award-winning Giant Whale balloon sculpture/art that won the “Through the Door” contest when T Myers Traveling Balloon Jam was in Memphis.

Mike also went to St. Louis earlier this month and decided to enter the “Through the Door” contest at the St. Louis Jam. Again, Mike was victorious and is shown here with his newest creation.

According to Mike, it only took 11 hours to construct.

