



Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
February 2018 www.ring16.org



A Few Words from the President

Jeff Day - President

MAGIC .. How Much Do You Know?

I love the history of our profession. Here are a few questions with which you can challenge yourself. ((See if you can try it without the help of Google))

1. What was the original name of Abbott's Magic company?
2. Besides a deck, what other thing would "The Professor" cut?
3. Who was Lefty's best friend?
4. Two of the oldest known tricks?
5. Inventor of the Brain Wave Deck?
6. The name of the vessel that first brought Houdini to America?
7. What famous mentalist had his own TV series in the 1970's?
8. What is the oldest American magic shop (est.1895)? (extra points if you can name the city)
9. What stage name does David Kotkin have?
10. What famous female magician performed in nightclubs in the 30's, 40's, & 50's?

I'm just curious how many you got right.

Knowing a trick is one thing. But do you know where it came from? Most tricks weren't created yesterday, as some folks might believe. A lot of methods have their roots in something that was created decades, even centuries ago. When I talk to other magicians about a trick, and the conversation

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday - Vice-President

Hope all is well. Our first meeting this year got us off to a great start. We have some great lectures on the way, including the highly sought after Christian and Katalina. I have been corresponding a lot with Christian, and they are looking forward to joining us in April. I did see and talk to Alan Underwood; he is looking good, and making progress. He also sends his best to everyone. Looking forward to seeing you next week for our February meeting.

♣♥♦♦

Ring 16 February Meeting

Tuesday February 6th - 7pm
Memphis Botanic Garden
Valentine Magic & Mentalism

Upcoming Lectures

Gregory Wilson - Postponed
Chris Rawlins - Friday, March 23rd
Christian & Katalina - Tuesday, April 10th

Winter Carnival of Magic

March 8 - 10 - Pigeon Forge, TN
www.wintercarnivalofmagic.com

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turns toward the origin of the trick, I am not entirely surprised that they aren't aware of the obscurity of the origin. For example, the stage illusion "Sawing a woman in Half", has a complex history of which most accounts are not necessarily true. Some accounts extend as far back as ancient Egypt. The magician Torrini (which may or may not be a real magician) appeared in Robert-Houdin's Memoirs (1858). Jim Steinmeyer concluded that this may have been a tool to explore the idea of that effect. It has been generally accepted that the first public performance of the "Sawing a Woman In Half" illusion was achieved by British magician P.T. Selbit in 1921 at the Finsbury Park Empire Theatre in London. He actually first performed it in 1920 for a group of promoters and theater agents to try to persuade one of them to book his new act for public shows.

The coin trick "Matrix" was made popular by Max Malini in the early 20th century using cut-down wine corks. The original name was "Chink-a-Chink", and it originally used sugar cubes and appeared in Edwin Sach's book "Sleight of Hand" (1877). Hank Yoe is said to have performed it around the turn of the 20th century, and introduced the name Sympathetic Coins. The point of all this, is that what you may think is a "new" effect, probably isn't. Even pulling a chosen playing card out of the screen of an iPhone 10 is nothing "new", not really. But, it does appeal to the younger set.

I suggest challenging yourself and go find an old magic book, magic magazine, etc. and use your imagination to update/modernize an old trick from the past, to something that might look familiar to today's audience. I don't really see anything incredibly wrong in changing the way a trick looks, but I love knowing that that same new trick is actually perhaps 150 years old. I can't tell you how often I've been asked by another magician, "Is that David Blaine's new effect ... and can I buy that on Penguin? "

Have fun 'creating' YOUR new trick !



January 2nd Business Meeting

John Sorrell

- Holiday party was well attended.
- Lectures:
 - Greg Wilson - Friday, February 2
 - Chris Rawlins - Friday, March 23
 - Christian & Katalina - Tuesday, April 10
- 2018 Ring Dues are due - \$15. Pay Larry DuFrene
- Martin Seiler gave a report of our finances.
- Grayson Smith shared a few RSVP magazine articles featuring Jeff Day in Haunted Happenings and Grayson Smith in Vine to Wine.
- Doug Green was featured in an article in Promise magazine about his work with St. Jude.
- Jeff Day also performed in December for Yuletide Masquerade at the Fontaine House.
- Discussion about a potential Ring 16 public show in the future.
- Dick Williams, former star of TV's MagicLand shows up monthly in the Linking Ring magazine list of Sick and Convalescent members.
- Another member who is recovering from health issues is Alan Underwood. Grayson has been visiting him and said he enjoys visitors but to call before showing up.
- Jeff Day will be performing a few times in February, one for a private event as the prize in a silent auction, the other on February 15th at 6pm for the Germantown Library.
- Jeff informed us of the Memphis Magic Club Ring 16 group on Facebook.
- Larry DuFrene had photo albums to share featuring 3 years of photos of Ring 16 he has taken.
- Larry also shared info about T-Shirts that he and Annette had produced and was distributing to fully paid members of Ring 16. They had them at the holiday party and may still have your size available. Contact Larry if your dues are paid and see if he has any left.
- Doug Green discussed a new book, Scripting Magic Volume 2, by Pete McKay. He said it's a great book on routining.
- Mario the Magician is performing at Germantown Performing Arts Center, Saturday, March 24.
- Bill Canaday mentioned Reel magazine.



January Open Magic Photos

Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene

