



Society of Memphis Magicians

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16

April 2019

www.ring16magic.com



A Few Words from the President

Jeffrey Day - President

The First American-Born Magician was ...

What is the common thread that unites these people? Can you guess?

- Charles Greene (1961 -)
- Henry "Box" Brown (1815-1897)
- Willian Carl (1890-??)
- Arsenio Hall (1956 -)
- Ellen E. Armstrong (1914-1979)
- Benjamin Rucker (1892-1934)
- Chandu Hunter (1920-1993)
- Richard Potter (1783-1835)
- David Blaine (1973 -)

They are all magicians of color. There are many other magicians that I could have mentioned, but these are some that became famous for one reason or another. Arsenio Hall became a rather accomplished magician, and more well-known as a late-night talk show host. Charles Greene is a popular sleight-of-hand performer on the trade show circuit. David Blaine, well ... do I need to say anything at all about this fantastic performer. Blaine not only could dazzle spectators by his crafty card magic, but his Houdini-like stunts have kept us all holding our breath. Ellen E. Armstrong was the daughter of Professor J. Hartford Armstrong. Prof. Armstrong toured his family as "The Celebrated Armstrongs". After Ellen's father died due to heart failure, she took over the act as "The Mistress of Magic" and performed chalk talk cartooning, the Puzzling Parasol, and Miser's Dream. She was the only black female magician performing in the United States in the mid-twentieth century.

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday—Vice President

Fellow Ring 16 Members: Looking forward to seeing you next week at our April Meeting. A lot has happened in the world of Magic and Mentalism. Denny Hainey of Denny and Lee's passed away, as did Steve Dusheck, and Johnny Thompson. One of my favorites and inspirations died, as well this month, The One and Only Marshall Brodien. I will have more to say about him and his influence on myself and so many others at a later time. Denny, Steve, and Johnny were truly very well respected in Magic, and Mentalism. I did not have the Honor of meeting any of these gentlemen, however, I did correspond with Steve Dusheck, and he was very nice to me. As for Johnny, one of my earlier purchases after returning to Magic, and mainly Mentalism, was His Great Tomsoni VHS/DVD. I learned a lot from this, and really, like so many others, liked his work and style. He had a casualness that made everything look so easy, and at the same time, brilliant. These gentlemen will be missed, and no doubt that their work will go on and be remembered. On another note, it was good to go on social media, on this past Sunday, March 24, and see how many people recognized Erich Weiss' Birthday; better known as Harry Houdini. I remember when it was not noticed as much, and now, it was all over social media, etc. This shows how people really remember the Greats that came before us in our Art. See you soon!

Bill Canaday. ♦♣♥♠

RING 16 APRIL MEETING

Tuesday April 2nd - 7pm

Memphis Botanic Garden

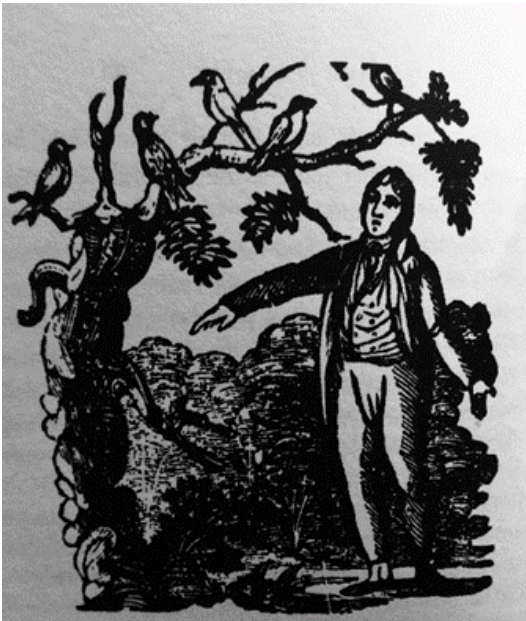
April Fools Magic & Mentalism

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These are only a few black magicians that have a rich history of entertainment in American. However, out of the list of magicians shown, the one that is most fascinating to me is Richard Potter. He was “America’s First Negro Magician” and may be the first American-born magician of any race. To date, no records of any earlier white American-born magicians have been discovered.

Richard Potter was born the same year the American Revolution ended, 1783. John Rannie, from Scotland, taught Potter a good bit about magic and ventriloquism while working as Rannie’s assistant. Potter later took off on his own career as a magician and became quite successful. He was given the title of “Black Richard”. This was not meant as a degrading moniker. Rather, it was one of respect that he achieved among his community. One of his most popular and baffling tricks was called, “The Enchanted Egg”. The description reads as follows:

“He placed an egg on top of a hat and made it jump to the top of another hat. He then made it jump inside one hat after the other. After that, the egg appeared on his shoulder. It rolled up and down his arms and body. Then, it suddenly disappeared.”



ABOVE: The wood carved image is what Potter used as advertisement. Because of the birds in this image, he probably worked early on with trained fowl. The broadside also was used to advertise his show. Take a closer look at what he performed

Richard Potter died September 20, 1835 at age 52. He left behind his wife Sally, who died just a year later, and two children, Jeanette and Richard, Jr. Richard, Jr. went on to perform magic as “Little Potter”, who also sang and danced. His name fell into obscurity after 1840. Considering that barriers that blacks have faced throughout American history, the fact that a black man was probably the first American-born magician is quite amazing. In 1965, the Manchester, New Hampshire chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians officially named their RING, the “Black Richard Ring” in honor of America’s first popular magician. Richard Potter was unique. And except for his son, no one lived to carry on his legacy. Not for a half a century would another black American (Henry “Box” Brown) achieve fame as a magician. Magic has a rich history in our world of entertainment. Many have never heard of some of these names mentioned above. It would do us all good to learn what we can about those magicians who came before us. Those least-named magicians who paved the road for what we do on stage today, are owed our gratitude. ♦♣♥♠

March Business Meeting - Kathy Kalagias, Secretary

The March meeting of Ring 16 was very well attended. Our President Jeffrey Day led the meeting. He announced that we would resume having magic jams every other Monday. We discussed upcoming events such as the Winter Carnival of Magic, The Summit, and the IBM Convention. Jeff announced that Mario the Magician would be lecturing for us on March 27, and then Mario will be performing several shows on March 30 at GPAC. We also reminded members to check out the new website, and submit what you want to have put on the site to our secretary Kathy so she can add it for you. Larry DuFrene, Treasurer, presented his financial report. We discussed upcoming events such as the Winter Carnival of Magic, The Summit, and the IBM Convention. Jeff announced that Mario the Magician would be lecturing for us on March 27, and then Mario will be performing several shows on March 30 at GPAC. We also reminded members to check out the new website, and submit what you want to have put on the site to our secretary Kathy so she can add it for you. Larry DuFrene, Treasurer, presented his financial report. Several of our Ring 16 members will be performing this month! Don Berry will be at FCM in Ohio on March 14, 15, and 16. Michael Clayton is performing a Dinner, Magic, and Variety Show at Sweetpea's Table Restaurant and Events in Olive Branch, MS on March 22, and 23. Magic Brunch at the Railgarten is a popular event at a local hot spot. We have a group of members who perform regularly there. The next one will be held on March 24th. Many of our members will be performing at the Botanic Gardens Annual Easter Egg Hunt next month to say "Thank you" to them for letting us hold our meetings there. Several of our Ring 16 members who were present have received the Order of Merlin. Congratulations to Paul Frankel, John Sorrell, and Rolly Dickerson for your many years of continued support and faithful service! Ring 16 welcomed new member Chad Engelbert after he auditioned with his linking ring routine. Congratulations Chad and Welcome to Ring 16!

The theme of the meeting was Escapes, Card Tricks...and Mentalism.

Jeffrey Day did "My Top 10 Favorite Knots". Martin Seiler showed us "3 Coins and an Envelope." Then Don Berry did "Pagani's Jumbo Card Frame." Next Grayson Smith did a "Genius Test" with Chad Engelbert. Mike Brewer did a version of Paul Harris' "Reset" with guest Richard DeSaussure. Jeff did a card trick "Finding my Better Half" (by Woody Aragon) with guest Chuck Corbett. Carey Nelson, another guest, helped Jeffrey Day with a "Mathematical Experiment" by The McElhones. Paul Frankel did a few card tricks for us, "Marked Cards" and "Rainbow Cards". Guest Chris Wetzel, a psychology professor at Rhodes College discussed several scientists that relate psychology and magic. It was very informative. Jeffrey Day did "Will the Signs Match" by Patrick Page.

Looking forward to more magic at next month's meeting. If you are in the Memphis area the first Tuesday of the month, we would love for you to join us after the business of the meeting is taken care of. We love to have visitors! ♦♣♥♠



MARCH MAGIC PHOTOS

Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene