



Society of Memphis Magicians



International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 16
February 2017 www.ring16.org

Magical Commander in Chief

Jeff Day - President

Hello to everyone in our magic community!

This article was inspired by something that happened to me over 30 years ago. I collect books of all sorts, but mostly magic. From the 1800's I have found books and manuals that deal in a style of magic that is seldom seen today. I am drawn to that style and with a few tweaks here and there, it fits my style of performing. I love performing in a costume befitting "Downton Abbey", and when it's the first glimpse the audience sees when I step out onto the stage, the mood is set from that moment. I try to also fit the "tricks" of my show to the time period that I present. This would be considered my style.

It's fascinating to see how similar modern tricks are to some that are a hundred years old. Just like music, it's hard to come up with an original melody that doesn't sound like something from the past. It happens more often than most people realize. Trying to not imitate another magician's routine is something that is also hard to do sometimes. When you see a really great trick from another magician, you sometimes have one of those, "What Th ... ! Now why didn't I think of that?!", moments. And it is SO tempting to imitate what you just saw. You must resist, or you will hear, "Hey, that's just like that Mind Freak dude!" I wonder how many magicians went out and bought a dark, velvet jacket in the early 80's when they saw one of the first David Copperfield TV specials.

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Notes from the VP

Bill Canaday - Vice-President

Ring 16 Members: We had a great start to 2017; our Initiation for our 2016 newest members. Congratulations to Kathy, Doug, Ian, and Julian.

We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers, Allen Underwood, Rocky Yarbrough, and Dick Williams. We hope 2017 proves to be a great year for them and all of us.

Congratulations to our own Larry Clark, who was not only interviewed for a recent issue of the Memphis Flyer, he also made the cover! Mike Speros summed it up by saying he is a performer who has worked hard, and no doubt, been very giving to us and others, and has represented us well! Congratulations again, Larry! I would also like to recognize Larry Dufrene, who not only along with his wife, is at all of our meetings, Christmas/Holiday parties, etc.; he has put in a lot of time and effort putting together pictures of all of our events, including a very nice photo album, which he is still adding to. He is kind enough to bring this photo album with him at all times, so check it out. You will enjoy, as I have! Looking forward to seeing you next week at our February meeting.

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Ring 16 February Meeting

**Tuesday February 7 - 7pm
Memphis Botanic Garden**

**Theme:
Valentine's Magic with Cards, Coins,
or Mentalism**

Commander in Chief (cont.)

“If you simply want to be a jack-of-all-trades, using your skill and knowledge to entertain your friends and colleagues, you cannot be categorized in any way, you are just a general magician. Some magicians present a mixed bag of tricks and illusions, drawn from many different branches of magic, others specialize in one form – mentalism, say, or close-up magic. When you are selecting a field in which to specialize, you must take care and choose wisely. So often, enthusiastic beginners pick the wrong branches of magic to present, and it ends in disaster.” – Lydia Darbyshire.

Some of you have seen my linking ring routine and have made some very complimentary comments about it. Thank you! I would love to take credit for it, but it is actually a conglomeration of several routines from a few magicians I’ve seen throughout my magical growth. In 1984 I saw a suave magician on The Tonight Show. He was a regular performer at The Magic Castle named Jonathan Neal Brown. He was a huge influence on my ring routine as well as Doug Henning and Channing Pollock. I worked very hard to get a routine that flowed from one link/unlink to another, and for it to be no more than 3.5 minutes long. I still practice this routine just about every day, and even in my sleep. The “linking rings” is a trick that a lot of magicians don’t do because they believe that everyone knows how it works. I merely overlook that aspect of an audience’s perception and DARE them to see if they can catch me with only two rings instead of eight. “Surely it can’t be that hard, can it?”, I say.

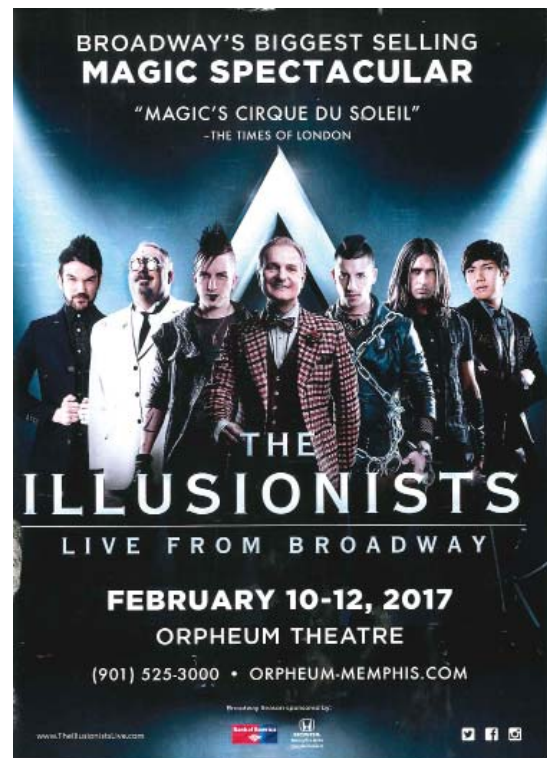
To make a trick your own, along with your style, is something all magicians should strive for. Originality of that particular trick should fit your style and not someone else’s. Lance Burton, Eugene Burger, Criss Angel, Penn Jillette ... they all have styles different, but for each of them, they have found an audience. Finding your own style that fits your true personality can be a difficult journey. However, when you do find it, you will surely know it. Be original, and the opportunities will be endless, and all doors will be open to you.



January Business Meeting

Bill Canaday

- * First 2017 Jam Session - January 16th
- * Initiations for Kathy Kalagias, Doug, Ian Munk and Julian Velasco
- * Lecture proposals discussed. Sending out for email vote
- * Jeff welcomed guests
- * Martin Seiler will collect dues at our February meeting



January Open Magic

Photos by Grayson Smith & Larry DuFrene

