

February 2008



IBM RING 55 * DANNY DEW / BERT EASLEY RING

The Lota

Promoting fellowship and the advancement of magic
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February 2008

RING 55 PRESENTS JOSHUA JAY!



Joshua has become widely recognized as one of the world's most promising magicians. He has lectured and performed in over forty countries and at every major magic convention (including the 2003 FISM). He is very well known to the magic community, because for the last seven years he has been the monthly trick columnist for MAGIC magazine. In magic competitions Joshua is a first-place winner at the World Magic Seminar, Society of American Magicians, and numerous others. He has presented his acclaimed lecture for groups of magicians for the last seven years. He now has an all-new lecture with never-before-seen material.

The lecture will teach effects using borrowed bills, a remote control, pocket change, cards, coins, and other objects. There will be close-up magic, stand-up magic, and even a mentalism effect. Several items will be work-shopped during the lecture, and everyone will be encouraged to fold bills or learn card sleights along with Joshua. The majority of items will be within the range of the beginner. Joshua is also very happy to take questions regarding any topics or tricks discussed in the lecture, his books, or his monthly column. Even if you have seen or read Joshua Jay's published material before, you've never seen a majority of his brand new effects.

Tuesday, February 12th at the Best Western Airport Inn, located at 2425 S. 24th Street (just south of the Sky Harbor airport). Social hour at 6:00, and the lecture promptly at 7:00 p.m. This event is FREE to paid-up Ring 55 members, and guest will be charged \$20.00. The Rodehouse Restaurant has GREAT food, so come straight from work and "magish" with your fellow wizards!

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KJ'S CORNER



What a wonderful turnout we had for Barry Schor's lecture in January! We have two more excellent lectures scheduled for you also – Joshua Jay on Tuesday, February 12th (please note the different date!) followed in March by our very own Kenton Knepper! Where else could you get so much for your annual dues?

All of us wish Al Garvey a wonderful 85th birthday (January 22nd)! Many happy, magical returns, ALGAR!

It won't be long until we have some changes of leadership at Ring 55, and we are looking for people that would have a commitment to keeping Ring 55 a viable and meaningful magic club. If you wish to be considered for the advisory Steering Team, or for an elected office, please let us know ASAP!

The Lota

The monthly publication of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 55

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WHATSIT?

This unique Rube Goldberg contraption was in fact created by Magician **Bob Ostin** several years ago. He dubbed it simply THE THOUGHT TRANSMITTER.



EFFECT: A spectator is given an ordinary deck of cards to shuffle and then places the deck onto the table. Another spectator is asked to cut the deck in half. **The card cut to is looked at by these two spectators only.**

THE THOUGHT TRANSMITTER is introduced and taken apart to show a wind-up mechanism inside. Magician winds-up the "secret power source" and reassembles the device. The spectators who looked at the card are asked to join hands and one of them given the apparatus. The Magician instructs him to aim the top of THE THOUGHT TRANSMITTER towards any one of the other audience members (who did NOT see the selected card) and push the button to send the image of their thought of selected card through time and space. A startling loud noise is emitted from the device.

To the surprise of both participants, the randomly selected audience member is now able to immediately name their selected card!

If YOU know the name of the Magic company that sold/manufactured this trick, just be the first member to call Larry Wilfong at (480) 246-1296 or email Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com before the next meeting and you will win a **FREE Ten Dollar Gift Certificate** from the American Wizard Online Magic Shop.

Craig Brooks knew the answer to last month's WHATSIT? = **SWAN STRENGTH TESTER**

OUR LAST MEETING ...



January found a virtual “who’s who” of Phoenix-area magicians turning out to hear Barry Schor (Presto Magic Studio) present a ton of hints and advice on how to improve your act, based on his many years behind a magic counter. Over forty-nine wizards, including guests Peter Petrashek (Omaha) and Allan Hayden (Hollywood) and new member Ronald Bromund (Gold Canyon) caused our meeting room to fill to overflowing.

After our “social hour”, and prior to the lecture, Peter Petrashek was nice enough to demonstrate his original “Pete’s Purse” with able assistance from President “KJ” Phelps. Barry started out by describing the equipment he brought with him to do the lecture, which is basically the same stuff he takes along to do a private show. The equipment included a suitcase table, two side tables, a draped backdrop and a portable sound system. Inside the suitcase table he carries a “ready box” which contains masking tape, needle & thread, scissors, a sharpie pen, a deck of unopened cards, a glue stick, several spare batteries and aspirin. These items have literally “saved the day” for Barry on many occasions, since “Murphy” was an optimist! (Although this was NOT a “dealer night”, Barry DID let it be known that his “brick & mortar” magic shop could supply all of our needs).



Barry followed this with MANY subtle tidbits to those that were attentive, such as the welcome mat (which catches possible drips from staining your host’s carpeting), which had a “trapdoor” painted on the other side. He suggested a mix of water and Pinesol to replace actual milk or “OOM” for your milk pitcher. He also passed on tips about Karrell Fox’s “Professor’s Nightmare” as well as his “Balancing a Card on the Back of Your Hand”.

At the break, we held our raffle, which found guest Allan Hayden winning a magic trick (Mitchel’s Mind-reading Pets) donated by Barry, and new member Ron Bromund winning the “split-the-pot” big bucks! Who said anything about beginner’s luck? Aren’t we polite hosts to let them win?

Barry then explained the Rick Johnson “Too Perfect” theory, and gave us several examples of how you might lead the “muggles” down a wrong path. He made us turn green with envy as he displayed an original Danny Dew Egg Bag, and showed us how Danny had taught him to keep the edges straight. Also given were suggestions on the Cigarette Through Quarter (on top of a bottle held by spectator), Brainwave Deck (card clip), and a do-it-yourself Match to Rose.



Barry closed his very interesting evening by explaining his “May I please have a glass of Water?” barometer with a private show host, a Rabbit out of a Hat routine at a sport’s bar (“Well, the rabbit WAS there few minutes ago”) and finished up with his teachings on the proper use of the almighty Thumb Tip. Our thanks to Barry for generously sharing his storehouse of knowledge!

“New” CLASSICS

Last month we explored the premise that there is a never-ending source of excellent “new” material just waiting to be re-discovered in the literature and the commercially available effects from the not-to-distant Magical past. This month we’re going to look at contemporary examples of apparatus that was created a long time ago, but has been *improved* in no small measure by today’s craftsmen.



Mel Babcock’s FLYING DIE This superb apparatus is a combination of a vanishing/ changing block in a box method that has been around longer than woofle dust AND an updated interpretation of Okito’s **Alphabet Block**. This particular set is made of beautiful padauck wood with curly oak inlays.

EFFECT: A 3 inch die, placed into a small box, invisibly travels to an empty top hat. It momentarily appears in an open-topped larger box before vanishing again and finally arriving in the hat. At the conclusion, when the original box is opened to show the die is gone, a ball or other object(s) is found in its place!

Craig Brook’s (Atlantis Magic) 21st Century Rattle Box Just about every Magician worthy of a thumb tip has used a rattle box at one time or another. It’s a GREAT vanish for a coin or ring. The problem with all the other rattle boxes available today, and there are some beautiful ones, is the SIZE and SHAPE of the box in relation to the object being vanished is too out of proportion. In addition, even the “good ones” are a bit risky to leave in the hands of a spectator too long for fear he/she will stumble across the rattle release.

Our own club member, Craig (Atlantismagic@cox.net), has developed a unique rattle release mechanism that is totally different from the older models AND he has reduced the length, width and thickness of the box. The zebra wood used for the lid and inner bottom seem to contribute in a subliminal way to the logic of the handling. The new almost square shape of the box seems to make more sense when handling a quarter, half dollar or dollar.



Collectors Workshop’s ZODIAC and **Mikame’s HEART OF GOLD** are practical evolutions of Al Koran’s “The Gold Medallion” described in the book Professional Presentations edited by Hugh Miller.

EFFECT: In **ZODIAC** the performer has an attractive silver dollar size brass box sitting on a table during his entire performance. After successfully concluding a mentalis experiment (perhaps more than one) with a particular audience member, the performer asks her astrological sign. The astonished performer exclaims that explains why they have been so successful in sharing thoughts. He proceeds to tell her the month of his birthday and invites her to look at the heavy bronze zodiac medallion in the brass box. *To her surprise, she discovers a beautiful gemstone embedded next to her sign on one side of the medallion. Turning the medallion over another gemstone is found to be embedded at the performer’s sign.* Merely a coincidence or...?



Heart of Gold was developed by Eric Lewis, father of Martin Lewis. It is said that Martin Lewis in early 1990 sold the original apparatus under the name “Savoy” at \$200.00 per set.

The production was limited to 50 sets. **The biggest feature of this improvement upon Koran’s original handling is the mechanism enables a virtually visible (invisible?) switching of the locket.**

The general effect is a randomly selected set of numbers, special date etc. is proven to have been predicted ahead of time by the performer when the sealed locket is opened and the prediction read by an audience member. This is one where you’ll secretly smile to yourself every time you perform it because the mechanics are so clever. ☺

We’re working on a special *surprise* for next month’s KOLLECTOR’S KORNER...’See YOU at the meeting!

Comments or suggestions for future columns? Contact Larry Wilfong at (480) 246-1296 or Bestmortgagesolutions@yahoo.com

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