

# Ring Report Ring #170 - SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION #2

“The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99

## **SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION**

**-Orlando and nation on lockdown- No meetings until future notice**

### **Public Health Updates:**

#### **National Statistics**

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

[https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR112F3EDbdVv0smewDE3eoALh\\_oBgUIO8e6Yi01z-bMmVduWoNAuR1kGAil](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR112F3EDbdVv0smewDE3eoALh_oBgUIO8e6Yi01z-bMmVduWoNAuR1kGAil)

Florida Dept. of Health and Florida Statistics

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/96dd742462124fa0b38ddedb9b25e429>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

The CDC’s website offers information about Coronavirus cases in the United States and efforts to prevent the spread of the disease, including:

- An up-to-date overview of Coronavirus cases in the United States (HERE )
- Symptoms of the Coronavirus (HERE )
- What to do when you’re sick (HERE )
- How to know if you’re at higher risk of getting very sick from the Coronavirus (HERE )
- Steps to prevent illness (HERE )
- Other frequently asked questions (HERE )

The CDC Coronavirus Call Center is available 24/7 at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) for urgent issues related to Coronavirus.

Florida Department of Health (FDOH):

Please visit the Florida Department of Health's website for Florida-specific information relating to the Coronavirus, including:

- A current overview of cases in Florida ([HERE](#) )
- How to find your county health department ([HERE](#) )
- Other frequently asked questions ([HERE](#) )

FLDOH has also activated a Coronavirus Call Center available 24/7 by phone at 1 (866) 779-6121 via email at [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov) .

U.S. Department of State:

- For up-to-date travel advisories, visit the U.S. Department of State's website [HERE](#) .

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

- U.S. Military veterans who believe they may have contracted the Coronavirus may contact the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' VISN 8 Clinical 24/7 Contact Center by phone at 1(877)741-3400. See more [HERE](#) .

Florida Attorney General's Office:

- Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody has activated Florida's Price Gouging Hotline for Floridians to report price gouging and Coronavirus-related scams, available by phone at 866-9NO-SCAM or by visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com) .

World Health Organization:

- For information and guidance from the WHO regarding the Coronavirus, visit their website [HERE](#) .

National Institutes of Health:

For information on the Coronavirus from the NIH, visit their website [HERE](#) .



Dennis Deliberations

Ring # 170, Assembly #99

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

“These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country;

but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

-The Crisis Thomas Paine December 23, 1776-



Greetings, my Compeers,

By this time, most of you are probably aware that due to the Covid-19 virus, the North American Champions of Magic event in Quebec has been indefinitely postponed. As a consequence, the S.A.M. will be unable to hold our originally scheduled annual meeting in Quebec on May 7th.

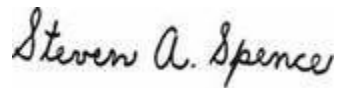
In view of the fact that our Constitution requires us to hold an annual National Council meeting between May 1 and September 1, the leadership of S.A.M. has decided that our best course of action is to postpone the National Council meeting. Although all of the details are still being worked out, we are currently looking at holding our official meeting (along with some other special events) on August 15, 2020 in Poughkeepsie, New York

hosted by S.A.M. Assembly 35. Because of the unexpected and stringent measures that have been put into place due to the extremely serious health hazard facing us all, we are working on putting into place the technology which will allow us to make available the National Council meeting by electronic means to those National Council members who are unable to join us in person at our annual meeting.

As more precise details are worked out, we will send out further information but, in the meantime, mark the date on your calendar.

I know that it is a difficult time for all of us and that it is especially difficult for those among our membership who are either full or part-time professionals who rely upon their magic-generated income to make ends meet. May you all stay safe and healthy in the days ahead. I would remind each of you that if you or anyone that you know in the magic community becomes infected and faces economic hardship as a result, you should consider reaching out to our Houdini Fund for financial assistance in paying related medical expenses. Contact George Schindler, [Showbiz10@aol.com](mailto:Showbiz10@aol.com), one of its trustees for further information.

M-U-M

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven A. Spence".

Steven A. Spence

National President

Society of American Magicians

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# Hollywood Landmark Magic Castle Lays Off 189 Employees After Coronavirus Closures (EXCLUSIVE)

By MATT DONNELLY



CREDIT: PETER BROOKER/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Los Angeles landmark Magic Castle has laid off almost all of its staff, as the spread of coronavirus affects businesses nationwide, *Variety* has learned.

The members-only club pink slipped 189 employees on Saturday, insiders said, and will operate on a skeletal staff of nine to maintain the historic Hollywood clubhouse, which sits just



Rep. Schiff represents California, which has a big show business employment population. This legislation is certain to become a bipartisan effort.

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Got A Tip?

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# Rep. Adam Schiff Leading Efforts In Congress To Extend Relief To Entertainment Industry's Suddenly Unemployed

By David Robb   
March 19, 2020 12:11pm

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COMMENTS

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J. Scott Applewhite/AP/Shutterstock


California Rep. Adam Schiff, who is leading efforts in Congress to secure relief benefits for freelance and contract workers in the entertainment industry who have lost work because of coronavirus shutdown, has joined three dozen other Democratic legislators in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy urging them to champion relief programs for the industry's suddenly unemployed.

As first reported on Deadline earlier this week, [LATSE](#) says the shutdown has cost its 150,000 members some 120,000 industry-related jobs so far. Schiff also talked about his relief efforts today in a podcast with SAG-AFTRA president Gabrielle Carteris and national executive director David White.


### Hot TV Topics

**TV Series/Pilot Shutdowns**  
List of small-screen productions that have been halted

**Feature Film Shutdowns**  
List of movies that have halted or delayed production

**Industry Cancellations & Postponements**  
List of impacted events from festivals and cinemas to sports and...

### Trending on Deadline

1 / Los Angeles County Sees Biggest Single-Day Jump In Coronavirus Cases 

2 / Andy Cohen Says He's Tested Positive For 

## [Congress offering relief to the Entertainment Industry](#)

Now that we are all home and in social distancing and using electronics to break the isolation: I heard a tech expert say that well over 90 percent of all iPhone owners regularly use less than 10% of its actual capabilities. I long had a suspicion that these phones were way overbuilt, and not taking advantage of its hundreds (or is it thousands) of apps made me feel just a tad guilty. ...But not anymore.

Which reminds me [hah!], the top card magicians have skills that are way, way beyond what is sensible for entertaining today's audiences. Why the heck does any magician need a flawless faro, ten varieties of advanced false shuffles, perfect second-deals, and on and on, to impress the 99.999% of today's audiences, who themselves can barely even shuffle a deck of cards anymore? One Svengali deck and the ability to ENTERTAIN is all you need...I still do the Insurance Policy Trick and use the Hindu Shuffle Force. Why not. Reminds me of the old story of Harry Blackstone Sr. He was in his dressing room after a show and a couple of magicians were visiting and one happened to pick up the deck of cards that Harry has just used in his stage act. The guy look at it and it was a one-way deck. Yes, the premier magician of the country was using a one-way deck to force a card. Harry, knew what the magician was doing and looked over and said, " Well, why not?"

A true professional magician whose livelihood depends strictly on the public, thinks only about the easiest methods to entertain. The so-called "purist" thinks a one-way deck is cheating. The pro and the lifetime disease-smitten magic fanatic are worlds apart. Just get in the "back room" with the working pros at any convention and you'll encounter the "us verses the dweebs" atmosphere.

The pro actually lives by the mantra, "Why run when they're not chasing you"; and they understand the natural "assumptive nature" of the human psyche: nobody at Blackstone's show has any reason whatsoever to assume he's using a one-way deck. Playing cards are too ordinary an item to be thought of as being gimmicked. Just as a chair-is-a-chair-is-a-chair, a false bottom in the seat of it would never be in anyone's mindset.

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NOW....Magic from the Good Times which will historically now be known as "BC" ( Before Corona Virus)

I used to do a magic 🎩 trick called the Chinese Firecracker in my school magic show.

Basically, you light a real fuse 🔥 that's attached to a fake stick of dynamite 🧨 and you hand it to a 😬 kid. The air fills with burnt sulfur smoke.

After pretending the dynamite is going to explode 💣 you discover the firecracker 🧨 hanging on the child's back (which employed a razor sharp pin).

This was way back in the 1980's when these kinds of things were more socially acceptable. 😂😂

I used to pull out a large (it looked real) rubber butcher knife, when doing cutting a rope with a volunteer and say, "Here ,let me use my East Baltimore Credit Card! You accept it? ". (line stolen from Paul Daniels)

I even had to cut out the drunk jokes:

When doing Dove in Balloon, I started blowing up the balloon and said, "You have such great cops in this town. I was on my way to the show and one of your finest pulled me over and said to me , "Sir, blow up my balloon" I did and then I asked him if he wanted me to twist it into a doggy. He let a little air out and said, "You're not drunk, Sir, you are just crazy".

I would put the balloon in the prop and pop it and a dove would appear to applause. I would say, "If you think that was something, I have a couple of swallows in a bottle in the car!" (those lines from C. Shaw Smith)

I used to use the old "pulling the head off the dove" which is a move where your thumb tucks the dove's head under its wing and you pull off a marshmallow and pop it in your mouth! Former cruise ship entertainer and now Orlando magician, Dan Stapleton did it, as a gag, on "American's Got talent". It is more likely to get groans today that laughter when they realize that it is a joke. That is what PETA did to humor.

I no longer feel comfortable standing behind a kid and doing "The Instant Magician" or playing old sight gags like pinching his belt and shaking it (which causes his pants to shake) and saying, "Don't shake! Don't get nervous. It's going to be okay!" That used to get a big laugh as did flipping up his hand at the elbow and continuously shaking his hand and repeating several times, "Yes, glad to meet you. You sure are friendly". (I lifted that gag from Bobo's school show)

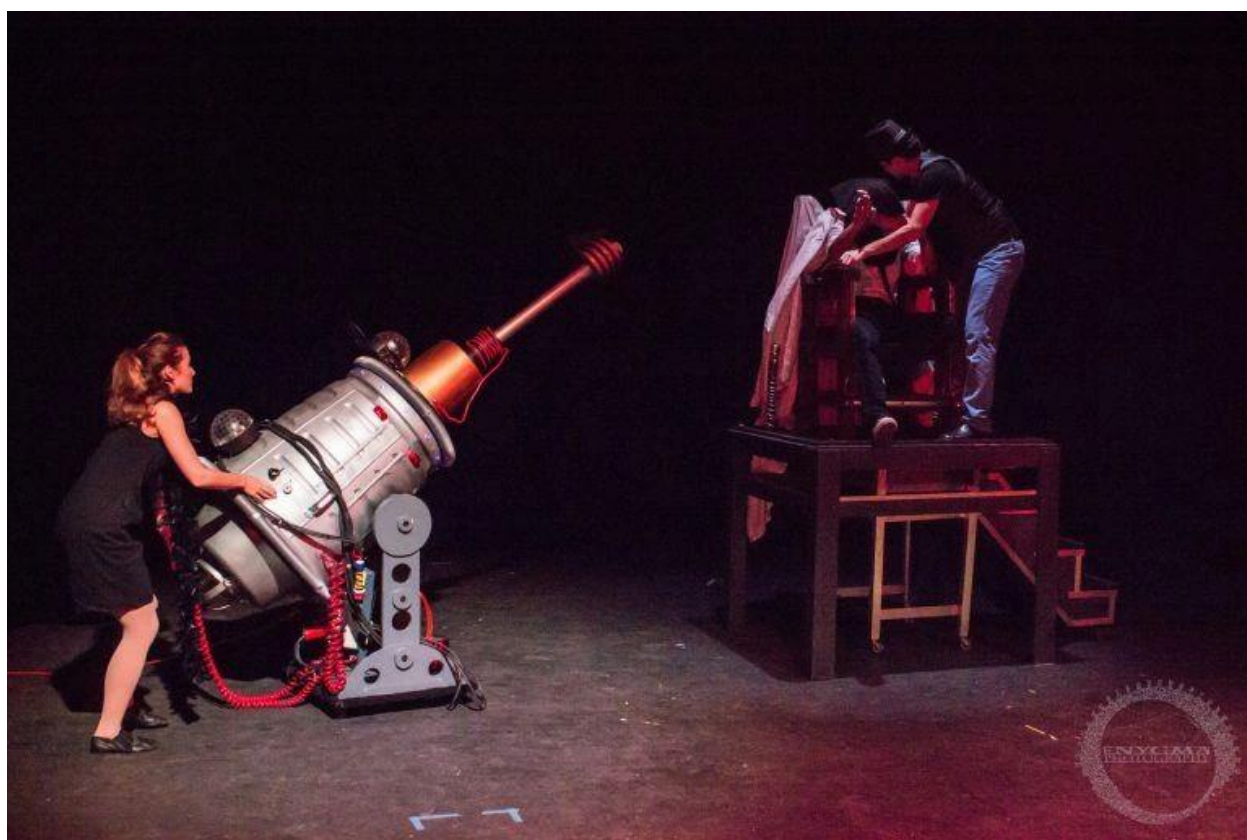


We live in a new world of social correctness and a lot less friendly humor.

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This is actually a platform Dekolta Chair Vanish and surprise reappearance. This was renovated and decorated on my back patio in Orlando in 2015.

Pete Rahman, my retired broadcast-engineering friend, and I worked on this month-long project.



<https://www.magiciansagency.com/gallery/>

Parts of it were originally made in England but needed a massive rebuild. I designed a spring loaded head gimmick that will flip in the back of the chair by

simply wafting the covering sheet. It appears amazing to stand at the base and waft the sheet and you see the form of the person and it almost has an Asrah-type look of fading into thin air.

The “Canon” is actually made from a large plastic trash barrel with lots of other plastic buckets and tubs and PVC pipe and painted plywood. The canon has chaser lights and strobes on it.

Scott’s San Antonio theater is shut down and he is hanging in there with hope as we all have. All his cruise ship bookings have been cancelled.

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I was out getting a supply of dog food and found that they make these vinyl “squeaky” dog toys. T



They come in different colors and labels I looked at them and they could be a fairly practical

substitute for a Nielsen bottle or the bottles in Scott Alexander's smashing effect he calls "Shattered". All you need to do is cut out the squeaker in the bottom. The bottle can be easily cut with sharp scissors.



Obviously you start out with a real bottle and carefully break it but withdraw the vinyl bottle from the bag. This is a fail safe method of the classic "Smash-Stab type routines.

My rabbit and 4 doves are doing well. Their specific disease families are different than ours.

Here is my assistant “Thurston” ( Florida White breed)

I once was in a Middle School class and explaining that rabbit pellets were made from compressed green leaves just like our salad and spinach.

I had an 8th grade cubby kid ,in physical science class, ask me “ Mr. Phillips, how can a bunny eat yucky green stuff and get fat but my mommy makes me eat salad and green stuff to make me to lose weight?”



I said, “Bunnies’ tummies works different than yours”. He never asked me to explain more, thank goodness. Kids ask questions that seem logical like , “How can a cow eat green grass and give white milk?”

It occurred to me that Biology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry and Medicine appear puzzling to many people. They require some effort to learn. You are

always rewarded for that effort.

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Stay well...

Dennis Phillips