



**Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170,
Assembly #99**

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”



Starring on stage



Dan Sperry



Greg Gleason



Naathan Phan

The Tracy Theater in The Villages



March 21, 2026

Show report by Dennis Phillips

The Tracy Theater is in The Villages (Middleton) and a great venue for live stage shows.

I traveled from Orlando to The Villages with *Dan Stapleton (R) and Martin Preston (L)*. *Gay Blackstone, the show's producer is in the middle, and I am standing behind her.*

She is a major force in today's magic.

<https://www.blackstonemagic.com/gay-blackstone>



The Villages is a sprawling city that was specially designed for retirees and has a theater in each of the many neighborhoods. The Villages host many touring magic shows (Rick Thomas and Lance Burton) and other variety and musical entertainment. This performance was almost a full house. The lowest ticket price was \$53.50.

When you enter the theatre, the tie-in with the TV show is apparent. The Master of Illusion logo is on the projection screen along with some hanging star shapes with color changing LEDs inside. Like

other shows that I have seen in theaters which use projected images on a rear screen, rather than LED panels, the overall look of the full stage is a bit dark, so that the projected image is not overwhelmed. The “in one” sequences performed on the stage apron were lit well with a spotlight.

The show opened with an energetic Naathan Phan bolting out on stage. He talks very fast in a manic rapid-fire stream of words . Sometimes it is a struggle to catch every word! He opened with an extended version of the classic hand turning gag, where he can clasp his fingers together and turns them upright, but when you try it , you fail.

He introduced Greg Gleason who did a levitation with his reclining assistant. She then sat upright on the bedtable, and was covered with a cloth, and floated high up in a seated position and the cloth was pulled off and she vanished in midair. It got a gasp from the audience,

Dan Sperry was introduced with his bizarre goth act, with doves, that ended with a cockatoo flying out over the audience and back to him. The audience of senior citizens loved it.



Nathan Phan returned to do a mindreading effect where he was able to reveal the name of the photo of a show business star which was secretly selected, from a stack of random photos of stars, by a volunteer. He did a series of quite talented vocal speaking and singing impressions of other stars! Phan was the standout versatile showman in the show. He was the unifying force in the show.

Greg Gleason then did Daniel Summers "The Cutting Edge" illusion. His assistant was split in two.



The scene shifted to a remote camera in the audience and Dan Sperry was sitting in the audience next to a surprised woman. He ate a peppermint Lifesaver and laid a length of dental floss against his neck, and he swallowed the candy and the floss melted into his neck and he pulled it back through the flesh and the Lifesaver was threaded on the floss.



Phan was back again with a repeated single card vanish and then card fan productions done while he was singing! He was using a

stool (Losander model) to hold the box where he dumped the cards. The box was removed and a small toy house was tied to a helium balloon. The stool, house and balloon floated around the stage.



Greg Gleason returned and sat at a table for some card close-up magic and the camera projected his hands on the wide screen. After shuffling a deck of cards with colorful backs he said that he would use the cards as a paintbrush and “paint” with them. He spread the backs in rows, and they formed a painting of John Lennon as the music played to of Lennon’s song “Imagine”. He followed up with a painting of Marilyn Monroe and then Elvis. He then invited 20 people on stage and brought the table to the center and had four people stand around the table with their palms on it and the other 16 watching. The table mysteriously floated up under their hands. The table was carefully examined and the baffled volunteers returned to their seats.

It was Dan Sperry's turn again and he opened with a flaming fire wallet and then made a the salt in a tall shaker vanish in his hand and reappear in his other empty fist and then massive amounts of salt poured from each hand.

Naathan Phan's next effect is known to magicians as The Snowstorm in China. Phan sang a very good impression of Sammy David Jr's "I Gotta Be Me" while he tore white tissue paper and soaked it in a cup of water and then opened a hand fan and waved it under his fist ,with the wad of paper, and tiny dry bits of white confetti fluttered up into a pretty snowstorm cloud.

Gleason was back with the classic (Steinmeyer) Origami illusion. The woman goes into the box, and it is folded into a tiny cube and 3 swords thrust through it and when unfolded the woman returns.



Dan Sperry found a helper by tossing a doll that he called “Baby Stinky” into the audience. Of course, there was a syringe with water that he squirted out for laughs. He drafted the young woman, who caught Baby Stinky, to help him on stage to play Russian Roulette. He introduced some paper lunch bags and blocks of wood and a beer bottle. He smashed the bottle and put the jagged neck in one of the wood blocks and covered it with a paper lunch bag. He then opened 3 other paper lunch bags, and the idea was to guess which one had the dangerous broken bottle neck! After some tense moments of crushing bags, they managed to not hurt themselves.

Naathan Phan did a Strait Jacket escape and sang while doing it. I was impressed by his singling ability, especially while struggling to escape the jacket. At one point, Phan had his back to the audience and turned around and as the background soundtrack played, he said, “Yes! It is really me singing”. That was shocking because Phan really sounded like a very good professional recording. His singing voice is that good!

The finale was Greg Gleason asking everyone to think of a single digit number and then add a number to it and divide and subtract the original number and everyone arrived at the same number.

The curtains opened and a large box was show empty and when the sides and front were removed, Gleason made a helicopter appear in the box with a girl pilot in it!



Lots of bows and applause and the show concluded.

Dan, Martin, and I were treated to a nice backstage tour by Gay Blackstone, and we talked with the cast.

The show is a “formula” show, much as the TV show it. The TV show is rushed because that is the way modern TV is. The live version does give you more time with the acts to feel like you know them.

The reason they fill auditoriums is due to the visibility of the TV show. No lay audience would come to see any of the individual relatively unknown (but excellent) performers, so they are coming to see a stage version of the TV show.

The audience all had a good time. It was a fun experience.

Dennis Phillips



Dennis Phillips and Sherry.

Photos from 1963 in Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Okay, I was only 15. The “Haunted Parasol” was always a favorite of mine. Sherry was one of my favorites also!
Colorful props and Chinese boxes were a fad at the time**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXP-YIGzhQc>



**This is good Circus type magic. Great choreography,
wardrobe, and energy,**

I saw them in 2000 at The Grand Casino in Biloxi.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n6ITIS6DV0>



Fercos Brothers Various Illusions



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A full show video of the Fercos Brothers. The Fercos have been compared to Seigfried and Roy with both being male duo magic acts from Europe that wo...

**I went to school for
magicians but failed
the final exam.**

**They were all trick
questions.**

Dennis