



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”



The Magic Studio hosts truly world-class talent: Recently appearing was Jon Armstrong—freshly crowned *Stand-Up Magician of the Year* by the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Keep up to date with their schedule. Upcoming:



The Magic Studio

Location: AFRO TV, 7220 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819

I love magic effects based on topology.

You know what these are.



Someone said that “a clean desk and office is the sign of a sick mind”.

My mind must be very healthy!

(I think this photo was by Phil Schwartz)



The Comedy and Magic of Erick Olson

**Old Mill Playhouse Epic Theatre in the heart of Lake Sumpter
Landing, in The Villages**

August 23, 2025

Review by Dennis Phillips



Left to Right: Dan Stapleton, Erick Olsen, Dennis Phillips

The Villages is a bit of a drive from Orlando, but that drive takes you into a wonderland of senior citizens. It is a sprawling development of track houses clustered into village groups, each with a central business and entertainment district.

Dan Stapleton, Orlando based retired cruise ship entertainment director and still working magician, called me at the last minute and asked me to join him on the 45-minute drive.

Golf carts with canvas tops were everywhere. The development planners tried to create an all-encompassing retirement fantasyland for those age 55 and older. They even have their own radio station, WVLG. The overall feeling of visiting at the Villages is a place that has all the good parts of the classic 1960s TV series, The Prisoner. We were allowed to easily leave the isolated town after the visit, but all the while there, I kept looking for Patrick McGoochan.



Erick took the stage, in the raked movie auditorium with 240 in the seats. It was a sellout. The stage was a platform in front of the screen. He used his own Fender Passport Sound System and an Audio Ape controller for maximum control.



Erick on stage with a committee for some mind reading

Erick's performing style is a constant barrage of hilarious clever lines with an energetic delivery. He clearly is having a lot of fun, and his enthusiasm is contagious in a good way. The audience was a lay audience and as Dan Stapleton said, "a lot like a cruise ship audience". They were relaxed and eager to be entertained. Erick was just what they wanted.



He opened with some funny lines like, “I am happy to say, it is my birthday! (bow and pause to a hand), in January”. He borrowed a dollar bill from a spectator and ripped it in pieces and restored it.

He followed with a good presentation of the late David Hoy’s “tossed out deck”, which is always a classic. Again, great crowd teasing lines, “What is your name? You said, Steve? You are not colorblind, are you Steve? Looking at your shirt, I thought so!” He correctly named four cards chosen by 4 spectators from deck rubber-banded together that he tossed around to them.

He followed with a two-rope routine using a short and long rope. They both became the same length and then all one length and then he made a know which he slid off as a solid loop.

Using a male volunteer he went into a Slydini “Paper wads over the head” routine. The spectator was seated and holding a toilet paper roll between the

spectators two fingers making a makeshift and funny paper holder. He has some moves that I had not seen before such as retaining a giant paper wad between his knees. His final line was to tell the volunteer to turn around and see that the trick was “over your head!”.

He has some great sight gags with an airplane vest and seatbelt and oxygen mask and how to scare people on an airplane.

He bought up a woman volunteer for a Copper-Silver effect. Normally you would think that this was a close-up effect but Erick made it a stage effect. The silver coin vanished from her fingers, and a click was heard across stage, and it had vanished from her hand and appeared in an empty glass.

His last effect, of the first half was Woody Aragon’s “Love Ritual”. Each seat has 4 playing cards clipped to the seat frame. All 200 plus spectators removed the cards and tore them in half and retained one of the halves in their pocket. After shuffling the remainder and discarding halves, they are left with just one half-card and he asked everyone whose cards matched to stand up. Every spectator’s remaining half matched the other half card in their pocket. Everyone was on their feet.



All their cards matched

After a 10-minute intermission, it was back to the show. he invited a small boy up to help and had a series of funny lines with a long skinny balloon chosen out of a paper lunch bag. He finally made a puppy dog and while the “dog” was doing tricks and playing dead, Erick stepped on the dog and popped he balloon. All was not lost, the balloon was magically restored to the dog ibn the paper bag.

He followed with a gag of having any named card on the back of a giant card he was holding. Of course, the entire deck of cards was pointed on the giant card., which got a laugh. He got another laugh from a skewer though his tongue, which he showed to be a rubber tongue.

A woman was brought up for the classic Ring Flight. Her ring disappeared from his hand and was found on his keychain case in his back pocket. He said it went to “it was next to the key to his 1974 pink Pinto, parked in front of the theater”.

The remainder of the show was mentalism. He let a spectator shuffle through a pad with the name of 100 famous singers, and he was able to know that the singer was Neil Diamond and the song, “Sweet Caroline”.

He brought up three woman and two men on stage and they wrote the name of their childhood pet and childhood friend. Erick was able to reveal their written thoughts.

He concluded the show by having a mail volunteer enter his birthday in the volunteer’s cellphone and then the erst of the audience added theirs. When all those numbers were added with the cell phone calculator, they added up to the date of the show and 8:04, the time of the end of the show.

Erick is well worth seeing and does an amazing and entertaining show.

Dennis Phillips