

"Ring 170 and SAM 99 "The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring"

April 26, 2022 | Archived Famulus



We have live meetings again.

Be kind and courteous. Masks are suggested if concerned, but not required.

Our April Ring meeting was devoted entirely to a lecture and dealer show by Gustavo Raley, from Argentina. He is very creative and provides clever and timely props and routines.

He opened with a Rubik's Cube appearance. He showed a flat magazine. He opened it and showed a page that advertises the Rubik's Cube. He closed the magazine and, after just a quick second, open it and the drawing of the cube materializes into his hands as a solid cube. He then solved the Rubik's Cube in a very instantaneous visual way.

Other highlights were a dollar bill to egg in an instant. His variation on the classic needle and thread trick was a great improvement. He swallowed a few Fruit Loops and string and they appeared tied on the string.

He had a Lego Superman that appeared on a graphic and a clever "selfie stick" that produced a freely chosen card.

Gustavo is known for his hand shadow act, where you can make shadow characters with your hands. The late Sonny Fontana was also known for the act, which dates to vaudeville. He offers a DVD explaining the techniques.

Other items on his line included his version of Alan Wakeling's Liquid Sands. He had some clever effects using Post It Notes that instantly changed to dollar bills.

His Pizza Magic is a kid's hit. It is great artwork with a patter line of a pizza baker making a pizza with a chosen topping.

His QR Code can be an interactive effect where a spectator takes a photo in their own cell phone's QR ap reader and it seems to read their mind and reveal a randomly chosen celebrity.

Finally, he famous utility device, Super Can. It seems like and ordinary drink can but can change liquids.

Gustavo's presentation was well received.

Dennis Phillips, Secretary



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”



The pain is bad magicians ripping off
good ones, doing magic badly, and
making a mockery of the art.

— *Ricky Jay* —

Back in happier times there was a “Ukraine’s Got Talent” and here is a fine young magician.

Randy Pitchford purchases The Magic Castle



In today's AMA newsletter, Erika Larsen officially announced that Randy Pitchford, Gearbox CEO, Cardini relative, and long-time magic enthusiast, has purchased The Magic Castle in Hollywood. This is sensational news. As you may or may not know, the Academy of Magical Arts only leased their iconic clubhouse from the Glover family, and there was constant fear that one day the family would decide to sell the building and the adjacent land to developers. But that fear is now gone! Here, in part, is what Erika had to share:

Randy Pitchford is a creative visionary, a strategic mastermind and an exceptionally nice guy. His love for magic and the Magic Castle, his business savvy, his generosity and his unbridled enthusiasm are exactly what is needed to revive the spirit of the Magic Castle and keep the place thriving for generations to come.

While the details are still being ironed out, soon an entity will be formed which will own the property, including the Magic Castle Hotel, as well as MCI’s Academy of Magical Arts proprietorship of the Magic Castle trademarks.

This will be the first time in history that the whole, collective real estate, and The Magic Castle will be owned by the same entity! And, since Randy already owns Genii Magazine, it can be reunited as well. So exciting!

https://www.frederic-clement.com/illusions_for_sale.htm

Frederic Clement's original **ILLUSIONS & MAGIC** for sale



*Custom built **ILLUSIONS** or **BUILDING PLANS** &
performing rights*

You are going to love this!

Here is a great drawing duplication.

The spectator draws any object or writes a word and

You are able to duplicate it.

It uses a simply slight, “The Convincing Control” move by Ed Marlo

This is a fun look at the methods of some TV magicians

New Improved Murder Mystery Has a Magical Episode

Will Arnett, a comedic actor whose long roster of roles include playing the less-than-stellar magician Gob on *Arrested Development*, has a new **Netflix** series. The show is

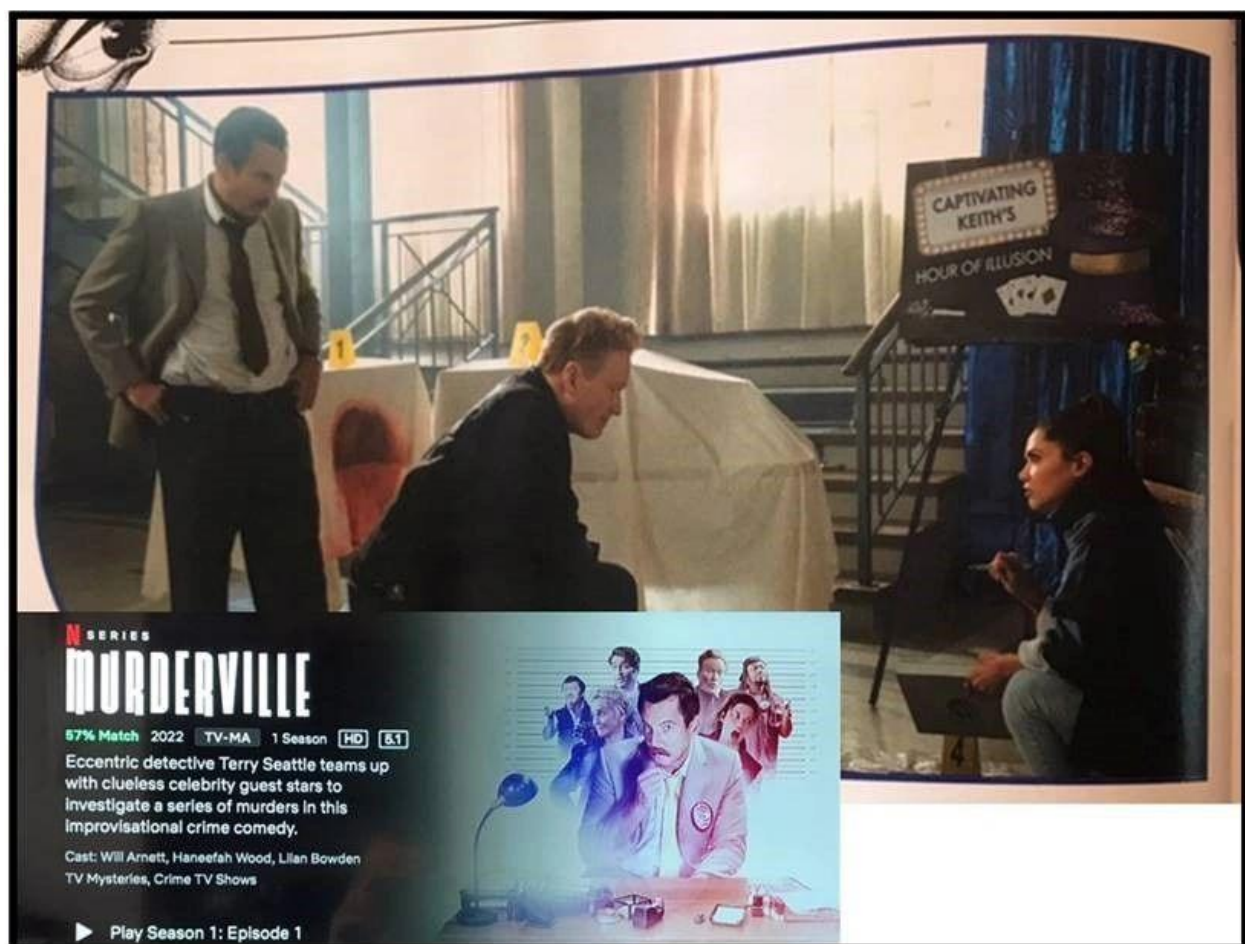
called **Murderville**, and Arnett described the show to the *Hollywood Reporter* as “*Law & Order* without a script.”

In it, Arnett plays a senior detective who has a celebrity guest join him as a junior detective each episode to solve a murder. While the broad strokes of the story are predetermined — some involved will know who the victim will be and who will be the guilty party — much of it is unscripted, with the guest star having no idea about anything. Each episode ends with the guest star trying to identify the killer, which they may or may not succeed in doing.

What does this have to do with magic? Once of the episodes has Conan O’Brien as the guest star and revolves around what is described as “an absurd magic show murder case involving a rival, a former assistant.” You can check out this episode yourself on Netflix, as the show premiered in February. –

I checked on Netflix, and sure enough, up popped **Murderville**, and an episode began.

Photo from the *Genii* magazine, showing Conan O’Brien:



This is an old but effective stunt that can have a place in a show.



Mind Myth Magic

Staring Scott Humston

At the Donnelly House in Mount Dora, Florida

Review Date April 2, 2022 by Dennis Phillips

The Donnelly House is a historic Victorian mansion. John P. Donnelly came to Mount Dora in 1879. In 1881, he married Annie McDonald Stone, a prominent landholder in the community. Successful in several real estate and business ventures, Donnelly built this imposing Queen Anne style house in 1893.

He was among the founders of the local yacht club and served as the city's first mayor in 1910. In 1924, he sold the land and died in 1930. The Donnelly House, now owned by Mount Dora Lodge #238, F.&A.M. (Masons), and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The mansion is across from a downtown park sitting in the business district of Mount Dora.

The house is an ideal location for Scott's show because it sets a mood that he uses to enchant his guests. He never makes you feel like an audience, you are his guests in his Victorian parlor.

When you enter the foyer, from the porch, Scott shakes your hand and explains a little about the house and you are thereafter mentioned by your name that he has memorized and given a personalized folded greeting card with a poem and a personalized note thanking you for being with him for a "wonder-filled experience".

In the foyer, cello music can be heard, and you are invited to the next room over for a soft drink and snack. Scott explains that the home is normally a Masonic Lodge but he and his helper's "stage" the 3 rooms in the lower floor of the house, the afternoon of the show with magic posters, books, and memorabilia.

After the guests have arrived, the pocket doors on the side of the foyer are opened and in the parlor are guest seats and you realize that the cello music is live and being played by a young man. Scott escorts his 36 guests, individually, to their assigned seats which are in two rows in a semicircle.



When the guests are seated, Scott again goes around the room and introduces everyone by their name. No one is wearing a name tag, so the memory feat is impressive.

He holds a deck of cards and explains that a deck of cards is a calendar. Fifty-two cards for fifty-two weeks, four suits for four seasons, the value of the cards add up to 365. He then hands a folded card to a woman on the front row. She does not know the value of the card. He then gives her choices like, do you want a red card or a black card, a picture card, or a face card and finally the woman freely mentally makes a choice of one card. Scott has her open her hand and unfold the card and it was what she chose.

He then explains that in Victorian times before television, radio or even quality phonographs, guests were treated to the contents of the glass curio cabinet in every parlor room. It held objects that had a meaning and story behind it. It could be souvenirs from trips, photographs, and unusual heirlooms.

In the center of the room is a small glass curio cabinet, sitting on a draped table and the three shelves are filled with tricks, cards, ropes and cups and a photograph. Scott says that for the first half of the show his guests will choose what they want to see.

He says that he will pick the first trick and the last trick but everything else is a free choice.

He opened an unusual fan-folded cardboard step stool and stood elevated a foot and half on top and showed a deck of blank cards that magically had backs appears and card faces appear. It was a very visual presentation of the Mental Photography Deck.



A woman on the front row chose the cup and ball and he did a Chop Cup routine ending with a lime under the cup.

Another guest chose the wine glass and red handkerchief and that led to Scott doing the classic “Silk to Egg”.

Someone chose the ropes, and he had a “Short and Long” presentation with the ropes becoming equal and then a knot that moved and came off and other mysteries. Let me say that Scott’s magnetic personality made this effect a fun bit.

A spectator next chose a glass mounted playing card and this led to Scott explaining that the card was one of Howard Thurston’s “throwing cards” and he told what was one of several magic history stories. This one was how Thurston got started and it was his association with Alexander Herrmann. The Hermann effect that Scott used was the Glass of Ink to goldfish.

Someone chose the matchboxes and Scott did the Sympathetic Match Boxes. The classic magic still entertains and fools a lay audience.

Finally, someone chose the small book, and it was Erdnace’s “Expert at the Card Table” and Scott went through the impact of the book and they mystery of who wrote it. He then did some, “pick a card” and he revealed all of them and did a “Signed Card to Wallet” and repeated it with a different wallet with a zipper case inside.

The picture in the case was elected and it was. Fetaque Sanders, a respected Black Magician who Scott knew when he was in Nashville attending college. Scott told several stories from Fetaque's colorful life.

The last choice was the three small blocks, and a spectator was called up to determine their combined weight. Oddly, one block alone was heavier than all three stacked blocks. The same spectator agreed to have a spell put on her and she was able to hold her hand over a lit candle.

Scott then concluded the first part of the show with a story of one of the first tricks that he bought. It was paid for by his grandfather when then happened onto a magic shop in Lakeland, Florida. Scott inverted a clear plastic tumbler over a shot glass and put a ping pong ball on the bottom and cover it with a handkerchief and pushed it through the tumbler bottom and it landed inside the inverted shot glass.

He showed a photograph in a cover sitting on the fireplace mantle. When he reopened the cover, it was a photograph of his grandfather.

There was a brief intermission and the guests socialized as Scott did a wardrobe change and the room was reset.

As the guests were reassembled for the second half, Scott explained that the second part of the show was mindreading, mentalism, and some psychic and spooky stuff.

He began with a stack of four paperback books and handed them to four people.

He leafed through them without seeing the page and correctly called the words they were looking at. His last book, he did not handle. The spectator was free to select and word anywhere in the books and Scott correctly names the word. I thought that it was clever to employ a variety of methods and end with The Mother of All Book Tests.

He borrowed a cell phone from a spectator and was able to have another spectator scroll through the contact list with the phone upside down and Scott knew the contact's name.

He followed with a Mental Epic, the version where all the choices are a free choice.

He makes three predictions, and three things are named, and his prediction matches what the spectators said.

Visiting at this show was New Jersey magician and his wife, Al Belmont and Suzanne. Scott had them come forward and it was because they had been married to longest and he did a psychokinetic touches routine where both stand on different sides of the

room and close their eyes and when he tickles one with a feather, the other one feels it. It's a fun and "loopy" trick.

Scott moved things to the spooky realm with the history of the Fox sisters and Anna Faye and did a Spirit slate routine where the spirits write a series of message and windchimes in the corner of the room mysteriously rattled and at the end the chair the spectator was sitting in folded up with a crash and she was standing next to it.

It was time to tell a story of a haunted coin and put it in a small wooden box on a table and the while both Scott and the assistant were holding the cloth cover of the table it floated. Losander, the table spook master, would be pleased.

The final act of the evening was psychometry. Six volunteers were directed to six chairs by the front window and told to put a personal object, on their person, in the bag. The bags were mixed up and randomly selected and Scott took the object from each bag and gave it to a spectator. He asked the spectators if they had received back their object to stand up and all stood.

Rather than a flashy loud end, Scott read the poem on the inside of the folder cards that he gave to each guest. He greeted everyone on the way out.

Certainly, this type of themed and intimate magic is the current trend and Scott did it right. Magician David Parr and several others around the country are

following the same the same general theme of choosing curiosities from a cabinet in a small intimate parlor show.

Scott has an excellent themed house . The ambiance is perfect for what he is doing, and he plays his role as if you are the guest of his family. The focus is on his clever lines and ability to weave stories into the effects and hold you interest. His pacing was excellent, and his routines were entertaining.

He presented an enjoyable evening!

Dennis Phillips

I believe that all entertainers need to have someone limited their access.

Chuck Windley used "ActorPhone" a New York answering service for call screening. I had some magic friends who used a fake accent when answering the phone.

The idea is that if you too accessible by phone, then you must not be working and therefore not that valuable.

One of the worst things we've normalized is always being reachable: making people think they deserve an instant response to texts, emails, comments, and voicemails. We've conditioned other people (and ourselves) that our promptness is some kind of virtue, that the more quickly we respond, the more responsible we are. The expectations that this places on each of us is unrealistic and it is not sustainable.

Yes, the technology will always be a challenge, but the real and enduring danger is our own preoccupation with being reachable and the fear that we will miss out on something if we are not. If we want to be better at presence, we need to work on absence first.

Most things that appear in our inboxes and timelines can wait, at least a little while.

But the present cannot wait.

It is gone in a flash and once we lose it we can't get it back.

Today, may you be fully present wherever you happen to be.

Give yourself the gift of disappearing for a bit.

Today, do the sacred work of being unavailable.



Quick change, such as made famous by the late David Maas and Dania, is fully revealed here and the techniques are as amazing as the effect.

Bunch of stuff in this video... Sort of generic and not much personality but it keeps magic illusions alive.

Here is a great Magic Site with more information than you need in a lifetime!

[magicorthodoxy - YouTube](#)

Here is a great tutorial on what he believes are the top 10 trick card decks.

You would be surprised how many magic effects could answer the question of “How did he do that?” with,



Dennis