

Ring Report Ring IBM #170- SAM #99 "The Bev and Alouise Bergeron"

November 26, 2021 | Archived Famulus



We have resumed live meetings. Be kind and courteous. Masks are welcome but not required.

Holiday Party next month on December 15th

The Ring Leadership Board met before the meeting and voted to reinstate dues now that live meetings have resumed. The slate of officers for next year's board were nominated.

The regular meeting was called then called to order and 16 were present with one guest, Mike Bearlant. President Mike Matson announced the magical performances happening around Orlando and other magic news.

NJ opened the monthly ring show with a clever kid's version of "Will the Card's Match" using animal cards. It was an interesting and extended routine. Pasquale demonstrated his new Stars Wars card deck with a very clever audio routine in his cell phone triggered by his apple watch. Two cards were selected, and Siri knew.

Dennis Phillips showed his creation from The Dollar Store. A card was selected by a spectator and torn in 4 parts with the spectator retaining one of the parts. The other parts were vanished, and the restored card appeared in a small black picture frame with the matching corner missing.

Dan Stapleton pleased us with a series of card effects. Spectators knowingly found the four aces in a shuffled deck, a "slop shuffle" magically restored the deck to correct order and his last effect was "Out of this World".

Christian had a selected card magically turn its back to a different color and a signed card appeared in a blank deck. Mike Bearlant presented a clever mental effect where a person picked a number from 1 to 10 and then a card suit and a card in his wallet was show and it was off by one. The shocker was when he turned the card over and it had written on the back, "off by one". He then went into a hilarious balloon animal routine, as spectators were taught to make an animal and the entire routine ended with a series of sight gags.



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

"The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring"

On November 10, 1942, Winston Churchill said this: "**Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.**"

We have come a long way in this COVID problem and things are not over just yet but we are surviving and getting some measures of normality again and being vigilant for emerging variants.

Magic and dinner show debuting at Legends on International Drive

Master Illusionist David Ferrari will perform at Legends



The world of magic is about to make a Las Vegas-style splash on International Drive this weekend headlined by Master Illusionist David Ferrari, the protégé' of superstar Criss Angel. (WKMG)

ORLANDO, Fla. – The world of magic is about to make a Las Vegas-style splash on International Drive this weekend headlined by Master Illusionist David Ferrari, the protégé' of superstar Criss Angel.

Ferrari's blend of high-energy illusion and music earned him the International Magicians society's Merlin Award as the magic producer of the year.

The Icons of Magic production features the 25-year veteran at his best. He is known for “close-up magic” and larger-than-life grand illusion with what has been called a futuristic style of magic.

The dining experience is a new approach to Florida's entertainment landscape.

The production runs more than an hour and is open to 250 people in a massive 23,000-square-foot venue.

The soft open for the dinner show launched Thursday with additional free shows set for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

For more information go to

[Icons of Magic Starring Award-Winning Illusionist, David Ferrari & Magic Guest Stars.](#)

or call 407-499-3939

Remembering John Daniel, (c.1931-2011) Illusionist from the now closed ,Owen's Supreme and his wife Cathy

From 1953 to 1955, he served in the Artillery and was over-seas for 18 months. He did do a few shows, and while doing one in Berlin, he met Irene Stolz (the future Irene Larson after marrying Bill Larson of Magic Castle fame). He eventually brought Irene back to the United States in 1957 as his magician's assistant and they were married.

He joined forces with Carl Owen in 1958 and eventually purchased Owen Magic in 1960. Daniel was known for his development work on a the "thin model" of the "sawing a woman in half".

After divorcing Irene, he married Catherine Cynthia Birch (Miss Virginia 1960) who had become his magician's assistant.



One of the last photos of John and Cathy



The photo shows John Daniel and Cathy , arriving to the "Women In Boxes" screening during the 2008 CineVegas film festival held at Brenden Theatres inside the Palms Casino Resort on June 19, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Daniel's fabulous Illusion show was "ShaZzam" , which played for an extended run at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach.

It was an artistic triumph with beautiful Owens's props and colorful artwork. Here is the Asrah couch.

The Asrah that came to Illusionist Blair Marshall (of Canada) with his purchase of the "ShaZzam!" show from Lee Edwards. Based on the quality of construction ,Blair believes that Lee may have built it (not John Daniel). The artwork is great though. The costumes shown are the ones from the original "ShaZzam!" show and can also be seen in the Genii review of the show in 1970.

Blair Marshall continues to perform the show.



Card Spider

Just in time for this past Halloween season, I decided to make a large stage size card spider.

Here you can see me doing the effect on my back patio.

(Video by my friend, Scott Humston)

The effect is said to have been created by J.H. Orrin in England, in the late 1920s.

Let me go over the basic effect:

A playing card is chosen by an audience member and replaced in the deck. A spider web with a large spider is shown and the deck is waved in front of the spider to magically know the card selected. The spider web is spun and slowly and visibly a card appears and when the web is stopped a card is seen being clutched by the spider. It is the chosen card. The spider is removed from the web with the card in its legs and shown to the audience.

The effect is visually compelling as you can see in the attached video clip.

It is a great Halloween show or Ghost Show effect.



Here is a front and back view. The arrow reminds me which way to spin it for the card reveal and there are white marks on the weight that stops the take up thread.

There are two threads. Both threads wind around the spindle. The one in the front pulls the card out and the thread on the back acts as a brake when the card is fully out of the slot on the web front.

This photos and video give you an idea of proportion of a web size needed for jumbo cards.

Here is the rear mechanism. You can see both threads. The reason for the wing nuts is to be able to easily disassemble the mechanism for repairs. One long bolt is used as the spindle and a bearing holds it with a band and hex nut. The orange cone washers were rubber plumbing gaskets that I found at Ace Hardware. The back support can come loose with the two pin hinges, so the prop folds almost flat. To stabilize in when it is spinning, I step on the base.



The spider was made from parts I got from a big box craft store. A large wooden egg and a ball and a tear drop shape. I joined them with dowel rods and glue and flattened the backs on a belt sander. I did use a washer and a clip on the back of the spider, along with a strong rare earth magnet on the web board to hold the spider securely ,plus two black swivel clips (note the white arrows)

The spider legs are painted coat hanger wire.

You can also see the card slot. The thread is a “Y” and branches into two above the card slot and that the card is evenly pulled out of the slot.



Here are some of the orange travel crates my illusions are stored inside of. They are going onto my new backyard storage shed.

Why orange paint? You never leave behind an orange crate and they are easy to see in the dark and identify if your crates are mixed with other crates or lost by a freight company.

Virgil and Roy Houston used red painted crates. Fu Manchu used Green and so did Chuck Windley. They are better than black paint but not as visible as “OSHA Orange”. Harry Blackstone Sr. and Jr. had the best idea with orange crates.

The other idea is that I never stencil my name of the show on my crates. I use the name of one of my corporate production companies. One reason is that it keeps prying eyes off the crates.

The main reason is the old circus practice. All my props, sets and wardrobe are leased from one of the companies. This is for liability protection and keeps the show rolling.

There were always legal claims at every circus stop and the attempted impoundment of equipment as an “asset” until the claims were settled. That could take months of court

time. But, if the injury has nothing to do with the props such as someone slipping on their shoelace in the lobby, then it made impounded, as an asset, legally difficult. So, the show could then keep moving. Torts are civil cases and not criminal and can be worked out later.

The old Clyde-Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus owned no gear. They leased it all from "Acme Circus Leasing Company" and that was stenciled on everything.

Before you embark on a career as a touring magician or illusionist, talk to a lawyer and work out all the legal and insurance protection that you will need to cover the costs of your potential problems. This is especially true today when most people need to stay "Lawyered up"!



This video clip was done with two of the grandkids of the late Bev and Alouise Bergeron at their memorial party, at the last Orlando Magic History Convention. (Oct 3, 2021)

It was an honor to perform for several hundred guests and the Bergeron descendants and return some joy and wonderment, just as Bev gave to audiences for many years.

This version of cards across is the method that Wes Iseli (Virginia Illusionist) uses, and I added ideas from Mac King and the ballcap with wings, from an old Copperfield duck routine.

You will like this easy to make bit of mentalism.

Here is another one.

This is made and sold, using a clear plastic square and a frame, but this works just as well.

Many great tutorials online.

I recall Damian's great use of the large ring and rope in his stage act.

Here is just one of several tutorials posted on You Tube.

Here is one of my favorite stage effects for involving the audience without having them leave their seats.

I have an original Abbott's version, just as seen in the video with legend Percy Abbott.

The hilarious Levent.

Our own Dan Stapleton has jumped off cruise ships in shackles, hung in a strait jacket from under a helicopter circling the Orlando Twin Towers

and other things...

Here is Norman Bigelow in the 1950s. It appears he has just gotten out of the strait jacket, and it was tossed to the floor.



Ken Feld has announced that the Ringling Show will be back on the road performing again.

Feld Entertainment Chair and CEO Kenneth Feld and Chief Operating Officer Juliette Feld Grossman apparently declared the show's 2023 animal-free comeback yesterday during a conference in Seattle, with a formal announcement reportedly slated for next year. (Feld Entertainment, which is Ringling Bros.' parent company, has canceled its federal Animal Welfare Act license.)

<https://venuesnow.com/feld-entertainment-is-bringing-the-circus-back/>

FELD ENTERTAINMENT IS BRINGING RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS BACK

Posted by James Zoltak | Oct 21, 2021 | General, Bookings, Industry Events



Oak View Group's Eric Bresler (left) moderates a question-and-answer session with Feld Entertainment Chairman and CEO Kenneth Feld and Chief Operating Officer Juliette Feld Grossman.

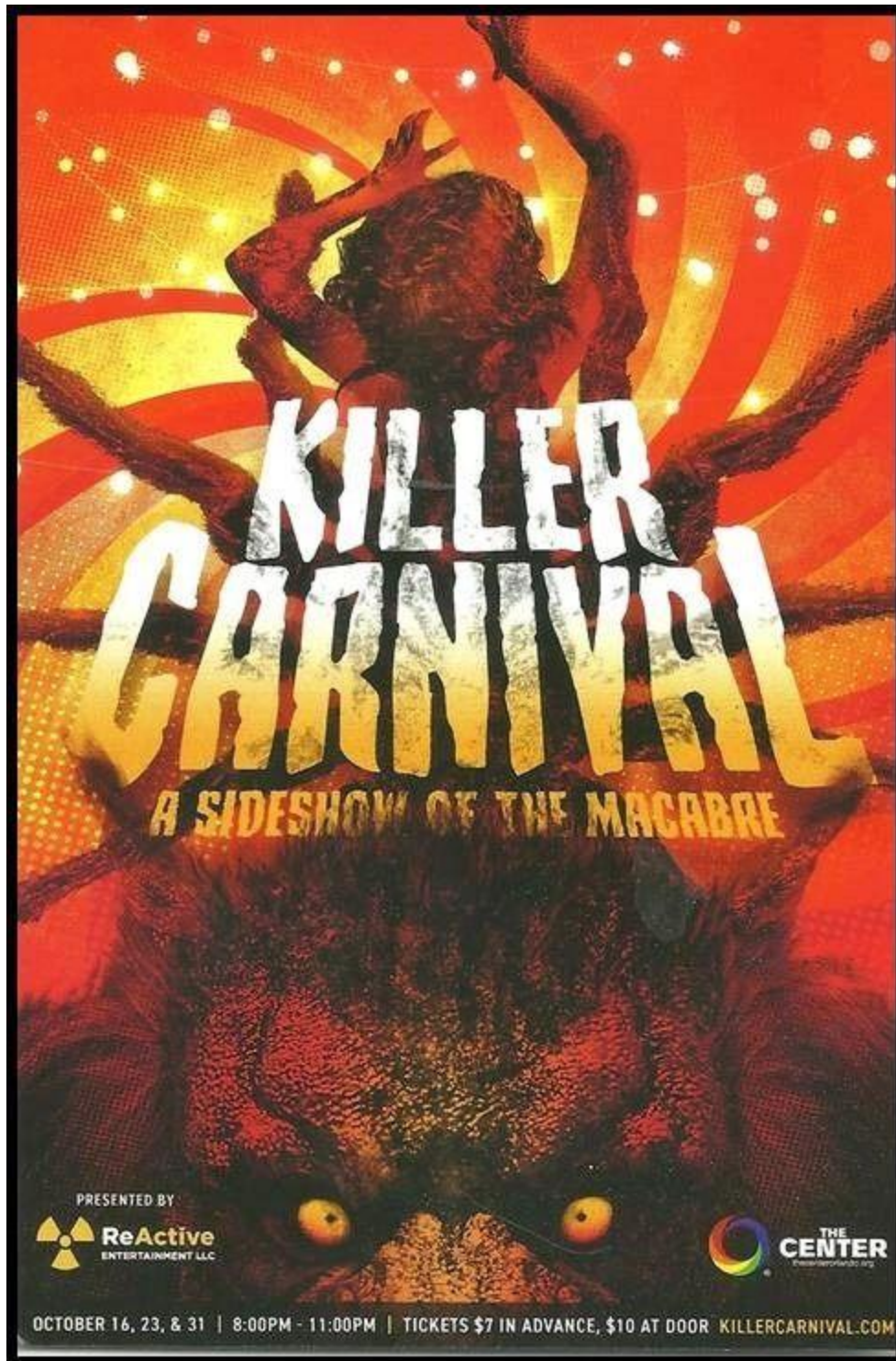
SHUTTERED IN 2017, THE "GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH" IS DUE TO RETURN IN 2023

The circus is coming ... back.

Feld Entertainment is casting for a new version of the Greatest Show on Earth, as it plans an animal-free relaunch of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 2023.



I had a chance to see Nick Comas' fabulous "10 in 1" fright show during the Halloween season. He has some excellent illusions that he has built like "Girl to Werewolf". "Spider girl" and a great series of fright gags.



It took me back to the good old days of my youth.



Dennis