

SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION # 14

November 2, 2020 | Archived Famulus



Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99

-Orlando and nation on partial lockdown-

No Ring/ Assembly face to face meetings until future notice

Virtual on-line sessions happening on the regular monthly meeting night, the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM

October 21, 2020 “Zoom Meeting Report”

Our October meeting was a ZOOM meeting and featured a lecture by Colorado Mentalist, Mark Strivings. For Halloween, Mark featured some Bizarre effects.

President Mike Matson introduced, Mark, who is a well-known name in mentalism and respected creator and author, he has been around for decades. Mark is known for being an originator of Walk around Mentalism.

He began with a Living and Dead test using business cards. His “Finder Pencil” used a pencil in a small wooden ring, and it moved until it stopped on the name of the dead person.

He next had an effect with small dice-skulls where he always ended with the last skull. Mark had a Voodoo Doll effect with a long needle and cigarette paper with a drawing of the doll and the spectator could pick a place to insert the needle and after a flash paper burn, the wadded up paper had an “x” that matched the location of the pin.

He did the ashes-in-the-palm effect and tips with a Haunted Key and finally an effect where 3 coins were placed, with mini-toy tools, in a black scarf and one coin was bent, one had a nail through it and the other was split.

The lock down continues, but the magic is alive on line.

It is with sadness we report the loss of many entertaining jobs at Wald Disney World. Some of our members have felt this sting.

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/walt-disney-world-layoffs-entertainers-live-disney-shows-report>



There was the beginning of a show business recovery in Europe!

As of today, at the end of October, in America, we seem headed for more lockdowns with a resurgence of infections and hospitalizations.

<https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-international-news-aa14ae6d72e87cee3e2b0a14df6e196d>

AP PHOTOS: Circus school in full swing again, despite COVID

By FRANCISCO SECO today



BRUSSELS (AP) — The ropes are swinging. Chalk stains the mats anew. And students at the ESAC international circus school in Brussels are smiling again, even if it is through a mask sometimes.

The pandemic forced the school to close in March, but with new measures in place to limit exposure the smell of sweat and the grunts of exertion are back again.

“We are still training and working as hard as we always do,” said second-year student Sidney Billings, 20, enjoying the opportunity to hone her athletic talents again. Those who pick a circus career are so driven, they were quick to get rid of the rust.

“The students were excited to come back to work on a regular basis and to regain contact with teachers or project managers” said Spanish dance teacher Silvia Ubieta, 49, who joined the school in 2007.



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

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

A line from my show:

(Holding up one of the 20th Century silks)

“If you think this is Egyptian cotton, you are living in denial” (“de Nile” get it?)

Fool EVERYONE with this Amazing mentalism/ Magic Trick for Halloween. With this tutorial you will learn how to perform a really easy but very fooling mind -reading trick.

Josephine Lee does a great job on the Classic Three Graces.

I am still not sure that I understand the thread hook ups.

Little known and seen is the bits by David Copperfield in his 1980 movie, “Terror Train”

Can you really do an Asrah Levitation on a train car?

<https://www.nickiswift.com/251440/whatever-happened-to-david-copperfield/>

Whatever happened to David Copperfield?



The 2020 and the Internet has made this a time when no magic secrets stay secret for very long.

The few views of magic shows who care about the methods need to just wait until explanations appear.

In this site, they explain such things as Steve Wheeler's Flaming knife box and Jim Steinmeyer's Hospitality.

[htt](#)

The question is: Will it bomb again? (Pun intended)

<https://vimeo.com/369079061>



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VIDEO PERFORMANCE FROM BRETT DANIELS
MAGIC AND BEYOND SHOW

<https://vimeo.com/369079061>

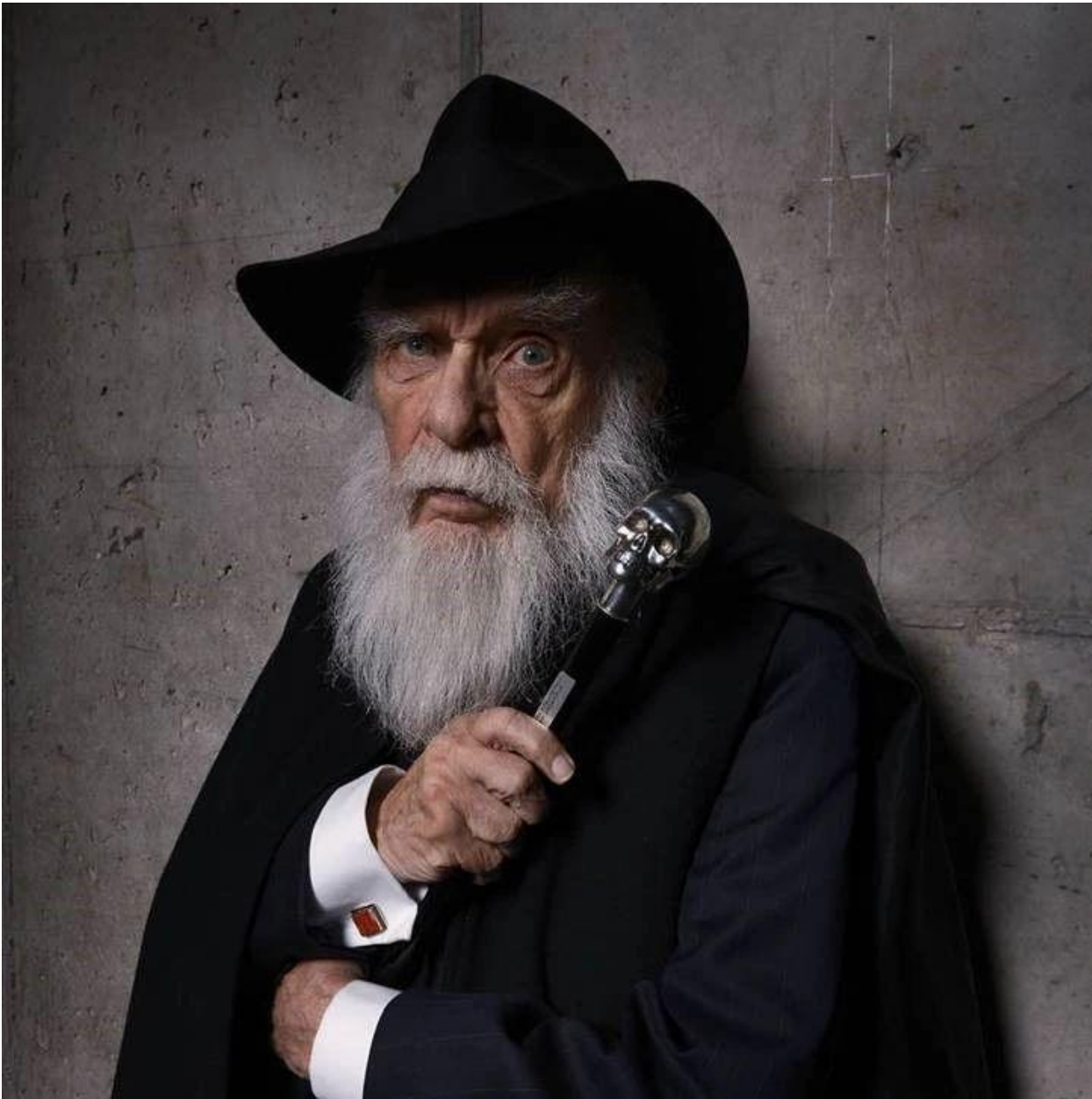
This project cost over \$250,000 in 1996 and that was doing it via individual experts and personally managing the process. To hire a company to deliver this finished project today would be \$500,000 - \$1,000,000.

Priced very reasonably to sell

They say he died, but I'm skeptical.

The Amazing Randi August 7, 1928 - October 20, 2020

One of the leaders of the skeptic movement. He did so much to educate people on deception, misinformation, and how our minds can play tricks on us. A True hero of Science.



Classic Ring on Rope Routine Tutorial

Packs Flat Plays big

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3a78x4>



Here is a “no force” method of the Mental Epic.

Most of us can deduce that the covered part of the board flips back and the magician can write on it, probably using

a hidden marker on a badge pull. It eliminates one of the weaknesses of the Hen Fetch version, but adds another problem of unnaturalness.

Still a clever idea, somewhat based on Corinda Page 290. Fake fingertips would add a lot to the effect.

Mental Epic V 20.14

Epic Wonder



Use
Classically
or
Vertically

| | |
|---------|---------|
| COOKIES | COOKIES |
| SHIP | SHIP |
| HOUSE | HOUSE |
| MAIL | MAIL |
| SARAH | SARAH |
| EX-216 | EX-216 |
| ☆ | ☆ |

Enjoy lists with
unlimited sections

The six segments are drawn on the board with marker—a nice touch. This is a method that is miles away from that of Hen Fetsch, and it is sneaky, sneaky, sneaky. As is appropriate, the board is nothing fancy. It's a wh

Genii
THE CONJURORS' MAGAZINE

You will go blind watching this collection of classic ropes effects



I generally detest today's magic on TV, unless it is live, like the old Henning Shows/Mark Wilson Shows or (and I say this carefully) the basic effect can be done live-on-stage as Copperfield did for most of his career except during the mega stunts that serves as a hook for each special. Some of the close up bits on Johnny Carson's show and other talk shows worked because they are recorded in real time. Paul Daniels English shows and the old "World Greatest Magic" specials probably was the final believable stage/illusion series. With Blaine and Criss Angel, Dynamo, TV magic shifted to more trick technology that believability.

I do not know if you regularly watch the CW Network's "Masters of illusion" (Gay Blackstone et.al.) I saw it. I recorded it on DVD last night. I see it on WKCF-TV Channel 18 Orlando. Original airdate October 23rd.

When I saw that paper cup and water bit, I stomped my foot so hard that my wife came running into the room and asked what was wrong.

She looked at the screen and said, "I have no idea why you waste your time with that show..."

The Anna Deguzman slush power bit (or sponge in cup) was just wrong. Flat wrong. She tricked her volunteer into pouring a whole glass of water on his head.You never abuse a volunteer. Tease okay, but it has to always resolve with the assistant feeling good or at least, for heaven's sake, with a free towel!. (Motel 6 logo, for a laugh at the beginning of the bit saying, " I wanted to put this act together as cheaply as possible")

Patter could have been about the Monsoons of India, Dust Bowl Drought or Indian Rain Dance. None of that. We both just fill a paper cup with water and hold it over our heads. When I turn over mine, the water is gone. When you turn over yours, you get soaked. How is that entertaining?

This edition of the show was an utter failure.

I get the feeling they recently they have been using old salvaged , less that good, outtakes of performing sequences and tacking them together with Dean Cain in front of a Green Screen and pre-pandemic recorded wide and close up shots of audiences. This is because no distancing or masks are seen in the crowd.

I know that the clip of the Nick Lewin Newspaper Tear is at least 2 or 3 years old. Clearly, bits of paper fell from his torn pieces and he even acknowledged it! It had to have been an outtake. The full restoration then makes no sense.

Louis Foxx in a dinosaur costume? All for a card reveal? It had to have been an outtake for an earlier taping of his work which is usually much better.

Sorry but the Richard Turner and Shoot Ogawa card bits are too complicated for me to follow.

Card in Aquarium and Starburst in your hand. No pizzazz.

Dan Sperry is just not good with close up. He acts like he is drugged out. Too scatterbrained. His zombie dove act is fine. His audience participation bits fail.

I look at TV from an art director's view point. So did Copperfield.

I am not being sexist, but they needed better looking and better dressed audience volunteers, especially females. I am sorry, but for stage they need a model's body and tatted up with great fitting clothes and heels.

Nobody wants to see just the ordinary looking people in a miracle theater show. This is not a show done on the street with transients and inner city poverty, as Blaine typically did.

Recently Blaine has been going inside the mansions of stars and swallowing frogs ,running needles through his hand and being shot in the mouth with a .22 pistol. That takes "grunge" and physical perversion to a whole different level beyond stage magic.

I have no idea what the issues are with doing "Masters of Illusion" but they seem to not be using "Masters", but more second tier local California/Vegas acts or people like Greg Frewin, who probably uses the exposure to promote his Niagara Falls Theater. Today, with inexpensive remote video gear, when things get a little more normal , they could travel around the country (and the world, for that matter!) grabbing footage from regional performers ,resort shows, cruise ships and even magic club meetings and probably have a much stronger show line up.

Dennis