

Ring/Assembly Report Ring #170/ SAM #99

September 30, 2021 | Archived Famulus



-Orlando and nation still on pandemic vigilance with official concerns about the Delta Variant and the unvaccinated. -

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

We had another live and in person meeting in September. President Mike Matson called the meeting to order. He gave a run down on the venues in the Orlando area with magic show attractions.

Mike Bondi told an interesting story with a connection to the 9-11 Twin Towers incident 20 years ago. In the 90s Bondi was in Puerto Rico and saw that a local magic star was performing in San Juan and he tried to make contact. A few years later Bondi saw a news story after 9-11 which featured a hero janitor who had led many people to safety and Bondi recognized the name and polished interview and was able to make contact and it was the same magician he knew before. The magician had moved to New York and was working at the Trade Center.

Phil Schwartz attended the Magic Collectors Conference in Las Vegas and gave a detailed report of his visit to the David Copperfield Magical Arts Museum and showed and explained a poster with the floor plan that was given to him on the tour.

Dr. Ken Schreibman, MD Radiologist , presented an excellent power point on the history of the Zig Zag Illusions, tracing it from Robert Harbin's creation to being unethically stolen with tens of thousands of unauthorized copies. Dr. Ken then conclude with three excellent small versions using zig zagged playing cards.

Dennis Phillips showed his version of the Classic Orange, Lemon, Egg and Canary effect and gave a history of several performers who have done it and their methods.

Dan Stapleton had an excellent effect with a deck of cards and four paper plates. Four audience volunteers cut a shuffled deck and hopelessly mix the deck up into 4 piles. After privately selecting one card each and writing it on their paper plate,

Dan is then able to name each of their cards, which he had never seen since he was standing on the other side of the room.. He finished and explained that this performance was tough because he had accidentally spilled some lemonade on the cards and was frantically making sure they did not stick. This effect is from his DVD and lecture , “Cards as Theater”.

Thom Parkin had 4 spectators select four cards and he knew which each one was. He said that the effect used an Aronson Stack and he has developed a mnemonic deck to speed up the memorization process. His idea is excellent and he has those available to anyone who is interested.

Finally, Ryan Stiner had an old antique magic book with some bizarre and spooky magic in time for Halloween. He presented an interesting and scary Tarot card reveal and followed by having a spectator do random moves with a coin on a nine card matrix of suspected murderers and even though he was blind folded, he had cards removed one at a time and knew exactly where the coin was at all times and which cards were not a picture of the murderer.

Dennis Phillips



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

Sad news. Christopher Tracy had passed away,

Christopher Camp (stage name: Christopher Tracy) passed away September 10, 2021 at 50 years old. He was survived by his beloved wife Kyla Camp.

Christopher’s interest in magic began when he was 10 years old and used to practice in front of his mirror. He did his first shows for his cousins and friends using his sister as an

assistant. Always with a smile on his face, he liked to make people laugh, so he gravitated towards comedy magic. Some of his first professional performances were birthday parties and working as a street performer at Underground Atlanta.

Christopher started working for Magic Masters in 1990 in Atlanta and helped open their stores in Las Vegas and Orlando. He did shows in casinos, cruise ships, clubs, restaurants, and had a weekly show at the Marriott Resorts in Orlando. In addition, at the invitation of the Department of Defense, he had the opportunity to entertain the troops through Armed Forces Entertainment. Through the Ohr Meir Foundation, he also volunteered his time every year to entertain sick children with his comedic magical gift.

Christopher was a dedicated comedy magician who enjoyed entertaining all who crossed his path. He would bring a smile to all who surrounded him.

Here are some classic comedy magic gags

- The Baby Gag: A classic gag where a spectator name any celebrity and you show your prediction of that celebrity as a baby. Includes a second card for multiple nationality gags.
- The Bar Code Gag: A spectator names any supermarket product and its price and you reveal your prediction to be a barcode which is supposed to represent the product and price.
- 52 on 1 Gag: A spectator names any card and your prediction is a photograph with the entire deck displayed. Including the named card.
- Around The World Gag: A spectator names any city in the world and your prediction is a world map so you can point to their city.
- Birthday Prediction Gag: A spectator names any date and your prediction shows an entire calendar which includes their date.
- The No Gag: Ask a spectator if they know what word you wrote on the back of the card. They say NO and you show that your prediction is the word NO.
- Your Name Gag: You ask a spectator, "Would you be surprised if your name was on the back of this card?" When you turn over the prediction it has the words "Your Name" printed on it.
- Sanskrit Gag: This is an original gag that is open to anything you like, a word, a book, a person, a phrase, or anything you like because when you turn over the prediction your prediction is written in the ancient Sanskrit language.

They preselected a card (forced) before you started, and you show them your prediction. They tell you the card and the paper is opened, and it is blank and you claim it

is their card in a snow storm. When you open the white paper fully, it is a big version like The Insurance Policy Trick”

M' Lady Steps Out

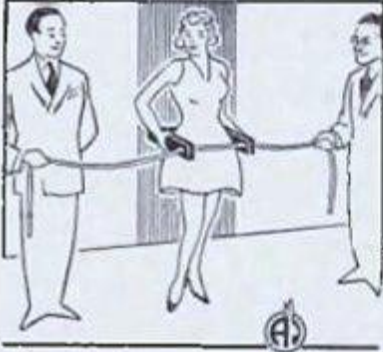
“An audience volunteer walks through a rope”

This effect was invented by Jack Hughes around 1955 and it is described in his book World of Magic, Vol 1 . A version was built by Abbott's, and it appeared in their catalog for many years.

M' LADY STEPS OUT

(JACK HUGHES)

First Time
Advertised



A plain but smart appearing frame is shown. The two doors that form the front are opened and the apparatus is fitted around the waist of a lady who holds it in this position. A length of strong rope is now passed through a hole in each side of the frame and the ends are passed through to two assistants to hold, one on each side. Before the doors are closed, attention is called to the fact that the rope passes in front the lady and imprisons her within. The performer now holds the frame behind the lady and directs her to walk forward. She walks through the rope and out of the frame, AND the rope is seen to be stretching from the hands of one spectator, through the frame, and into the hands of the other spectator!

THE LADY MUST HAVE WALKED THROUGH THE ROPE! There is no other way she would have got out of the frame!

A new principle makes this the cleanest and most dramatic penetration ever seen!

No knots tied in the rope. The lady and assistants can be borrowed from the audience. Can be done in the smallest room or on the largest stage.

Frame is decorated and finished in lacquer. Breaks down for packing. Size 4"x4"x18".

ABBOTT'S has the exclusive manufacturing rights for America.
Price, ready to perform (We Pay the Postage).....
It's a Gift at the Price — You Can't Go Wrong!

\$12.50

The effect is that a three-sided frame is shown. It has two hinged doors which are opened. It is fitted around the waist of a lady who holds it in this position. Rope is then passed through an opening in each side of the frame, the ends of the rope are handed to two assistants. The rope passes through holes in the frame, in front of the lady and imprisons her within the frame. The performer stands behind the lady, holds onto the frame and directs the lady to walk forward through the hinged doors – and through the rope! The two spectators never release their ends of the rope – the lady walks freely forward. The doors open – and the frame is seen with the rope stretching across the opening of the frame. The lady seems to have walked right through the rope!

Remember:

1. One rope only is used!
2. No knots are tied in the rope!
3. The lady and the two assistants can be volunteers from the audience!
4. It can be performed in the smallest room – or in the largest theater!
5. Virtually angle proof!



I liked the idea. It did not use a complicated and suspicious “Grandma’s Neckless” principle with two ropes and the mandatory knots. This was simply one freely handled rope that is threaded through the frame and the woman walks through it.

When I am pulling a rope through myself that is held by volunteers, I use Bob Sheet’s “Hang ‘em High”. Packs flat and plays big! The rope has a Delbin Screw Gimmick in it, and you

detach it under your jacket in your back and grab the ends of another short waist rope that you already had strung in your waist. The illusion is perfect.

When I put together an act for Ballroom Dance Showcase entertainment, I wanted to use a woman and two participants from the audience. I also did not want her to hold the frame and I did not want doors on it. I decided to give the illusion a purpose: Inviting the Lady to be my “Ta-Dah” girl and having her hold a fancy banner in front of her with a showgirl dress graphic which served the same purpose as the doors!

This first photograph panel shows the overall Illusion on the left.

You can see the yellow dyed rope with the pair of rare earth magnets. I epoxied two magnets to shortened nail heads and glued them into the rope.

The turn buckle can be seen holding back the tip of the “fill in” yellow rope that is hinged on the right side of the frame. A felt flap, glued at the top, covers the bright rope and the window turn buckle holds it in place until you release it while adjusting the rope. It then sits behind the lady until she walks forward. You can see the string from the badge pull to pull it out of its resting place, so it hinges to fill in where the rope would be.

My stage manager Pete Rahman was demonstrating the banner, but I did use a man several times to hilarious reaction. I also have a feathered headpiece that I can use for ladies or men.

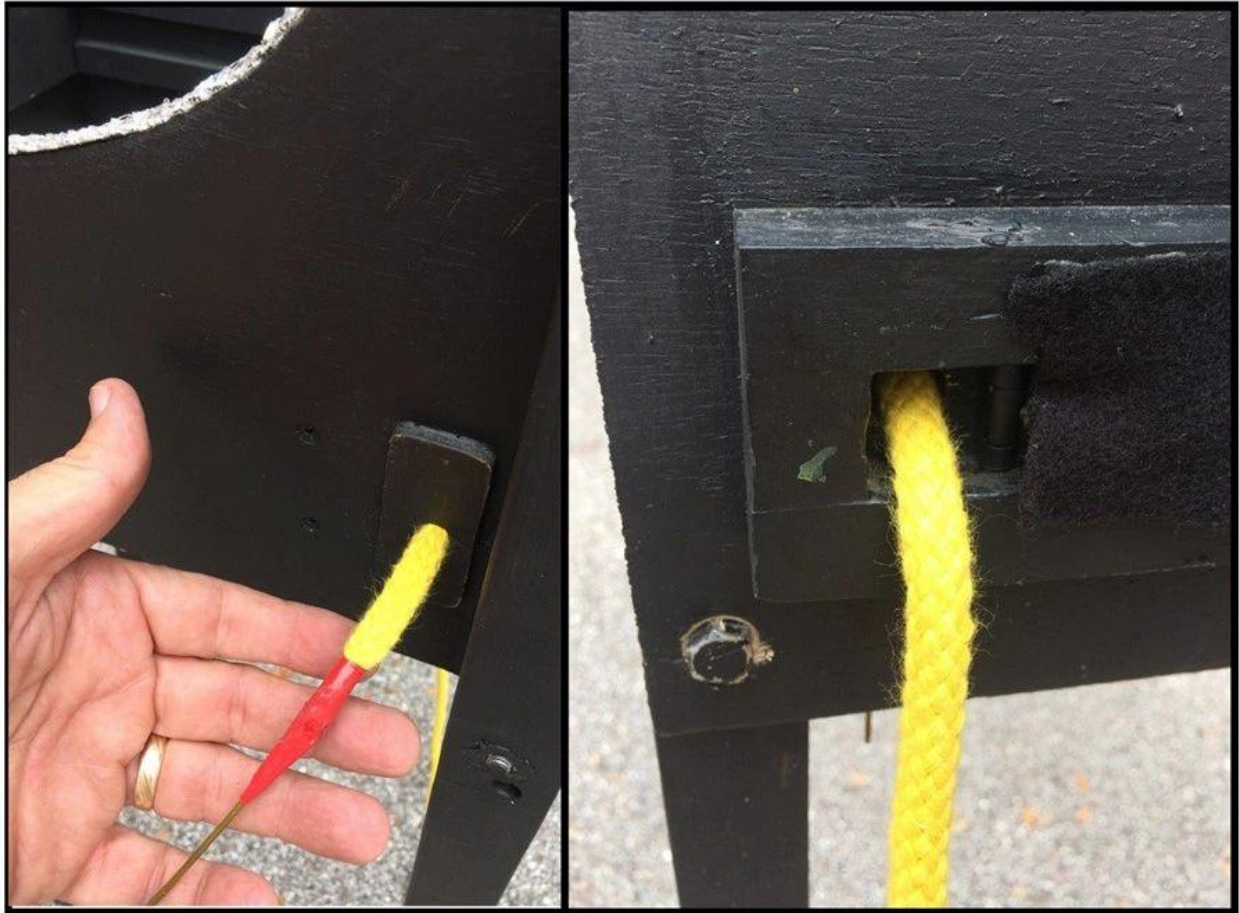


Here you can see the badge pull at the front of the other side and the thread. The woman never sees or feels this since she backs up in the frame and is distracted by the rope in front of her.



The photo on the left is the outside of the rope. It is wrapped with red plastic tape and goes through a narrow hole. Both sides have narrow holes. When the rope is pulled apart the two ends are stopped from coming out by the narrowness of the holes and the bulk of the magnets inside them.

The photo on the right is the inside view and you can see part of the hinge of the fake middle piece of rope and the felt flap.



The left photo shows the little travel compartment in the back of the frame to keep track of the ropes and keep them clean.

The photo on the right shows that someone else had a similar idea and you can see his version . His rope was white, and you can see it in front of the child. I don't think his version is as elegant as I wanted for a Ballroom Dance setting , but it still looks good and I believe he used his child just as an example of proportion and size, since the effect is made for an adult. I like to see creativity. I also recall that Paul Daniels had a similar version of this effect.

My fame and legs all break down and fit in a small wooden case.

It is possible to get a lot of enjoyable audience reaction and fun from this effect.



A do it yourself Magic Lightbulb!

Henry Rydzinsky writes and sends this great idea for you Do It Yourselfers!

H says, "I still look for stuff I may build, even though I'll probably never do another show. Found interesting info on Harbin Tables. Guy has a complete DIY video on Facebook."

Here it is on Your Tube

The Super X Levitation performed by Percy Abbott at the Colon, Michigan magic factory.

Dennis at the Ring Meeting at the IHOP in 2019 and in his 1976 Stage Show.



More about the “Super X” is a future column

Let me tell the story of Jack Chanin's "FIVE DOLLAR FIRE TRICK". My friend, the late Dick Oslund told the same story.

There was a 'dealer room'. I heard uproarious laughing from the corner of the room. Jack was demonstrating (in his inimitable way!) a trick of his own "invention--?".

He had a pile of cocktail napkins ('borrowed' from the hotel bar) and pail half full of water on the floor. He would pick up a napkin, unfold it, and grasping the center with one hand, he would stroke the rest of the napkin with the other hand, so the center stuck 'up'. He held the napkin 'cupped' in both hands, and with two fingers he bent the tip of the napkin toward himself. I seem to remember that he would breathe on the napkin, and the NAPKIN WAS ON FIRE! He waited a moment so that the group could see it was real fire. Then he crumpled it and dropped it into the pail of water.

"How much, Jack?" "Five dollars!" Five dollar bills 'rained down' on Jack, who handed each 'donor' a small cardboard box. I don't remember if any instructions were provided. (As the old Svengali pitch line goes: They nearly tore their underwear, grabbing for their wallets!)

The price was \$5, and I'm sure that the gimmick cost Jack all of \$.50 then ! (\$5 in 1970 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$35.18 today, so my figures for the gimmick , about \$3 back then , is understandable)

So, (come in close, I don't want the whole world to hear this.)

Popular among pipe smokers then (I am sure the cheap ones are no longer available, but I don't know.) was a pipe lighter which was especially practical if one wanted to light his pipe outside in the wind. It was cylindrical, about 1" in diameter and about 3" long. If held with one end against the heel of the hand, and the other end against the second joints of the middle and ring fingers, it could be squeezed and when squeezed it opened at the center and a wheel inside rotated against a flint. The oversize wick, soaked in lighter fluid, burst into flame.

Of course, the napkin just above caught fire. The fire provided misdirection as Jack's left hand held the burning napkin up to about eye level, while sleeving (he was a master at the art) the lighter.

I don't think they make the cheap ones anymore as pipe smoking is rare today.



That trick and with his “Rip It” ,the impromptu torn dollar bill, and Jack had both pockets bulging with rolls of \$5 bills. (I will save “Rip It” for another time)

Nothing was a mere “ trick” the way he demonstrated it. When you saw Jack do a trick, you were convinced that you were watching a significant International event.

Rick Thomas is showing his age (aren’t we all!) , but still does great. He is currently in Branson, Missouri.

I like his enthusiasm and style and he does relate well to his audiences. He was the best act in Vegas, when we saw him in 2000 at the Tropicana (and the others in town).

My wife Cindy, who is almost always bored with magic shows, especially liked Rick Thomas and his show and his interaction with the kids and audience bits.



Watch his act

The illusion that he did on the Huckabee Show is “Squozed” by Jim Steinmeyer and built by Craig Dickens.

I am not sure that I like it when her hand ,with the rose, pops out. I think that it turns a fabulous girl vanish into a puzzle and begs the question, “okay, where is the girl hiding?”

This is a great comedy bit by the late Johnny Carson and also he is very good with card manipulations.

Enjoy Orlando’s own Nathan Coe Marsh’s Magic Castle act.

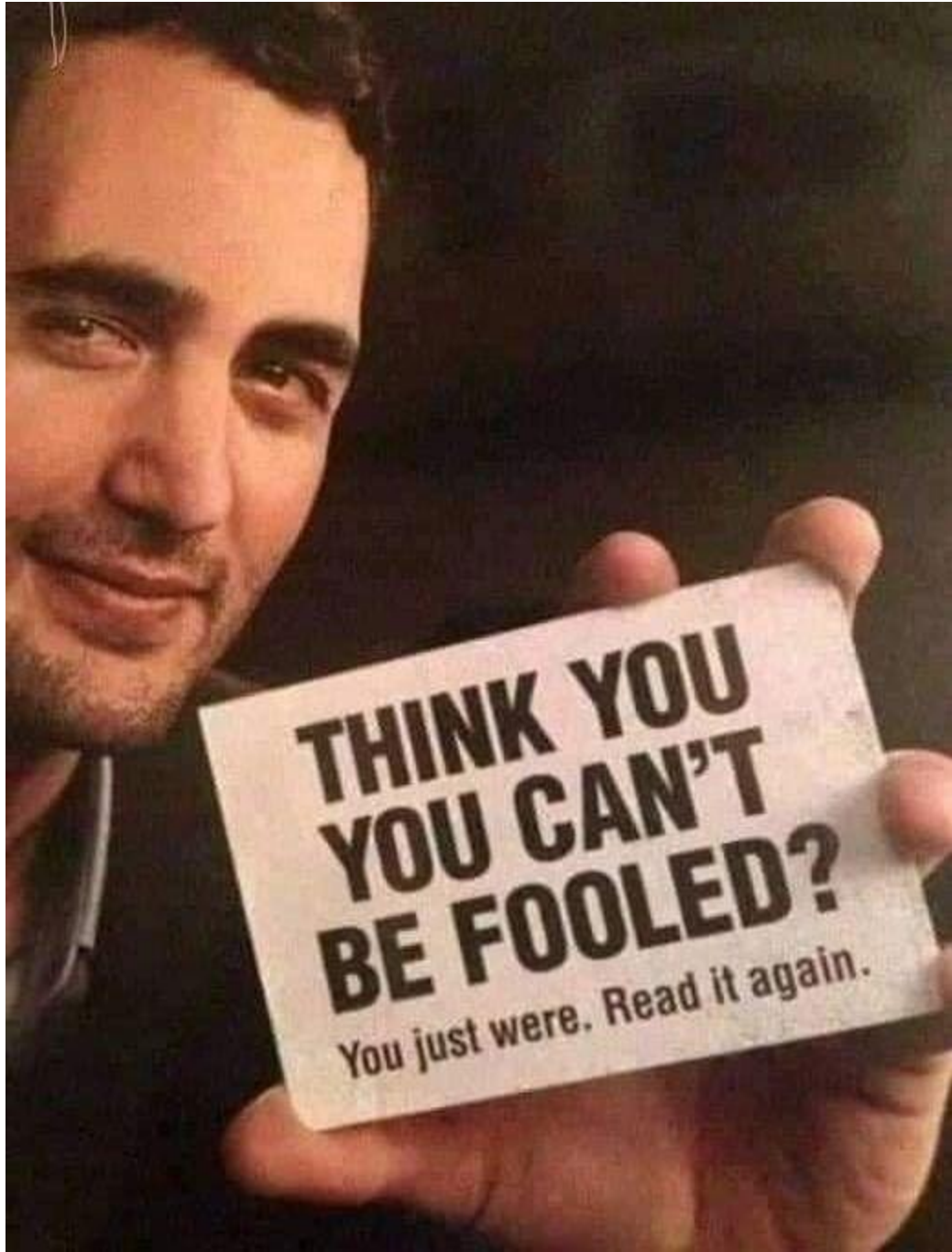
Dania, the widow of the late David Maas, is selling their act. David died last year from COVID.

This includes their costumes, props, performance rights, etc.

I had the pleasure of writing the cover story on them for the March 2006 issue of Magic Magazine.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Maas





Dennis