

SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION # 19

April 1, 2021 | Archived Famulus



Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise 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 3rdWednesday of each month ay 7:30PM

The month of March saw vaccination rates progress but our group decision was to continue the virtual meetings and lectures by Zoom. President Mike Matson called the meeting to order and the feature was a lecture from Acre Magic Studio in England conducted by “Stevo” Watson. The program was a dealer show with explanations and reveals and he offered his material for sale. Stevo’s thinking and effects were very good.

He opened with a series of effects where cards changed to objects, like a card to candy bar and card to square cookie (called a biscuit in England) The construction with elastic thread and folded cards was clever. He then moved to mentalism effects. He was able to predict 4 locations on a map and on another effect, daily stops on a travel map. He has some specially printed decks that made multiple design when spreads and some a mechanical card that made a cartoon rabbit appear and finally a book test, “Film Nation” that use a specially printed book of reviews of famous movies. He was able to determine your choice.

We enjoyed seeing the unique magic and his demonstration and products are recommended.

Dennis Phillips , Sec.



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

“I have a policy of not saying anything negative about anything another magician does”.

Doug Henning

As we plan to reopen many things this summer, this

note from Dan Stapleton

CIRCUS WORLD REUNION III
AUGUST 27TH - 28TH 2021 ♦ ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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FOR MORE INFO, SEE OUR CIRCUS WORLD REUNION III FACEBOOK PAGE OR
CONTACT DAN AT MAGICDANSTAP4U@AOL.COM

Attention all Circus World (Florida) Employees and fans!

You may have heard, but we are doing our third Circus World Reunion this August 27-28 in Orlando. We won't be taking registrations until June 1st but you can lock in your \$89 hotel room rate now. Mention our room rate code of CWR.

Our first Reunion was 2010. Our 2nd was 2015 (last photo here are some of the attendees from our 2015 Reunion). Both were smashing successes and now will be our third and we hope you all attend. Doesn't matter if you are a former employee, performer or just a "fan", we hope you attend as this will be like a 36 hour circus conference. We will have home movies of Circus World, talks by guest Speakers, memorabilia and a special birthday party for famed "flyers" Gaona and Tony Steel. That night will also include a dinner and circus stage show with performers in full costume. And that Friday night you will hear many background stories from those who worked at Circus World. And....a lot of Circus World memorabilia will be given away. Yes..."given" away!

Please pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested and please supply me with their email so that I can include them with announcements and updates.

ALSO....please "Friend" me on Facebook if we aren't already friends (I have a new Facebook, since February) as I post many photo's weekly. Thanks and feel free to ask me any questions you might have. Just hold August 27-28 open for a really good time of Circus World memories, fun and...party!

Dan Stapleton

(407) 491-3287

Is this the future of have the circus experience without the live animals?

With political correctness and the fading acceptance of the supposed P.T. Selbit mutilation and impalement of female assistants, we may see more of this in illusion show spectacles.

<https://educateinspirechange.org/nature/animals/german-circus-uses-holograms-instead-of-live-animals-for-a-cruelty-free-magical-experience/?fbclid=IwAR0uBWNeNzZweGA474YaQSwiybyzmkq5HJTak45B85jcJTYpHOSsAfhTNc>

German Circus Uses Holograms Instead Of Live Animals For A Cruelty-Free Magical Experience



Published 2 years ago on June 5, 2019
By Educate Inspire Change



I know that Ben Mason's favorite trick is MAK's Potato Box. He collects them. He says that "potatoes are just funny objects".

For those who do not know, the Potato Box is an effect here a borrowed ring is vanished and appears tied on a red ribbon that is running through a potato in a box.

Here is my favorite effect, by the late Paul Potassy, with a borrowed dollar bill in a potato. No box needed.

You may enjoy the oddities that you can find here.

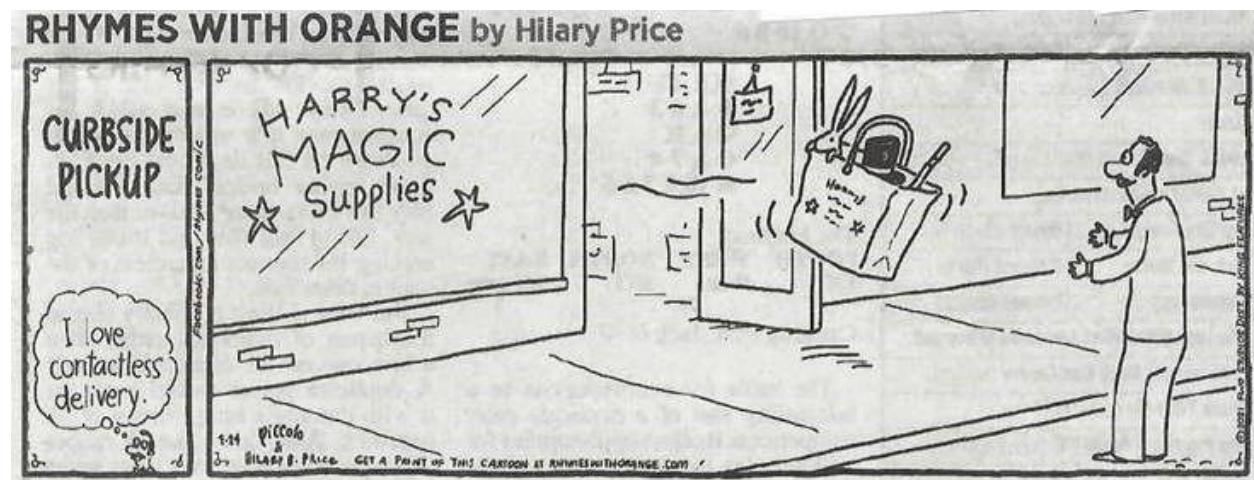
<https://www.houseoftheunusual.com/>



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A new company founded by Dave Haversat and Eddie Guevara.
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Here is a small illusion that made and still use:



Head in Orbit

This effect was a feature in Virgil and Julie's last years as they downsized to a smaller show.

It is a pack small-play big illusion. The advantage of this is that you can use any willing volunteer from the audience and they are none the wiser as to the method.

This prop has flashing lights, a blinking strobe light and all the dials and gauges to make it look like something out of science fiction.

Yep, when the front slide cover is removed you can see all the way through where the head should be!

To get in and out of the box, the assistant just sits there and you flip up the back flap and wheel the box and table back over the head.

David Charvet performs The Great Virgil's original version which was later marketed by Abbotts Magic Company as "Phantasmio" -An experiment in Invisibility.

Sitting on my office, right in back of my chair, I set up my “portable sewing studio”. I carried it for years on the big show because in a wardrobe heavy show, you always needed to repair and fix and we would set it up everywhere backstage. Inside is sewing notions, mending fabrics, spare buttons, snaps, zippers, Velcro and a heavy duty machine along with a flat iron and steamer. Roberta Griffin mentioned carrying a sewing machine her book “Illusions Show Notebook”. I carry a bit more. You recalled that I owned a costume business and taught costuming and tailoring in college.

The shelf that the sewing machine sits on folds down to form the side of the orange crate.

The frame that holds the shelf up, folds and stays on the back of the inside of the shelf.

The whole crate pin-hinges onto the orange dolly that you can see on the side.



Here is my “cut and restored necktie” trick. It is something that I came up with for school. The original idea, using flexible magnet tape, was from Charlie Pfrogner. He did it at a Ring Meeting years ago.

Since males seldom wear neckties, except in an office setting, it does not have much use anymore as a stage trick BUT, I almost always wear a tie in the classroom so, I just take off my tie and put it in the middle of a folded sheet of borrowed notebook paper and have a student come up and explain to him what “imagination” is and how important it is. I instruct him to “imagine” that he is cutting my tie in the paper. “Sure looks real, doesn’t it? You people have great imaginations!” Of course here is where the comedy comes in. It looks like he cuts it in two, but I just pull the Velcro apart. I show both cut pieces separate and then have them “imagine” they are back together again. And, it is!

This was a great routine and if I get back to school again, I want to have it ready. The secret is that the tie is actually Velcroed. The split is in the middle of the tie and when I am wearing it, it is totally concealed under my shirt collar.

To pull apart the Velcro when I wrap it in the paper and after I show two separate pieces, I lay the two pieces together and rejoin the Velcro inside the folded paper sleeve.

Simple but effective. My wife, Cindy, is demonstrating the gimmick when party separated. When Velcroed together, you cannot tell. When handling the tie where the split is, you loosely hold the tie with your hand over it.



Bryce's Screen: The Lightweight easy to carry Illusion

Mine is very light weight, like less than 10 pounds! It is made from "Foam Core" art board inserts. Don't use heavy plywood frames like Abbots does.

I am sure that you know what Foam Core is. I used white but you can use black. I was able to find 7 foot long pieces at an art supply/display company.

Here is some alternate product and sources. Nothing is cheaper than plain white Foam Core. <https://www.gator-board.com/>

Height 76". Each panel 18 ½" wide. Mine is all sewn and left open at the bottom, so you can slide the foam core panels inside and remove for washing.

I reinforced all the edges of the foam core with black gaffer's (duct) tape. I have a couple of layers around the bottom.

On the center "trap" panels, I added a 3 inch extra grabbing strip. The original Bryce just had a couple of fabric strips. I wanted to close the gap tightly.

I have made several versions over the years and use it for the finale of my show to produce the Statue of Liberty.



Bryces Screen





You can see the mechanism with the panels

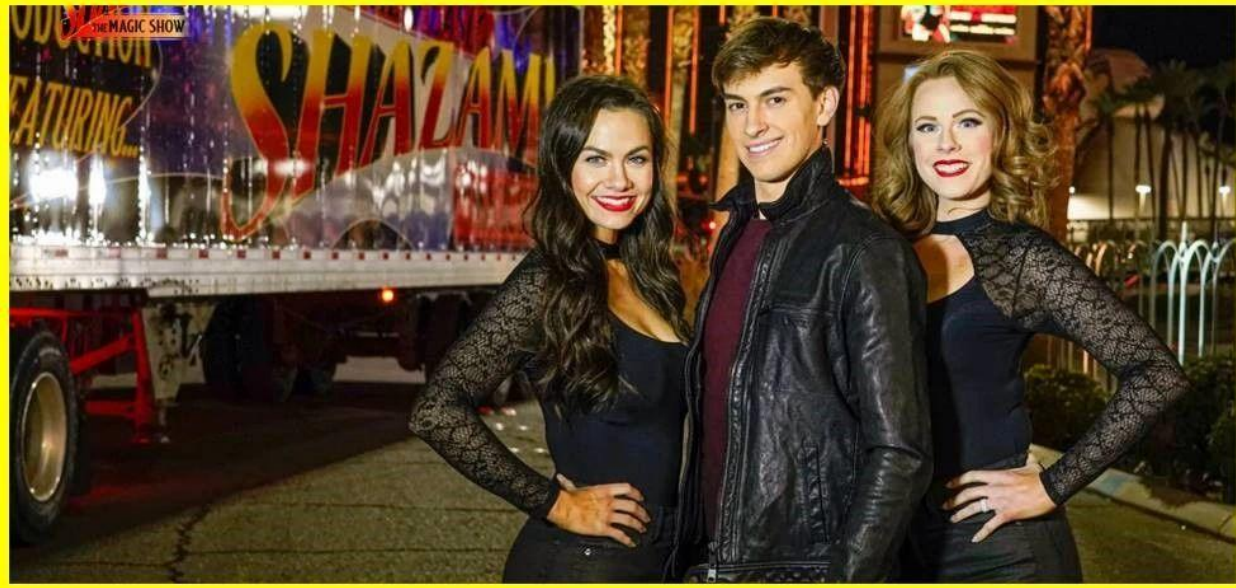
My finale screen is yellow on one side and red on the others with black stars. Made from some cotton cloth that I found about 30 years ago.



The Richiardi Dekolta Chair and Tip-over chest

So what happened to the late Illusionist Stan Kramien's Show?

I found the answer!



<https://shazamshow.com/about>

Phil Morris' Estate is selling off his illusions and my friend Eddie Wade is handling the sale.

- info@MagicMethods.com



ATTENTION: Magic friends. I've been asked to help find new homes for these illusion props used by magician Philip Morris of Morris Costumes and Big Foot fame.

Feel free feel to share this post with your magic groups & friends. We know a lot of magicians still aren't working live yet this year. We are in no hurry to move these out. If you're interested reach out to me and I'll bring your offer to the Morris family. There isn't a price list yet.

Many of these props toured with Phil Morris in his shows during the 50s thru 70s and in the national shows he produced. One of these would be wonderful in your magic show or collection.

Many of the items have wood crates. Dimensions are available for each piece. Many of these need some TLC, some are in working order. They all are in Charlotte, NC.

Private Viewings can be arranged. Contact me at my direct e-mail - info@MagicMethods.com with any questions. Additional photos are available for serious inquiries only.

Currently, we are considering serious offers for all or single pieces. They will be sold "As Is" with no guarantees of workability, etc. In other words, we can't guarantee your assistant will fit. etc. No performance instructions are included.

Shipping: You may come pick up or we will ship to you for exact freight cost.

Here is the list of what's available:

Asrah Levitation - Mfg. unknown

Broom Suspension -Mfg. unknown

Crystal Casket - Mfg. unknown

Doll House - Mfg. unknown (although the artwork is signed by Bob Ellis dated 1958)

Drum Illusion - Mfg. unknown

Mis-Made Lady - Alcorn

Palanquin Illusion - Mfg.

Super X Suspension - Abbott's

Temple of Benares - Abbott's

Thin Model Sawing - Alcorn

Tip Over Trunk - with wringer rollers

Tip Over Trunk - yellow

Vanishing Dove Cage - Mfg. by Alcorn

Zig Zag Lady



Finally for the Ventriloquists or comedy performers.

You may have seen the Axtell moving lips used for simulating talking by a spectator. You hold the microphone in front of them and their "lips" move as you ventriloquially say the words.

Axtell makes an excellent version out of latex and a real microphone. If you like the idea and want to use it, buy one from them.

Just for the record, the gag has been round for a long time.

Axtell made a radical improvement.

I first saw a Paper Mache one made by Bob McAllister in Norfolk in the 1950s.

Here is one that I made one from painted plywood, aluminum, PVC pipe, springs an a wooden ball. You can see the construction and method. The bottom lip is pulls down revealing the open mouth and teeth. It is all spring loaded.



Dennis Phillips