

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM #99

November 28, 2022 | Archived Famulus



President Ryan Stiner brought the meeting to order. He gave an update of all the magic happening around the Orlando tourist attractions.

We had 27 attending and one quest, Scott Pepper from San Antonio, Texas. Scott is a cruise ship magician, originally from England, and had lived in Orlando for a while working out of the Port Canaveral area. He also owns a theater in San Antonio, The Magician's Agency. We have Officer Elections next month, so the Board is looking for candidates to serve the club.

Dan Stapleton showed the award he received at the recent Daytona Magic Convention and gave us an update on the event.

The monthly show opened with Dennis Phillips showing the classic B'wave as a tribute to its creator, the late Max Maven. Dennis then showed a stage size Color Monte and his own improved version of the Ostin Switch Clip. He had Steve Nelson demonstrate a number prediction using the clip.

Paul Thomey did “Final Holdout” which is best describes as a fusion of speed memorizing a deck and a Magic Square. He jotted numbers down on a poster as each card was quickly flashed and was then able to know the cards in a small pile from the numbers on the Magic Square. Adrian had a couple of baffling card effects. All the number 4 cards got flipped over. The backs of the deck and selected cards changed colors a couple of times.

Dan Stapleton did an excellent version of the classic “ashes on the arm” . 10 paper slips were randomly distributed to 10 people and the person's name was written on his slip . They were collected and a randomly selected paper was burned ,in an ash tray, and when Dan rubbed the ashes on his forearm then name appeared.

Steve Nelson was the final act and did a combination mentalism and card magic. Selected cards in one deck matched those chosen in another. There were many

strange occurrences and coincidences, and the ending was an “Any Card at Any Number “ style finish.



Dan holding his award that reads:

“Lifetime Achievement”

DAN STAPLETON

For your performance of the

Art of Magic and

Service to the

Magicians of Florida

Club photos courtesy of President Ryan Stiner:



Report from Dennis Phillips, Secretary

Meeting policy:

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. Because of the low levels of Influenza these past two pandemic years, this Flu season is expected to be more severe this winter season.

Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.

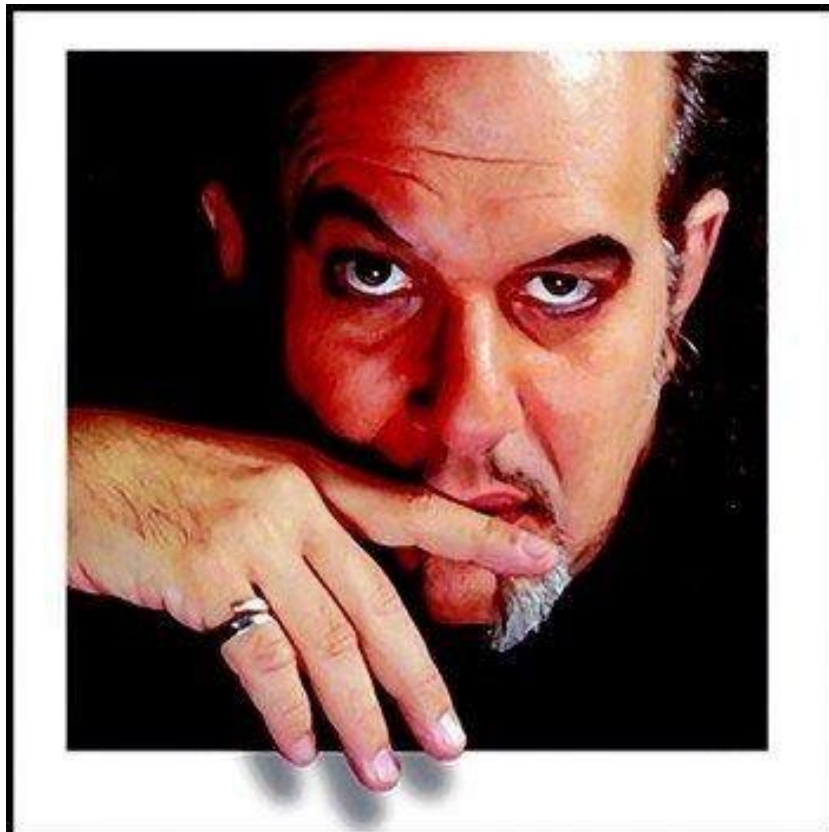


Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

An old line from the 1970s as told to me by my friend, the late Charles Windley -

"I once performed before the President of the United States ... at least I think I did. After a show in rural Georgia, a fellow came backstage and said, 'If you're a magician, then I'm President Carter.'"



The extraordinary accomplishment of the magicians of the 20th century was that they managed to take something that was inherently profound and render it trivial. -Max Maven

“Max Maven” passes after an extended illness (brain cancer-glioma)

Max Maven (born Philip Goldstein, December 21, 1950 - November 1, 2022) He was ranked as one of the most influential mentalists of all time.

He had a broad knowledge of magic history and the origins of various tricks and methods. He said that he believed that it is vital to preserve the history of the art and provide credit to the originators of ideas.

He was a prolific author and creator. His DVD series, with Eugene Burger, “Video Mind” contains several effects that are now classics, such as predicting which audience member selected the single black stone. One of his favorite methods was

using Equivoque (linguistically varying the outcome of an effect to the conclusion you want while the volunteer believes they have a free choice)

<https://rebelmagic.com/equivoque-magic/>

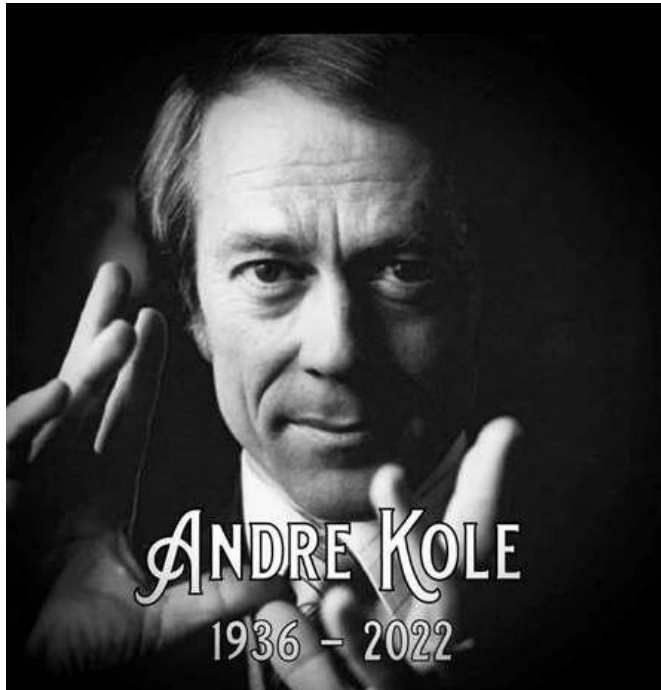
Maven’s B ’Wave used the principle and is a popular 4 card mentalism effect.

Max also popularized “The Galbreath Principle” which he has memorably described as “a thing of terrifying beauty”.

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/blog/the-gilbreath-principle>

He was fluent in Japanese and could perform in several other languages.

Another sadness in the magic world about our recent losses of leading personalities and performers



Andre Kole (Robert Gurtler Jr.) Sept. 30, 1936 - Oct. 17, 2022.

A great performer as well as one of the most prolific inventors of illusion . He was 86 and had been

suffering from dementia. Many of his illusions, in storage, were sold to David Sandy, who plans a future display.

From the “Table of Death”, to “The Drill”, “No feet” and “Squeeze Box”, “Head Mover” and “Vanishing Statue of Liberty”,

Kole created many illusions and small effects like the “Helicopter Cups” and

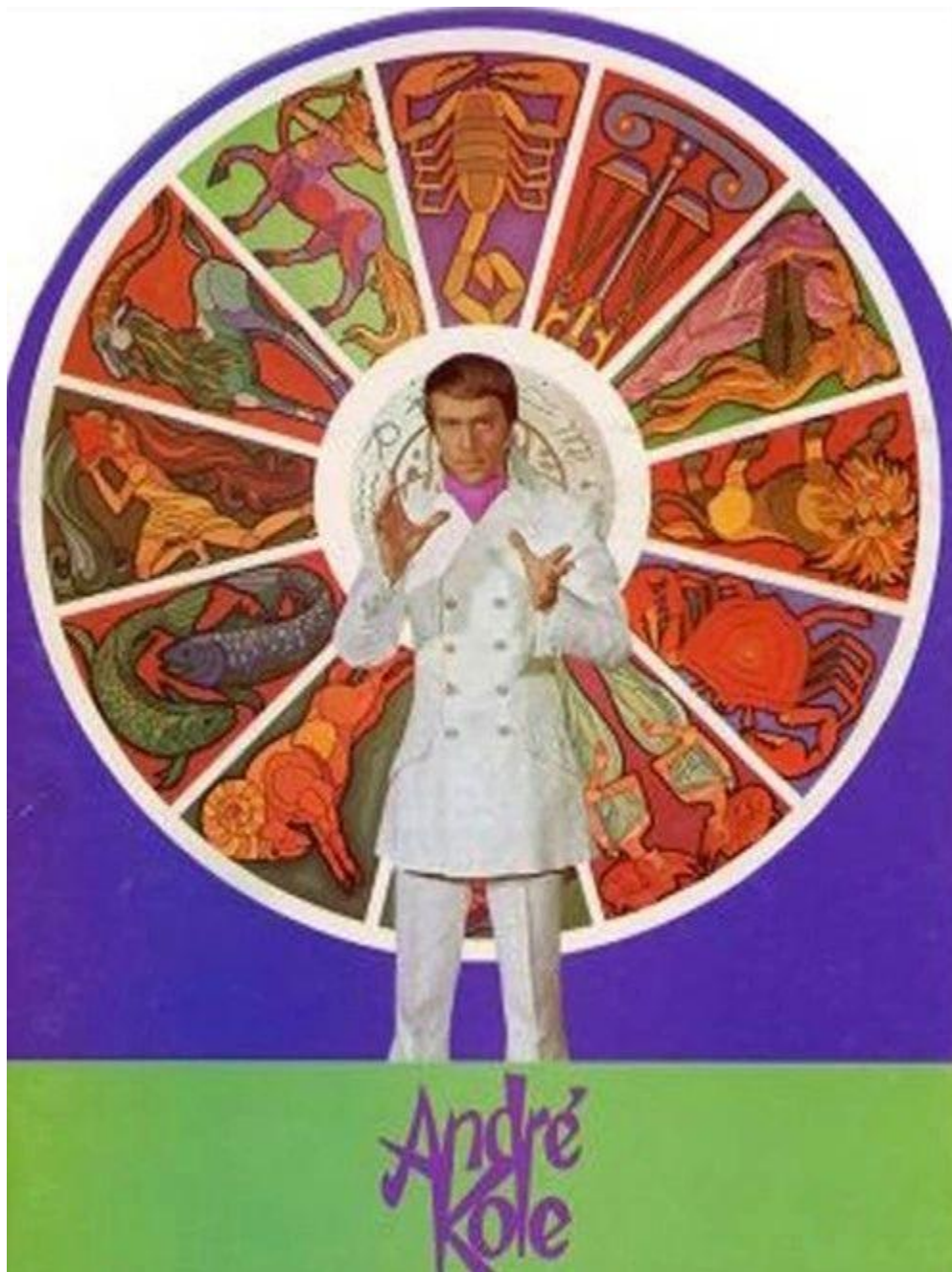
“Spikes through Balloon”.

A native of Mesa Arizona, he became world renowned as not only a performer, but one of the foremost creators of magical effects. His genius was utilized by stage and television stars David Copperfield, Siegfried & Roy, Doug Henning, as well as countless other magicians throughout the world. At seven years old one of his father's business associates showed the young Bob Gurtler a coin trick, which sparked his interest.

The pivotal moment of his life came when ,at age twenty-five, he had a religious conversion. He was challenged to investigate the miracles ,in the Bible, from the point of view of an illusionist. He concluded that all the miracles in the Bible are real and Christianity is the one true religion. This led to the next fifty plus years touring his show, 'André Kole's World of Illusion' in all fifty states as well as eighty countries under the banner of Campus Crusade for Christ International. He always shared his Christian message with an estimated ten million people in live performances.

There is currently a full-length documentary and a limited docu-series being produced with Robert (André) as the central character, focusing on another aspect of his career, investigating and debunking supernatural phenomena , paranormal activity and fake miracles.

Kole is survived by his wife Kathryne, daughters Robyn and Stacey, his son Tim, and his grandchildren Dustin, Dillon, Colin, Camden, and Skyler. As well as his brother Dr. Richard Gurtler and his family. Andre was admired by many around the world.



He was amazing.

Here I am with Andre at his late 1980s show performance in Maitland, Florida.



Orlando's own , “Jafo” (Jason Fields) greatly impressed Penn and Teller of “Fool Us”.
We look forward to his next appearance!



Registration for the Florida Magic Collector's Conference III (February 3rd - 5th, 2023) is now open. Special Guest-Ron Urban.

February 3rd - 5th, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Resort Orlando - Lake Buena Vista, 13351 SR 535, Orlando, FL 32821. (407) 239-4500.

Register here: [Magicpalooza - Home \(magic-palooza.com\)](http://magicpalooza.com)



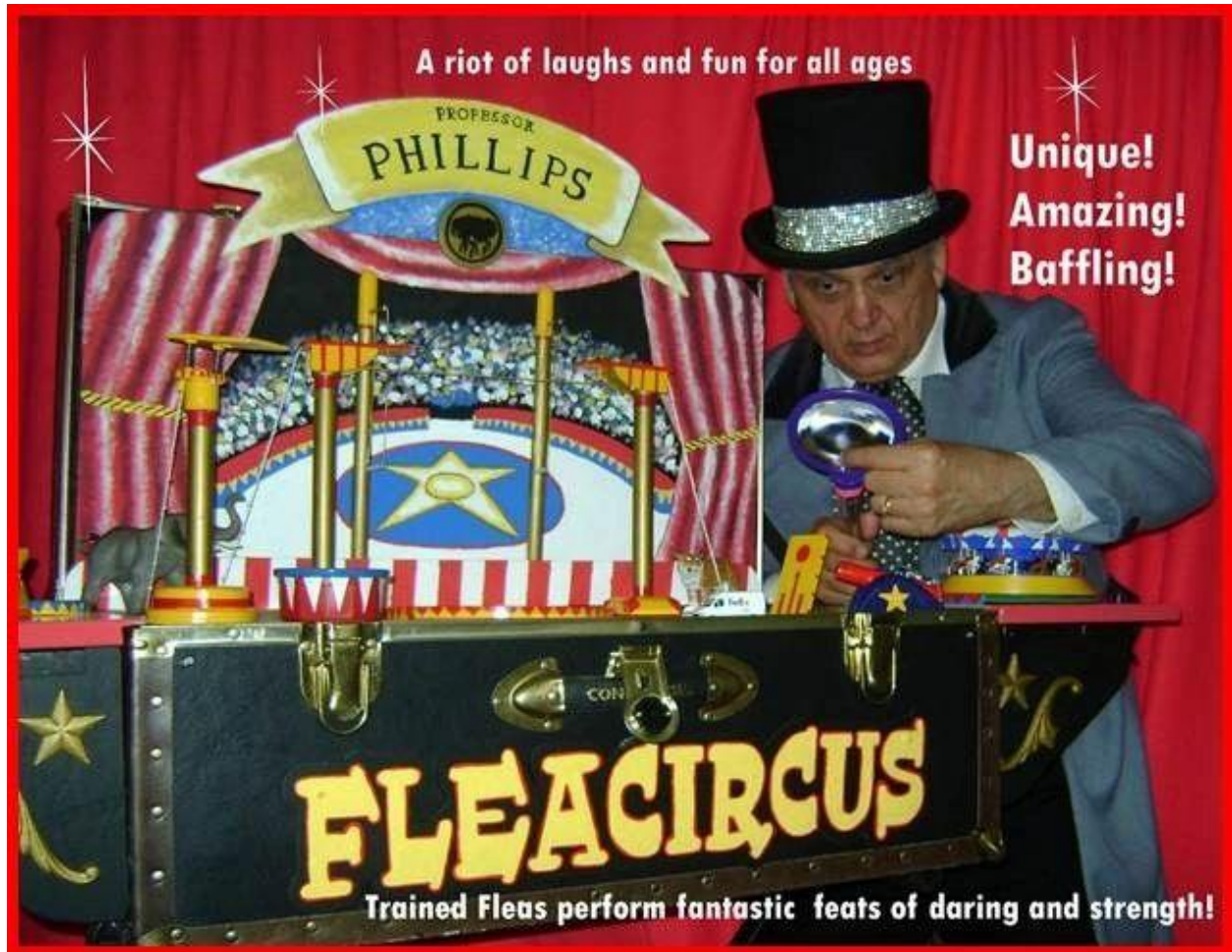
My friend Wes Iseli is on the cover of this month's Linking Ring.

Wes and his wife Natalie and new baby (Lana) were great friends while Cindy and I lived in Virginia (2009-2014)

I helped Wes build props and did his recorded show announcements.



My Flea Circus



It is an old Victorian form of street entertainment. In the past, people did try to harness fleas but humbug and acting dominated most acts from the late 1800s in “Dime Museums”, fairs and carnivals.

The performer has a travel trunk that he opens, and it contains a miniature circus.

He demonstrates that he has trained fleas to do amazing circus stunts.

With showmanship and clever lines, the audience wonders if what they are seeing is really trained fleas.

Here is my Flea Circus promo on You Tube.

I created the “World’s Only 3 Ring Flea Circus” The main ring is in the trunk and the two outriggers contain a Merry-go-round on one side and the teeter totter on the other

side. The show was built in a footlocker that my friend, illusionist Mark O'Brien found at a garage sale.



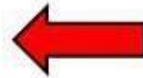
“Scratch all your other plans! This is the show, everyone is itching to see!”



Here is a view into the inner workings of the trunk with the magnetic turn table for the center ring flea parade, the magnet run for the “toy truck push” and the lever for the target shot and the inner eyelets for the thread runs to the pull-knobs on the back. Over this is the white marker-board for the circus floor.



Back control panel closed.



**Back control panel Open.
Knobs can be seen and the
Bottom of the turntable.**



One of the outriggers in the side of the trunk has a mechanism that can pivot down the magnet causing the flag to fall over. It can also operate the teeter totter.

**Rear view of trunk and
thread operated controls,
knobs and levers.**



**Can of compressed
air for the high-dive
splash**

The other outrigger has a small turntable for moving the Merry-go-round (as used, usually, in model railroad layouts) with magnets on the turntable and metal washers in the Merry-go-round.





Paul Osborne recalled the late Tom Palmer's booklet (published by Magic Inc.) on flea circuses and being mentored by Tom in Dallas.

Paul Osborne, in the 1970s used the simple methods of Tom Palmer with pull strings and magnets and usually a hidden assistant. Paul made his flea circuses as a street attraction for theme parks where inexpensive young help was available to hide under the table. Paul focused on a clever script, costuming and great promotional artwork and hanging banner lines. His circuses were not mechanical marvels, but they were simple, worked well and easy to maintain and fix.

Svenson, in the late 1990s became the UK's most popular flea circus show, and builder. Their artwork and mechanisms are superb.

Joe Vecchiarelli directed me to Walt Noon's materials. The revival, in America, seems to have been led by Walt Noon and he has published a workshop book and video on some of the electromechanics that he uses. Joe Eddy Fairchild also builds great Flea Circuses as did Chance Wolf.



Here I am performing in the lobby at an Orlando magic convention.

I use a soundtrack with recorded pre-show announcements, circus music and a timed track with a script. On the soundtrack are drum rolls, cymbal crashes, slide whistles and other enhancing sound effect

The show contains:

Introducing the Fleas

Raising the American Flag.

Grand parade around the center ring

Riding the Merry-go-round

Teeter totter

Pushing the toy truck

Walking the high wire

The Trapeze

Being shot from a canon into the baseball glove of a volunteer, wearing the Flea Busters helmit.

High Drive and splash. The “Flea Circus”. On the front sign falls down.

And I end with the mongoose flying out of his cage.

(You can see the wooden cage that says, “Danger”. It is the old spring-loaded animal gag. I explain the moongoose is angry at being flea bitten but that is how the fleas eat. Of course, just as the curious look into the cage the lid flies off.)



My brochure and posters:

Professor Phillips is

equal parts bluster and hucksterism that transports the audience back to the 1890's. The audience ends up cheering for fleas they'd normally want to kill.



Biting Entertainment for a cross-generational crowd, ranging from mesmerized kids to tattooed twenty-somethings to nostalgia-driven seniors...

★ See! ★

- Fleas push objects thousands of times their weight!
- A brave flea jump from a diving board into a tank of water!
- A flea walks across the high-wire and swing on a trapeze!
- A flea is shot out of a cannon and lands safely!



You have probably heard of a flea circus, but have you ever attended one? Bring the kids and avail yourself to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. No bug spray allowed!



Dennis Phillips has been a real university and college faculty member. He carefully researched the details of historic Flea Circus acts. In an earlier time, real human fleas were harnessed with thin wire loops and used for amusement. In our time, theatrical technology, clever writing and hilarious humor are used for a fascinating and incredibly entertaining presentation that lasts from fifteen to 45 minutes. The performance is filled with captivating audience participation and a riveting storyline! You will laugh, you will wince, you will gasp and applaud!



Prof. Phillips' Fabulous Flea Circus

DENNIS PHILLIPS

Prof. Phillips' Fabulous

FLEA CIRCUS



You will never see anything like this again!
THE ROULETTE LITTLE SHOW ON EARTH!



THE WORLD'S ONLY 3 RING FLEA CIRCUS!

The World's ONLY!

3 Ring Flea Circus

THE Biggest Little SHOW on EARTH

Professor Phillips' Fabulous FLEA CIRCUS

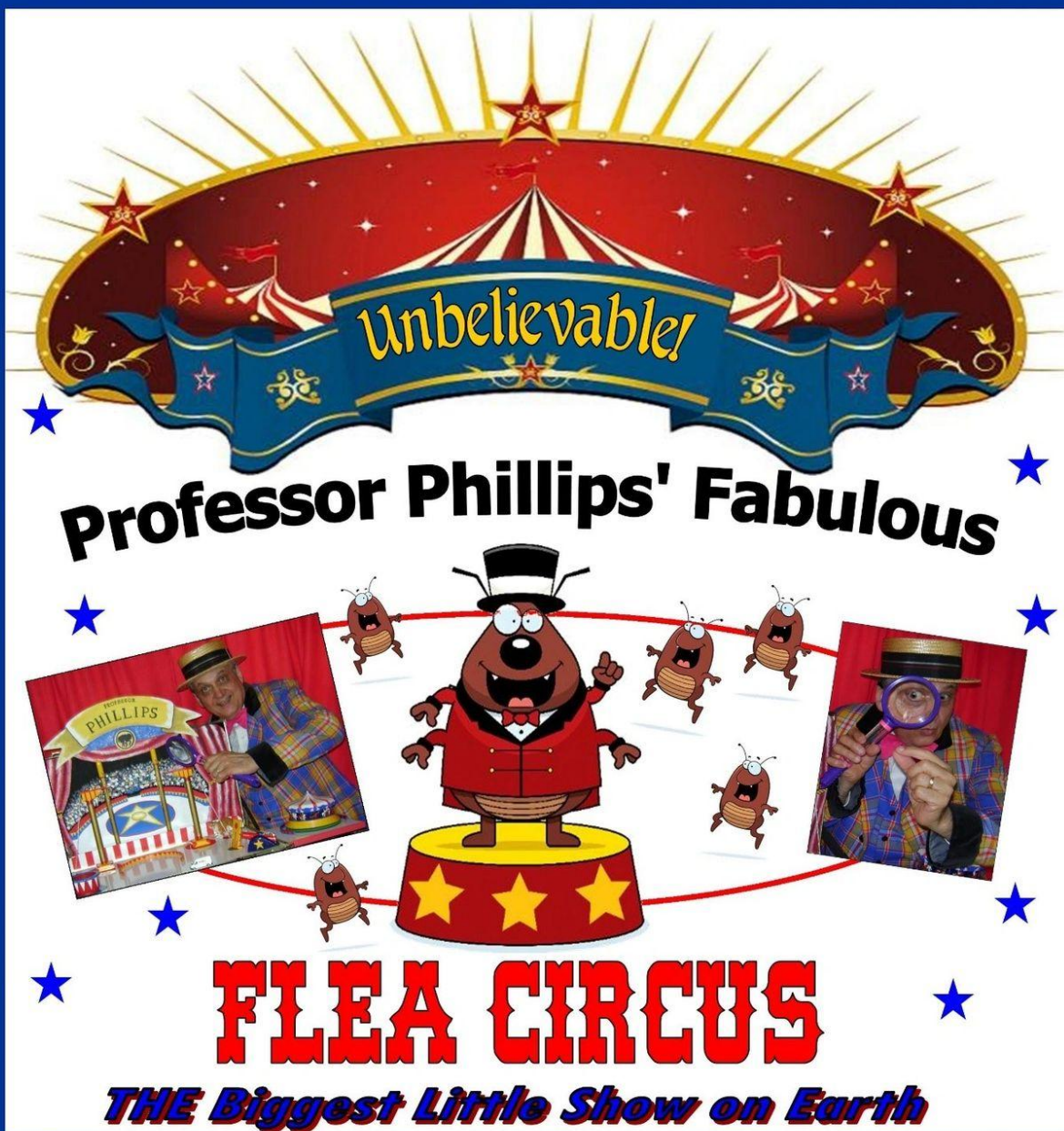
★STARING★

HERCU-FLEAS the strongest flea on earth!
FLEA-O-PATRA the prettiest flea around
FLEA-VIL-KANEVIL the dare-devil stunt flea



NOW APPEARING § EXCLUSIVE APPEARANCE

® 2012 A Dennis Phillips Production



NOW APPEARING § EXCLUSIVE APPEARANCE

® 2012 A Dennis Phillips Production

A no set-up, self-working card trick with any deck an a real fooler.



From the joys of vaudeville and an enjoyable interlude in any show, Shadowgraphs.

It was a feature if the Okito and Fu-Manchu shows.

The late Sonny Fontana had a great shadowgraph act.

The Stull Bowl Aerial Fishing

The Aerial Fishing effect is where four live swimming goldfish fish are seeming caught, out of thin air, at the end of a fishing pole and dropped into a glass bowl.

With the Stull bowl the performer's hands never have to get wet or come in contact with the fish during the production.

In the First Golden Age of Magic, "Goldfish Catching" was a popular stage effect.

Lee Grabel kept the act alive in the 1940s and 50s.

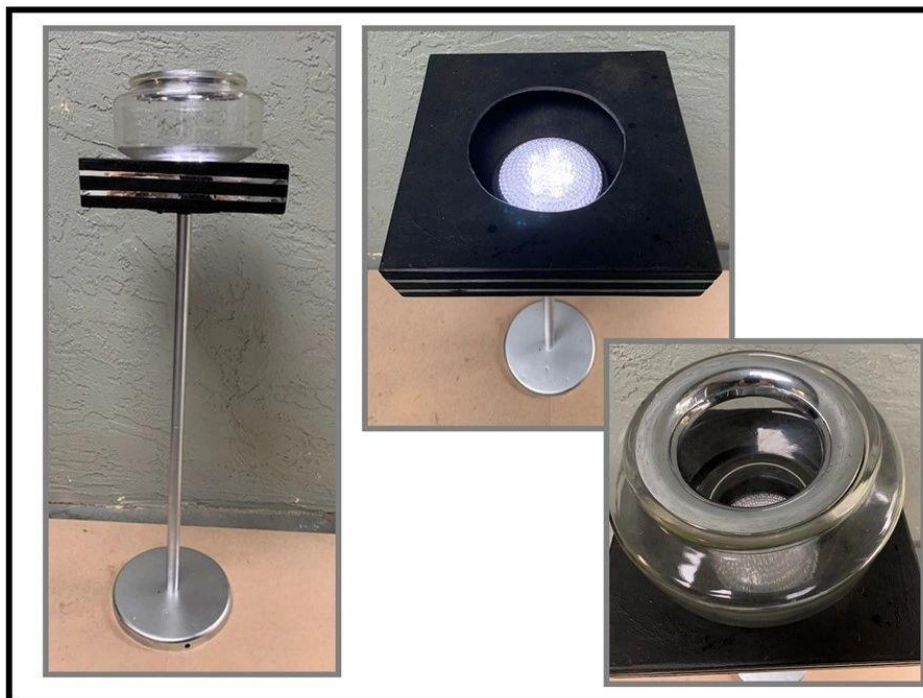
In the Second Golden Age, Mac King popularized a revival in Las Vegas in the 1990s. His funny gag was eating a goldfish, and then openly showed that what he ate was not a real fish, but a thin slice of carrot made with a potato peeler and trimmed to shape.

There were many methods to catch fish. In one, the fishing rod handle had a compartment that rotated in 4 places, and each was loaded with a fish that is exchanged for a fake bait that was released at the end of the line as it swung in the air. Okito and Fu Manchu (David Bamberg) used this method.

There have been other "fish dropper" gimmicks, on the bottom edge of the performer's coat to deliver a fish.

The Stull Bowl was used by Dante. He used a light in the support table to illuminate the fish and make them more visible.

These first three pictures show my stand and the bowl lit up by the LED light in the base. The chrome bowl with the 4 load chambers can be seen in the top view.



My stand base was made from an old floor lamp.

The chromed Stull loading ring is well made from a cast metal form and an outer thin metal ring. UF Grant made a less expensive one that was sheet metal welded together. It did not have the smooth curve.



The Goldfish are loaded into each compartment and a celluloid (plastic) bottom cover is clipped on. The release is to simply tap the inside on the bowl where each flat cover is and push outward and that clear cover falls off and the fish falls into the water.

You can load the ring and set it in a shallow tray filled with fish water and the fish survive fine.

There is a felt strip at the top of each compartment. Just before the performance, the loaded container ring is turned over and drained and placed in the top of the glass bowl.



The four Abbotts fish baits are made from a hollow black tube and two-layer satin, sewn and painted fakes. In the tail is a one-inch nail to weight the end.

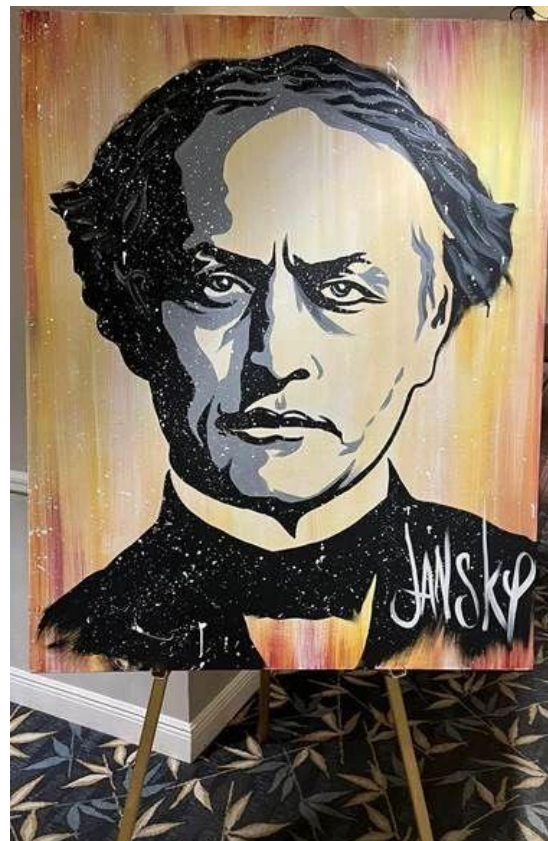
I have shown the set-up sequence. The fish is rolled around the weight and inserted into the hollow black tube and held there by friction. The top end of the hollow black metal tube has a small metal ring that attaches to the end of the fishing line. I just use a slightly opened paper clip, painted black so the bait slips on easily and quickly. A shake of the pole and the bait dislodges from the black tube and is instantly seen. They are detached and "palmed off" as the fish is dislodged and drops. That is sufficient distraction to simply discard the fake each time.

To open the act, I also use two oversized thumb tips, each loaded with a fish, to be able to reach out of the air with a bare hand and make a fist and dump a fish into the bowl.

This, seldom seen act, is always a crowd pleaser.

If you wonder who owns the rights to what magic effect. Check this out : <https://www.conjuringcredits.com/doku.php?id=start>

A great speed-painting act at the recent Daytona Magic Convention.



From the collection of Bill Schulert



Dennis