

SPECIAL PANDEMIC EDITION # 9

May 1 , 2020

June 25, 2020 | Archived Famulus

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

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

-Orlando and nation on lockdown-


No Ring/ Assembly meetings until future notice

Florida enters Phase Two of Reopening:

FLORIDA PHASE 2

Executive Order 20-139

Effective Friday, June 5, 2020



RESTAURANTS

- ✓ May continue operating at 50% indoor seating capacity and full capacity outdoors with appropriate social distancing. Restaurants may allow bar-top seating.

BARS, PUBS & TAVERNS

- ✓ May operate at 50 percent seating capacity inside and full capacity outside with appropriate social distancing. Patrons may only receive service if seated.

GYMS

- ✓ May operate at full capacity with appropriate social distancing and frequent sanitization.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

- ✓ May operate at full capacity with appropriate social distancing and sanitization protocols.

MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES

- ✓ May operate at full capacity if permitted by local governments.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS VENUES

- ✓ May remain open and continue operating for games, events, competitions and training.

AMUSEMENT PARKS

- ✓ May re-open if they submit a re-opening plan to the State. The plan must have already received approval from the county.

ORGANIZED YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Organized youth activities including youth sports teams and leagues, youth clubs and programs and childcare, may operate. Summer camps and youth recreation camps may also operate. (See Executive Order 20-131 for additional information).

ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESSES

- ✓ Entertainment businesses including but not limited to movie theaters, concert houses, auditoriums, playhouses, bowling alleys and arcades may operate at 50 percent capacity with appropriate social distancing and sanitization protocols.

BARBER SHOPS & COSMETOLOGY SALONS (Hair and Nails)

- ✓ May continue operating while adhering to safety protocols. Additional guidance for barber shops and cosmetology salons is available on the Department of Professional Regulation website.

PERSONAL SERVICES BUSINESSES

- ✓ Personal Services Business including but not limited to tattoo parlors, acupuncture establishments, tanning salons and massage establishments may operate while adhering to guidance from the Florida Department of Health. Additional guidance regarding personal care services is available on the Florida Department of Health website.

HOSPITALS

- ✓ May continue to conduct elective surgeries provided they have adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and abide by safety protocols.
- ✓ Are required to test all individuals for COVID-19 before being discharged to long-term care facilities.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

- ✓ Are required to transfer residents that have tested positive for COVID-19 if the facility is not equipped for appropriate care. When Department of Health testing takes place at a facility, all facility staff members are required to submit to COVID testing as well.

VACATION RENTALS

- ✓ Counties may seek approval to operate vacation rentals by submitting a written request and a county vacation rental safety plan to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES


- ✓ May seek to operate with a written request from the County Mayor, or if no mayor, the county administrator. The request should be submitted to DBPR for approval.

INDIVIDUALS OVER 65

- ✓ Individuals over 65 or with underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged to avoid crowds and take measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

For all counties except Miami-Dade, Broward & Palm Beach.

Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.



PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S RECOVERY

Revised 6/5/2020

Mixed News- More Cases/More Testing/ Hospitalizations/Deaths Continue

For “live audience show business” this means a 50% capacity, which would probably still be below the profitability range at regular pricing. The mandatory Social Distancing would eliminate Close-Up Magic and audience participation.

Religious services have no State restrictions other than prudent distancing and hygiene.

Florida has reported [more than 1,000 new infections each day](#), on average, since the middle of last week, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

That increase came as most of Florida entered a second stage of reopening on Friday.

One of the most important numbers when tracking the spread of the coronavirus is the "R value," which represents [how many people each infected person will likely infect](#), on average.

An R value under 1 means fewer and fewer people will get infected, and the virus starts to fade away. But an R value of more than 1 means the epidemic will get worse.

As of Sunday, Florida's estimated R value was 1.07, meaning the rate of spread is increasing slightly, according to [Covid19-projections.com](#).

More than 63,000 people in Florida have been infected with the coronavirus, and more than 2,700 have died from the virus in the state, according to data from Johns Hopkins.



If you are receiving this email, it is because you are listed as the Ring Secretary of your local I.B.M. Ring.

I am asking all Rings to please make sure their Members with kids between the ages of 13 and 19 years old are aware of an amazing upcoming FREE benefit on July 7th and 8th. You will have to act quickly! If you are having a Ring Meeting online or in person before these dates, please be sure and tell your Members about it. If not, please email your Members ASAP with the information below.

The two-day Lance Burton Teen Seminar will still take place Tuesday, July 7th and Wednesday July 8th, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (PDT), due to the generosity of Lance Burton, the McBride Magic & Mystery School, and the I.B.M. Endowment & Development Fund. The event will happen online, using the Zoom platform.

This two-day seminar will be available FREE to all I.B.M. Members and family member who are between the ages of 13 and 19 years old. We are now less than four weeks out, so please try to get the word out as soon as possible. To sign up, go to www.bit.ly/2020LBTS and download the application form on that page, complete it, and email it back to Simone Marron as soon as possible at simone@marrons.us.

This two-day event will give I.B.M. teens the opportunity to learn from the very best - Lance Burton, Jeff McBride, Larry Hass and surprise guests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Simone Marron".

Lance Burton Teen Seminar Administrator
I.B.M. International Secretary

Cell Phone: (904) 838-5897

**FISM
QUEBEC
2022**

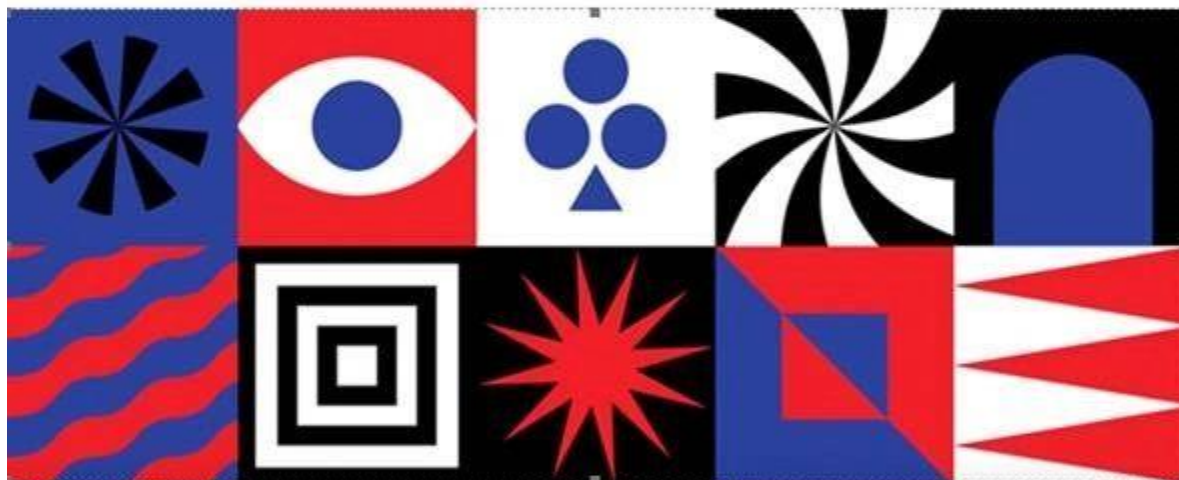
Championnat
du monde
de Magie
25 - 30 juillet

World
Championship
of Magic
July 25 - 30



June 12, 2020
Newsletter #2021-5

Bulletin d'information #2021-5
12 juin 2020



FISM WCM POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 2022

Due to the various events that affected our lives in relation to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) including the fact that several of the continental qualifications could not take place in 2020, the organizers of the FISM WCM in Quebec along with FISM International, **have made the decision to DELAY THE FISM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UNTIL JULY 25 - 30, 2022 .**

This is what happens to the Flux Capacitor when you set the date for 2020...



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

“The Bev Bergeron Ring”

Lord Melchett: “Farewell, Blackadder [hands him a parchment]. The foremost cartographers of the land have prepared this for you; it’s a map of the area that you’ll be

traversing. [Blackadder opens it up and sees it is blank] They'll be very grateful if you could just fill it in as you go along. Bye-bye."

– From the English comedy series *Blackadder* (Part 2, Episode 3)

Yep...As Magicians we often are forced to “Wing It”. I was hired to do a banquet show. Clearly, I explained on the contract that the show was not to be an illusion show. When I got there, it became obvious that the person who booked me did not inform the committee. They were expecting a “Floating person” and a “Cutting a person in Two”.

So what do you do when you need to do these effects and do not have the props?

There are ways to satisfy the requirement and make the audience happy. Here is what I do.

The Floating Person and Cutting a Person in Half.

1) You can truthfully say that you are doing the “*Floating Person*” Illusion this way.

My “Floating” is an idea that I got from Rachael Columbini’s former partner, magician Tom Jones. It is marketed as “The Wild Levitation” Tom Jones used to freely show the method at his lectures and convention booth.

You can make it yourself but if you want good documentation and not have the hassle of finding the gimmicks buy it from Penguin Magic. Take a look at the video.

<http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/337>



Go to a place that salvages computers and get them to give you two rare earth magnets out of a junk hard drive.

Duck tape them into the inside insteps of a pair of slip-on dress loafers that are about a size too big. This way you can easily get them on and off.

You can wear these as dress shoes throughout the show.

To do the trick, take off your jacket or have a yard square opaque cloth.

Hold it out in front of you and lowered so that it is touching the floor.

Slip off one shoe as you hold it against the other. The magnets WILL hold them together.

Step back with your socked foot and do all the moves you see in the video.

Lower the cloth again and slip back on the shoe!

2) You can truthfully say that you are “*Cutting a person in Half*”

I use Bob Sheets, “Hang ‘em High” (Rope through the Body)

This “plays big, packs small”. Watch the performance. It is strong stuff.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGFP0f6vFWo>



Magic Magazine published the secret of the original Sheets version a few years back. The effect is accomplished by a “Delbin-Tarbell Screw Gimmick” in the center of the long rope. You have a short 3 foot piece already tucked in your pants, with knots on the end for

ease of handling. It is a matter of reaching around the back, untwisting the center of the long rope and grasping the knots with each hand and pulling it through you!

There you have it...TWO illusions. For \$150 crummy bucks, that is what they get.

I would NEVER work for the conditions where you were forced to do illusions for \$150... The main reason is that agents like this often bill the client a high price and then give you \$150 or less. My pay is not the issue. What is the issue is the client level of expectation for a \$500 to \$700 "illusion" show they paid for , and you are limited to \$150?

A commission schedule should be reasonably in line with client and talent-pay portion.

Personal Management can justify 50% (Colonel Tom Parker got that out of Elvis) but just an "agent" who is looking for the lowest bid and giving you no personal exclusiveness, deserves far less.

The scientific secret of Abbott's "Super-Duper Balloon." (Seen often in the 1950s in department stores, such as Sears, keeping a beach ball in the air in a vacuum cleaner sales display)

The trick uses a centrifugal blower fan (also known as a squirrel cage fan). It is mounted so a small geared motor can move the fan's aim from side to side.

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



So what you have is a stream of upward air at moderate velocity.

This then flows past the round balloon, which is caught in the “Bernoulli Effect”.

I will spare you all the Fluid Dynamics and Physics lecture.

Here you can see it here in a science experiment. His air compressor is too noisy for a show, so magicians use the much quieter centrifugal blower.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpfKVIARGNA>



Aerodynamic Fun With Bernoulli's Principle: Making a Balloon Levitate at an Angle

Here are two videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kl-MhnyzE>



Super Duper Balloon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-_J2DWB0_w



Paul Gross & Tim Mannix @ Hocus Pocus with Abbott's Super Duper Balloon

I have been watching and recording ,on DVD , Masters of Illusions on Fridays at 8 PM on the CW Network. In Orlando that is channel 18 WKCF TV.

I do it mostly because it is an anthology of the evolving magic arts and shows a variety of artistic approaches and personalities. Every show is a mixed bag but worth watching.

So far in this Season 10, the ratings have not been good. I don't know what has changed.

The show is about the same and the mix of close-up, comedy and illusions are the same. It could reflect a decline in the TV audience wanting light

variety entertainment in this turbulent historic period.

An historian who focuses on mass culture and entertainment would suggest that the acceptance and demand for "Magic" occurs mostly in happy times and a strong economy and typically has one or two strong personalities at the front.

The first 20 year era known as "The Golden Age of Magic" which ran from 1890 to 1930 was dominated by Thurston and Houdini with a bit less famous people like Blackstone and Dante filling theaters. During this era the American economy was expanding

with short “panics” (the old term for Recessions) but World War One and growing industry drove a demand for shows. The two years of the Spanish Flu Pandemic temporarily closed some theaters but was just a blip. Of course we know that The Great Depression and talking pictures brought that Era to a close.

The second Golden Age of Magic began as a television phenomena (Mark Wilson) but Doug Henning was the unique personality that broke through on Broadway with “The Magic Show” and then NBC TV specials. Consider that this was in the mid-70s just as the Viet Nam War was ending. The country was at the high point of industrial might in the mid-70s only to begin a long slow decline from higher energy costs and Inflation which stimulated a need for cheaper imports which itself destroyed many domestic factory jobs. But higher National Debts and a Federal reserve willing and able to flood the economy with more paper kept the illusion of wealth and happiness. Cracks began to appear in National Happiness with the AIDS epidemic in the mid-80s, There was the early 90s Gulf War and the Dot Com Bubble. By 2001 the party and good times were over and magic reflected it. Copperfield retreated to a Las Vegas theater and TV magic took on the Depression look of David Blaine. The end of Siegfried and Roy in 2003 and the 2008 economic collapse ended Lance Burton’s Stage Spectacle. In terms of household names ,the post 2008 Magic era has dominated by the bombast and Theater of Cruelty of Penn and Teller. I have omitted some of the lesser names like Criss Angel, another anti-hero.

Now, with the suspension of live magic and the needed elements of audience participation, magic is struggling. I am certain that many careers have been blown up and will be pleasant memories of the grand kids of former magicians.

Let me say that ZOOM shows and Internet Podcasts and an attempt to transform magic into a small screen show, is a losing proposition. Most of the authentic and mandatory connection between the performer and audience is missing.

Let's hope the ratings pick up for Masters of Illusion, one of the last places to actually see large stage magic.

My suggestion is to retain everything, from the electronic media ,that you believe that you may ever need, on a portable solid state drive (not a mechanical hard drive) . They cost a few hundred dollars for a couple of terabytes. Also use a cloud backup like Carbonite.

In the meantime, you should be able to transfer your cable recorded contents using a thumb drive. If not, spend less than a hundred dollars and get another DVR box WITH the ability to transfer to your portable drive. The drives plug in through a USP port.

I still burn a DVD for ease of transfer and copy and as a hard back up. That era is fading. The problem with large video files is bandwidth and e-mailing or expense of FTP sites for longer files. Recently more programs have copyright protection. You can jury-rig an HDMI splitter to defeat that with a slight reduction in video quality. There is a longer way to defeat it using a shareware program called "Handbrake" which extracts the data and defeats all protection algorithms aside from watermarks and even then you can mostly remove with another "clean up" program.

My feeling is that if someone tightly locks up a video file, leave it alone.

The real point is: Is any of the current content really worth the bother to record and document?

From a historical point, yes. This generational political and social trend has been to expunge and reinterpret history as personal "alternate facts". It is for those who want to bolster or hype their position and image. They just "spin" and reinterpret the factual literal history or make up your own and they relentlessly destroy all documents that refute their mythical version. That is very Orwellian! Recall that protagonist, George Winston in "1984" worked for "The Ministry of Truth" and his job was to be dictated, from Big Brother, what the Historical Truth was, and then go through old historical records and cut out and burn everything that was counter to what the Ministry of Truth and Big Brother said that it was supposed to be!

So preserving "Original unaltered documents" and the documents supporting their cultural and social context is important so future generations can see them and make up their own minds.

Note that Nostalgia always makes the heroes of the past more heroic than they probably were. Mostly because you had to live in the time the heroes did to appreciate what they did.

Today, I would say that Mark Wilson was a relentless promoter with a squeaky voice and the style of a birthday party magician with big props and a hot assistant and family image. His secret was to surround himself with genius and skilled creators and experienced hands like Bev Bergeron, Bobby Fenton, Torchy Towner, John Gaughan, Don Wayne, Francis Martineau and many others. Doug Henning was a wild-eyed overbite mod bellbottomed shrimp who appealed to mystically hungry baby-boomers, who were afraid to join a religious cult but still like miracles. His audience was looking to party again after the Viet Nam War and Henning offered a fashion look that departed from the tails and top hat. He was a kid, their age, looking for wonderment and a chance to relieve their childhood dreams. Copperfield was an over-produced, nebulous metrosexual who fit perfectly in

with the “me-generation” narcissistic, self-consumed, self-empowered 1980s mindset. He was the powerful mythic self-made hero they needed to manipulate National Monuments on TV, penetrate a historic icon like The Great Wall” and acquire the drop dead gorgeous women, hanging on his arm and who sadly were only a female eye-candy prop. The older Mark Wilson, at least mentioned and seemed to relate to “The Lovely Nanny Darnell” whereas Copperfield ended his effects by being in a back-lite ,silhouetted in an Adagio dance pose and always the wind fan to blow the hair. Joannie Spina was merely a moving mannikin. The show was all about him. It was everything the optimistic 80s were.

I am giving you how historians of the future may look at our Second Golden Age of Magic in the long-term perspective... Am I right? Probably not. But history is made to be debated and revised. That is why we must keep the original sources, recordings and documents.

I have a feeling that “magic” as we knew it was an 1860 to 2020 was a social anomaly and will go the route of alchemy. It will be back but in a different form for a different audience. Today’s alchemists are the modern pharmaceutical industry. Tomorrow’s magicians may be pop psychologists with CGI.

Masters of Illusion: Season 10 Ratings

Published: June 6, 2020



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There's no Nielsen ratings hocus-pocus this time around and we don't have to wonder if *Masters of Illusions* will be cancelled since The CW has already announced that it will be returning as part of the network's Fall 2020 schedule (presumably for season 11). How long will this series continue? Stay tuned.

Air date	Episode	18-49 demo	demo change	Viewers (millions)	Viewers change
Fri 05/15/2020	10-01	0.14	-50.00%†	0.759	-19.00%†
Fri 05/15/2020	10-02	0.14	0.00%	0.576	-24.11%
Fri 05/22/2020	10-03	0.11	-21.43%	0.845	46.70%
Fri 05/29/2020	10-04	0.10	-9.09%	0.786	-6.98%
Fri 06/05/2020	10-05	0.10	0.00%	0.705	-10.31%

I have one of these MAK choppers, but the bag was always awkward, and the falling hand was hard to not hit the wire band. The hole is triggered to slide down into the bag carrying the spectator's arm and the hole is replaced by one above it on the slide mechanism.

This is miniature Giant Guillotine like Will Rock and Alice Cooper and later Criss Angel used. You visible see the body part fall into the bag.

One day I decided to replace the bag with a larger wooden hopper and as soon as the spectators arm fell in rushed my offstage make assistant holding a towel and under it, he was wearing the Kevin James' cut off hand!

He would yell, "I'll clean up the blood" and put his hand in the hopper, remove the towel and bring out the chopped off hand with the fingers wiggling.

He would run toward the audience and for a minute or tow the house "went up for grabs".

Finally, he brought back the hand and we obscured the front of the prop, by standing in front of it and restored the volunteer's hand. This became a feature of my Halloween Shows.





Magician Florian Sainvet Performs Mind-Bending Magic With CDs - America's Got Talent 2020

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=WlxrIM3dGuQ>

Nice flash act. Magician Florian Sainvet

I can tell you the camera was speeded up. He used the Flip move and black art on the back of some CDs. I think that Peter Marvey used this method with glued together card fans. I am sure some of the CDs were on elastic with a lip on the CD so all he did was pull it out and then let it fly back.

This was very well done.

A couple of years back, I did a long term school substitute job at a local High School. I was teaching "Marketing and Promotion" and a couple of business classes (Law and Accounting). When we were doing "Branding" and "Publicity", I showed clips from a collection of 80s and 90s and more recent magic TV specials while they were finishing up their projects.

The kids (born in 2004 or after) never heard of Copperfield. The only part of the special (the

1995 15 Year Retrospective) they enjoyed was the Spikes of Death. “Too much dancing and posing and bright lights. When is he going to do the tricks?” Lance Burton was seen as too slow moving and “so what?”

They kind of liked Rudy Coby and thought that he was stupidly interesting. They like the bizarre stuff from his first special. (Nail in nose, knife in arm, hypno-wheel)

They were blown away by David Blaine. He was their overall favorite. “Is he for real?” Blaine’s understatement and minimalism could be the key.

Their favorite dove worker was Jason Byrne. “Bring back the guy with the purple coat and pig tail!” The girls were in love with him. Dan Sperry got a big “yuk”. The dove work of Lance Burton and Joseph Gabriel were deemed effeminate which did not appeal to some female students. Rick Thomas ,Greg Frewin, Jonathan David Bass and Jason Byrne were not seen that way.

They had heard of Criss Angle but thought he was a phony and fake and referred me to exposure sites on You-Tube, where most of them had seen him “He sells all his stuff and its all fake”

Marco Tempest’s act was called “boring”, saying, “Anyone can do that with an I pad”. They did not react well to a “variety” format such as “World’s Greatest Magic”.

In general the magic that appealed to them was not doves or big prop magic. They most liked, the close-up street magic with small objects which were presented in a way to ask, “Is that guy for real?” That is why they preferred Kevin James “Cutting the guy in half” over any danced illusion routine. “Wow! Is that for real?”

That’s what high school kids think. I am not sure if it means anything but marketing people spend a fortune for this information. Don’t take this information as appropriate for live stage shows. There is a different expectation in watching television as opposed to seeing something live and in person. This may be the reason that Cirque du Soleil does not translate well to television. In person it is breathtaking. On TV, not so much.

I found this to be true when I was editing my own video segment for Steve Brown’s TV special a few years back. I had to delete my mirror ball production. In person, the visual impact of the spotlights on the spinning, flaming ball was very powerful as the points of light swirled around the auditorium. On the TV screen it was all lost.



Dennis