



# The Flash Paper

## November 2024

**“Enjoying magic...with others...for others.”**

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### A Letter From Lindy

In late September **Michael Grandinetti** performed his illusions at the Holland Center accompanied by the Omaha Symphony. Several members attended one of his performances. It was a great way to mesh these two performing arts into an enjoyable evening. Nothing in the show was earth shattering. Certainly nothing that would fool a magician. Then again, he was not there to fool magicians. He was there to entertain the audience. Judging by their reaction - mission accomplished. He performed an effect I would not consider a stage illusion. (Fold a dollar bill with Washington facing out, unfold it, show George is now upside-down). The audience laughed and cheered. It's like I often say, we are entertainers first. Take a knuckle busting routine you practice for years. Followed by a deceptive self-working trick. The bottom line is which did the audience enjoy? If they both seemed amazing, and elicited laughter from the patter then you have done your job. So, pick a routine that fits your personality, practice until it becomes second nature so you can concentrate on your interaction with the crowd. You have accomplished your goal; you both fooled and entertained your audience.

Our October lecture was my favorite, maybe ever. I heard similar comments from several other attendees. **Losander** the master of levitation, put on a

show and lecture that were incredible. Every routine he performed was for sale. Several pieces sold out and he had to take orders to satisfy everyone. Just watching him perform was a treat, and then to learn the secrets was amazing. A lot of people bought the same items, so it will be fun to see everyone's adaptation. Beautiful effects all, but it will take time and practice to make them believable. Fortunately, Losander had several tips to bring these animations to life. This would have been a great issue to feature **Dirk Losander** at the top of my column, however he was previously honored in the February 2023 issue.

Sunday October 27th was the last day of a two-month run at Bellevue Berry Farm. One of my longest running regular gigs. A great season, not one show lost to rain or snow. Great weather, great crowds, and a chance to have my grandsons open the show. I never know if I'll be by myself or with one, two, or all three of the boys. Sports and other activities also keep them very busy.

Master magician **Kendrick "Ice" McDonald** has traveled the globe performing magic and winning many prestigious awards. Including two Entertainer of the Year honors, Presidential Citations from both SAM and the IBM and IAOTP Top Magician of the Year. In 2014 he was elected president of the Society of American Magicians. The first African American to hold that office. Ice was inducted into the SAM National Hall of Fame in 2018.





## October Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

**Dirk Losander**, “Master of the Art of Levitation”, was our guest lecturer for our October meeting. Originally from Winkels, Germany Dirk has studied and performed in over 60 countries throughout the world and credits **Finn Jon** and **Salvano** as his mentors. Losander started the evening with a 20-minute show followed by his lecture and breakdown of his routine. The show opened with a few classic routines involving the billiard balls and ropes. During the breakdown Losander urged everyone to modify the pattern of classic to help draw in your audience and make your magic believable. Salvano was credited for inspiration for his cut and restored rope routine which was followed up by a snake charming trick involving the rope. The prep work behind the snake trick was a great lesson in invisible thread work and placement. Rounding out the classical act portion was his disappearing, reappearing, and teleporting handkerchief act. For me his breakdown of concealing and passing the

thumb tip during this routine was as entertaining as the act itself and left a few people applauding.



Ryan Chandler assisting

Rounding out the night Losander concluded with his hits. The floating glass and bubble manipulation routines had the entire room quiet, every move was calculated, precise, and the illusion of levitation was impossible to shake. I was extremely happy about having a front row seat during the finale, the levitating table was one of the more incredible things I have seen at a live show. Just when you think that couldn't be topped, he then casually lets go and the table disappears leaving a crumpled tablecloth on the floor. Many in attendance mentioned after the show that this was one of the most fluid and beautiful levitation acts, they had ever seen. Before wrapping up the night Losander mentioned that his goal in performing is to make his audience believe in magic and not his skill. To get to that point he says you must believe in your “lies” to make the trick real to the audience. Thank you to everyone involved in putting this event together for the club, it was truly a treat to see Losander up close and in person.







## Monday Night

### Magic

WHAT'S  
NEW?

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



FEATURING

## TRAVIS NYE

Having performed magic professionally for 17+ years, the club has found Travis Nye a perfect person to answer the question 'What's New?'

He'll bring with him to demonstrate and sell what he considers to be the best magic tricks he's seen since he visited us a year ago.

In his demonstrations, he openly tells you a trick's strengths, weaknesses, and angle restrictions so you can make intelligent purchases.

As a club, we appreciate his honesty.

**SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024 | 7-8 PM (CST)**

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska  
No charge for attending this event.





## Symphony of Illusions At the Holland Center



The Illusionist, **Michael Grandinetti**, gained an easy rapport with the audience by magically floating a table in harmony with our Omaha Symphony as they played one of the enchanting Harry Potter themes.

The marriage of magic with an orchestra that played iconic compositions from Star Wars, Raiders of the Lost Ark, and E.T., sprinkled with pieces from Stravinsky and Debussy created a unique program fit for the intimacy of the Holland Center.

Mr. Grandinetti showed all of the important traits of a successful magician that we teach our junior magicians. Clearly the show's concept was creative. But, his ease with the children in the audience was due to his humble and giving stage persona. Child volunteers can be especially challenging, but Michael's ease with interplay and spontaneity to meet whatever arose kept the show moving and the audience engaged.

A surprising highlight for me, came toward the end of the show when Magician Grandinetti, graciously gave a special shout-out to our Omaha Magical Society!

- **Patrice Fisher**

## Abbott Open House

As a thank you to those who contributed to our club's annual 20/15 fund raising initiative, 35 people attended an Open House at The Abbott House on Saturday, November 9th - enjoying tours given by your OMS board members. Without exception, those who attended expressed a reaction of surprise at how far the refurbishing has come in only a little over 60 days since the club took possession.



Trevor pointing out eyelets used by Abbott for illusions



Pictures in the Omaha Room: Clockwise from the top - Betty and Jerry Golmanavich, David P. Abbott, Charlie Gross, Dr. Tom Zepf, Babe and Pete Petrashek, Denny, Ann, Sean and Shannon Rourke, with Teller and Walt Grahm in the center.





## THE INDIAN RICE MYSTERY



You need three things to accomplish this miracle—a jam jar or straight-sided tumbler, a box of uncooked rice, just as it comes from the grocery store, and a table knife. Every item may be borrowed without giving you any problems.

When you read how it's done, you'll find the explanation unbelievable. That's what makes it such a terrific trick; people who see it can't believe that there's no trickery about it, either.

The effect is simple. You pour a quantity of loose, uncooked rice into an empty jar. Then you plunge a common table knife into the rice. When you lift the handle of the knife, the jam jar and rice cling to the knife blade, suspended without visible means of support. You can handle it with complete freedom. And yet, when you offer it to a member of the audience, the jar and loose rice won't cling to the knife blade at all. Dipping the blade into the jar has no more effect than if it were dipped into a jar of water.

A jam jar that turns inward at the top is preferable. Any container that is larger at the top than at the bottom won't work. Although a straight-sided glass will work, once you're familiar with the trick and have the knack of it, a container that is narrower at the top than at the bottom is preferable.

Most stage magicians use an ornate brass bowl or vase. A clear-glass container is greatly to be preferred, in my opinion, because it shows the absence of trickery.

Many of the little glasses in which commercial

preserves, jellies and jams are packed are ideal for the trick.

To start with, open the box of rice grains and sift a few of them through your fingers. If anyone likes, you may let him examine the rice to his heart's content.

Once your audience is satisfied that there's nothing tricky about the rice, pour enough of it into the jam jar to fill it to overflowing. Rap the bottom of the jar sharply against a solid table top a couple of times, ostensibly to get rid of the surplus rice at the top, but actually to pack the rice down in the jar as solidly as possible. Brush off any rice that extends above the lip of the jar.

Now, make a crunching, stabbing motion with the knife, downward into the rice, a number of times. The purpose of this movement is to pack the rice even harder. With repeated thrusts, you can feel the rice packing more firmly into the jar.

When the rice is firm enough, grip the handle of the knife firmly and shove the blade straight down, firmly and solidly. It should now be wedged into the rice as firmly as if it were buried in solid cement.

You'll need to do a little experimenting to get the proper "feel" of the rice and knife blade, but once you get it, you'll have it for good. The problem most magicians have the first time they try it is purely psychological. They don't see how the trick could possibly work and don't expect it to work. If they persist, they find that their disbelief was ungrounded. The knife blade will pick up the jar and the rice as if everything were one solid unit.

Now, if you put the jam jar onto your left palm to hand to someone else to try it, grip the bottom firmly, and give the knife blade a slight back-and-forth twisting motion, the knife will not only come free but will unpack the solid rice.

A spectator who now lowers the blade into the jar will get absolutely no resistance. The blade won't cling at all. The rice can be poured back into its original container and everything can be minutely examined.

Impossible? Indeed, it is — but it works. There's a life lesson there somewhere.



Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

## Monday Night Magic

**Monday November 18**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE

Or just click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>  
(which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

### 2024 OMS Officers

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