



Centennial Anniversary  
1921-2021

# The Flash Paper

## October 2021

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



## Prez Sez

Well, Halloween Season is here again. It is a favorite time of year at our house as my wife's birthday is November 1<sup>st</sup>, so All Hallow's Eve is Lori's Birthday Eve and a traditional night to decorate, invite family and friends over, and party at our house. We have kept

the tradition going as our grandkids now come to our house for pizza and then go out Trick or Treating in our neighborhood. There is a large, multi-block area that is very flat so it is easy on parents, grandparents and small children. I stay home to do a few magic tricks and pass out the treats.

This October has also been a great opportunity to explain to our Junior Magicians our club's connection to Harry Houdini who died on Halloween in 1926 and who signed our charter 100 years ago. We've also been showing them how to look at the tricks we have been learning for the last several months and find ways to give them a Halloween theme for what is traditionally a busy season for magicians.

Personally, it is a chance for me to haul out my Zombie Bicycle Cards and perform the Rising Card with the "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" deck as the Great Pumpkin rises up out of the sincere patch where Linus camps out all night. But my favorite trick this time of year is Larry Becker's "Will the Jokes Match?" where 5 cards with jokes end up matching 5 cards with punch lines. For those not familiar with the effect, it is based

upon a clever principle first used in magic by Howard Adams in the Ramasee Prophecy. I use goofy kid's Halloween jokes like, "What should you do if a monster runs through your front door? Run out the back door, of course!"

And on that note, I'll slink out the back door myself. See you in a few days for Monday Night Magic.

## Fundraising Goal Reached!



In response to a challenge from the OMS Board, enough individual members pledged \$15 per month for the next twelve months to cover the monthly operating expenses of the club.

With the OMS board committed to not raising the annual dues from its current \$20 per year, this extra subsidy will help ensure the club remains financially stable.

Thank you to all who were willing and able to contribute in this way.

**Check out our website:**

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

## September's Monday Night Magic Featuring Lance Burton

"Most magicians stop working on their tricks too soon." That nugget was one of the many that **Lance Burton** passed along to us for our September club get together via Zoom.

That's right, **Lance Burton** was our featured guest magician and lecturer for our OMS Monthly Monday Night Magic event!



He began with that quote, which a fellow magician, mentor and friend had said to him when Lance was a young, aspiring magician. That was his lead-in to an evening of cool stories about his life and career. Taking those words to heart, Mr. Burton talked about gaining his success through practice, support and creative camaraderie with fellow magicians who have been his lifelong mentors and friends.

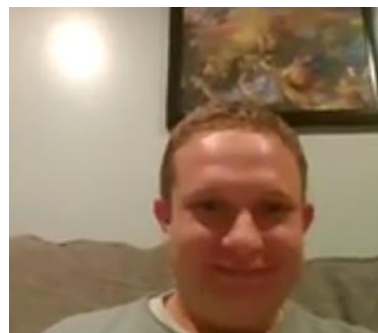
It began with a pamphlet on magic that had an ad for a miracle floating ball. As a boy, Lance was fascinated with that "Zombie Ball" that would surely thrill his friends and family! That effect was honed and then progressed into using other objects, and became one of

the mainstays of his act.

As we listened to the stories of his career, it became very clear that **Lance Burton** does not fit the stereotype of the aloof magician who never discloses his secrets. On the contrary, Burton is not only a famously talented magician, but also is a very skilled and down-to-earth storyteller. His generosity with sharing his experiences, knowledge and advice, was entertaining as well as inspiring.

Values of supporting aspiring magicians, cultivating creativity, and collaboration were clearly themes of the evening. Those values were layered within his stories as if he were layering various effects into one major illusion.

The Omaha Magical Society was privileged to host Lance Burton. We are very grateful to him for sharing his life learnings, taking questions, and teaching us several tricks during the amazing two hours he spent visiting with us virtually! - **Patrice Fisher**



Theron Christensen won Lance's Two Card Mystery prize for the best questions.







## Monday Night

## Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

# Featuring JERED BLAKE

JERED'S REPUTATION TO CREATE  
MIND-BLOWING MAGIC WITH A DECK OF  
CARDS CAN BE EXPERIENCED USING THE  
QR CODE BELOW.

He not only has agreed to present a twenty minute performance but also to teach one of David Blaine's reputation-making card tricks from early in his career.

Be sure and have a deck of cards with you!



**Broadcast on Zoom**  
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>  
No charge for this event  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021,**  
**FROM 7-8 PM**



## MagiFest 2021

After multiple delayed dates due to Covid, **MagiFest 2021** finally got underway on Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup>. I have attended MagiFest once before in 2020. Typically, the convention is held in January, which makes for a very chilly time in downtown Columbus OH. This year it was a bit of a treat exploring the scenic metropolis with the warm sunny early-fall weather.

I arrived early on Thursday several hours before the convention started to get the lay of the land, meet up with my convention companion **Clint Runge**, and check into our hotel. MagiFest is known to be the second largest magic convention in the United States and has been going for 90 years. Actually, the next convention will be the 90<sup>th</sup> (2022). It is known to be the jamming convention where you get to sit down with other passionate magi and share stories, exchange tricks, or just absorb the talent around you. This year the convention was limited to 500 people which was quite a reduction from previous conventions where they cap out at 1200 attendees. Due to the limited attendants, it was much easier to approach the lecturers and steal a moment of their time. It is always fun to rub shoulders with the giants in the industry (even though they likely will not remember you the next time you see them).

I won't get into too much detail here about the individual lectures, but each and every one of them was wonderful and I learned something from every single one. The convention schedule is laid out in such a way that it makes it easy to run to your room between lectures, grab a bite to eat, or jam with others with a minimum of an hour gap between all "main events". This is especially useful when you take copious notes on the lecture that happened right before the break. I don't like writing things down during the lecture as I am typically so absorbed in what they are showing that I either forget to write, or don't want to tear my eyes away because I

am about to learn the secret to the masterfully performed trick that just fooled me moments before.

The dealer's room has to one of my favorite things about any magic convention, and this dealer's room was **PACKED** with great stuff. They had the top magic sellers in the industry there, Penguin Magic, Vanishing Inc. (who put the convention on), Alakazam Magic, Bicycle Playing Card Company, Don's Magic and Books, Potter and Potter Auction, and so many more!



It doesn't matter if you are into slight-of-hand with coins, cards, mentalism, magic books, close-up magic, children's entertainment, ANYTHING. There is something in the dealer's room for you. This year they even had a specialty Jeweler that custom makes necklaces, rings, bracelets, and pendants for magicians (and/or magician's wives).



This year Joshua Jay (Co-owner and founder of Vanishing Inc.) announced a book he has been working on for close to 10 years. The book's name is "How Magician's Think" and it targeted at a lay audience, although there are plenty of items in there that magicians





will find fascinating as well. I, of course, had to purchase a copy and get it signed while I was there. I have not started reading it yet (as I purchased 3 other books from the dealer's room that I am working through first), but am excited to get started with it. It will be released as an Audiobook as well for those of you who enjoy listening as opposed to reading (I may buy that too).



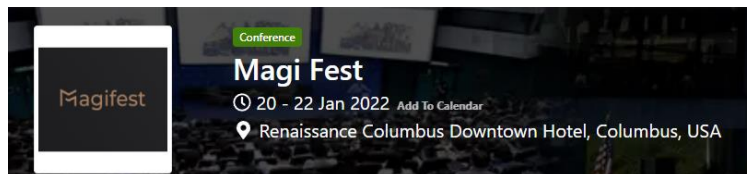
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights after all the lectures were over became hang out times for all the magicians to mix and mingle until the odd hours of the night. I didn't get to bed until around 3AM each night. Waking up the next morning around 9:30 to rush to the first lecture that started at 10AM. I even had to take a power nap at one point between lectures to catch up because by Friday afternoon I was dragging! My favorite late-night encounter had to be sitting at a table with 6 other people and being fried over and over again by a little well-known magician named **Asi Wind**. Asi was the Guest of Honor this year at MagiFest and is one of the best living magicians today. He is a master with a deck of cards, performs amazing mentalism, and has a great reputation for fooling fellow magicians. He also



announced a new book that is coming out (that I also purchased) called "Before we Begin". This book is all about preshow work and how to make it deceptive and applicable in your stage shows. The book contains contributions from several well-known mentalist and others that use preshow regularly. I am only a third of the way through this book, but am getting a lot out of it already.

The convention always ends on Saturday night with the Gala Show where several of the lecturers and some surprise artist do an hour and a half stage show for all the attendees. This year we saw illusions that have never been seen before, a mindreading second sight act, a manipulation act centering around music, a classic and beautiful dove act, and one of the funniest juggler performances I have ever seen. **Scott Wells** was there and has an amazing recap of everything on his "Magic Word" podcast that I would recommend listening too.

Sunday morning, after all was said and done, I said goodbye to new and old friends and Ubered back to the airport with Starbucks in hand and a backpack full of books and tricks to work into my repertoire (or put in a drawer to rediscover in a few years).



MagiFest 2022 was announced to be back on schedule in January but, again, with limited capacity. I have already purchased my ticket, hotel, and plane tickets. I hope you consider going as well, as it is truly a wonderful experience for all levels of magicians! Hope to see you there! - **David Michael Fox** | The Midwest Mentalist



### 2021 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor ..... [omahamagician55@gmail.com](mailto:omahamagician55@gmail.com)
- Vice President** – Jered Schaugaard...[jered.incredible@gmail.com](mailto:jered.incredible@gmail.com)
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer ..... [gehringer@cox.net](mailto:gehringer@cox.net)
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Amjad Alawimari ..... [mrwho.magic@gmail.com](mailto:mrwho.magic@gmail.com)
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)



## What's Your Magic Story

by

Patrice Fisher

The show would never have happened had it not been for a conversation that took place after an O.M.S. meeting. During small talk while walking to their cars, someone mentioned putting on a Halloween magic show. Fatefully, **Ryan Chandler** was there and knew of the perfect venue for the show!

### Magic of the Night - An Event Not to be Missed



OCTOBER 23RD  
7:30 PM

40TH STREET THEATER  
OMAHA, NE

## Mysteries of Old

They have never performed the same trick twice since creating their *Magic of the Night* annual Halloween show at the 40th Street Theater in 2017. For many, this show, headlining **Ryan Chandler, David Fox, Theron Milo** and **Jered Blake**, is the highlight of October's Halloween crescendo. This year's show is at **7:30 p.m. on October 23, 2021**. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the magic begins!



A magic show would be perfect for Omaha's **40th Street Theater**. It has the ambience and the history to match whatever spooky illusions these guys could bring to the stage. This gem of a theater was uncovered by the new owner, **John Hargiss**, while renovating the building to gain more room to build and sell his hand-made guitars. It should be noted here that John's guitars are known to musicians for their high quality, hence his need for a bigger space. John knew fixing the historic building would be a challenge, but imagine his surprise when he took down a wall and found a secret room. The outline





of a stage emerged as his eyes squinted to see what was in the black hole before him. There, hidden within the walls, was a century-old vaudeville theater! Bringing it back to its former glory became the new goal!

Enter four multi-talented and innovative magicians who will amaze and delight those who crave an evening of mystery and magic. Their show pairs perfectly with these one hundred ten-year-old theaters. It is said that ghostly encounters have happened inside this building. Who knows what will happen when darkness falls on show night? One thing is for sure...match this spooky space with the mysterious magic of these entertainers and a memorable evening comes to life. The first show packed the house, and it continues to be among the best entertainment destinations in Omaha for Halloween.



Each magician featured has a different persona and area of expertise. You may have seen the magic of **Ryan Chandler** as a street magician in the Old Market or on Penn and Teller: Fool Us. His dry sense of humor and unassuming demeanor always draws a crowd.



**David Michael Fox, The Midwest Mentalist**, is a skilled performer who mesmerizes a crowd with his incredible telepathic powers. He pulls the audience into his act to the point of sending

shivers down their backs with his hypnotic stare and mysterious mind-play in the darkness of the theater.



**Theron Milo, The Rocky Mountain Magician**, is an innovator and known for his uniquely designed illusions and routines. He always has a new invention or effect to amaze the audience.



This year, the featured performer is **Jered The Incredible, Jered Blake**. He has perfected his magic for years and performs shows throughout the year; he is quite well-known among fellow magicians.

For every Halloween, these professionals create a new show that highlights their unique talents. The wide variety of skills that these magicians have crafted is brought together in their show, **Magic of the Night, Mysteries of Old**. Partner the strange events that happen within the old vaudeville theater with the mystery of magic and you have entertainment to talk about until next Halloween.

It is must-see magic for the entire family and is the place to be on October 23rd. Don't miss it!

We're bringing back "Magic of the Night" (Halloween Magic Show) to Omaha's 40th Street Theatre this year.

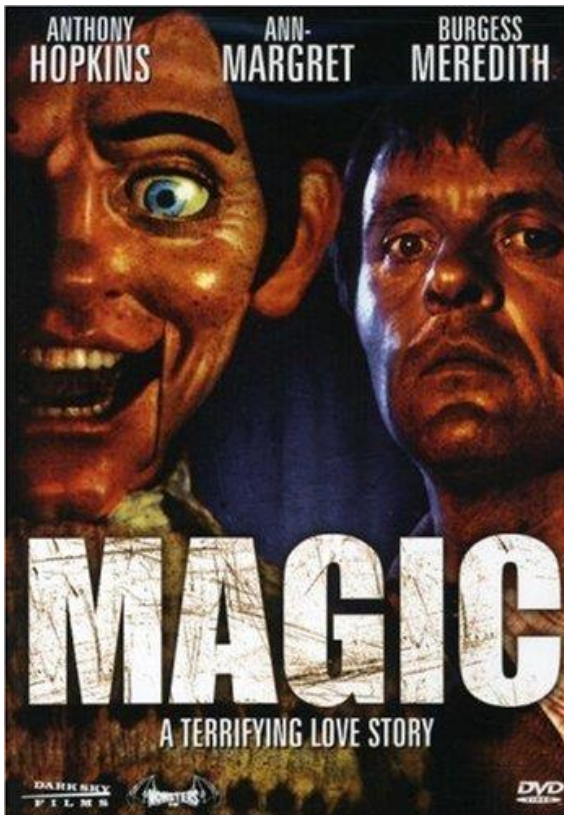
**Click this link for details including tickets:**  
<https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/magicofthenight>





## THE TRICK THAT FOOLED STEVE JOBS

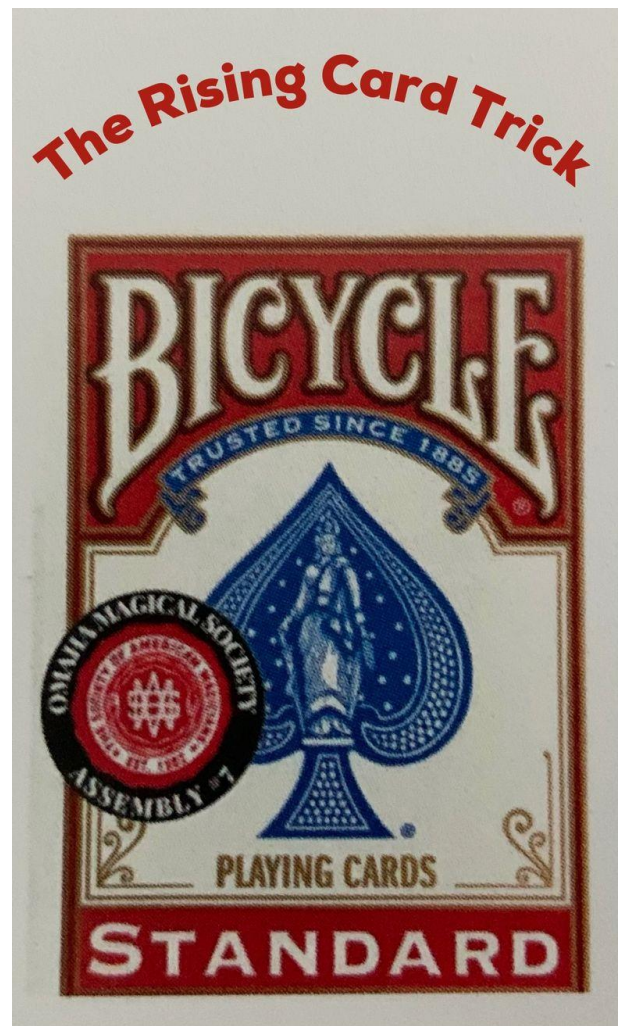
In this month of Halloween, why not feature a magic trick used to great effect in what is arguably one of the scariest movies created MAGIC with Anthony Hopkins.



In addition, it's a magic trick purportedly to have fooled Steve Jobs. Now that's some good credentials.

In fact, included with the magic trick this month is the footage from the movie MAGIC to show the power of this trick. In fact, why not show the clip to someone - telling them that you'd like to reenact the magic trick scene with them if they're willing.

Could be just the thing for a dark and stormy night around October 31.



Your October centennial year magic trick - The Pocket Rising Card Trick.

OMS members and life members will receive with their hard copy of this month's Flash Paper the newest magic trick in celebration of the club's centennial year - The Pocket Rising Card Trick. Video instructions are now in the club's online video library.

An ad for the trick might read as follows:

Taking a picture of a small card box from your pocket or wallet, your spectator is amazed as their selected playing card is seen to rise from the picture of the box in a four-phase routine with a surprising finish that guarantees to have your audience applauding in appreciation.





## ATTENTION MANAGEMENT

-Obtaining And Maintaining Participant Attention-



The next time you watch a magician, try to identify when the performer uses one of the following techniques from Darwin Ortiz's excellent book entitled *Strong Magic*.

These eight techniques take control of the audience's attention and then direct it to wherever the performer desires:

### **The Presenter's Own Interest.**

It's very difficult to involve the audience if the magician is not first interested in the subject. The magician shows that interest by looking at the focal point. The audience follows the performer's eyes. The only exception to this rule is when you want them to look at you. In that case, look at them!

### **The Presenter's Gestures.**

If I point at an object or other person, it is extremely difficult for the audience not to follow. It's one characteristic that separates man from animals. Point in front of a dog, and the dog looks at your finger. Point in front of a group and the group follows your point. Couple this gesture with the aforementioned glance and you have a winning combination.

### **The Presenter's Words.**

If you look, point, and then use words to direct the audience you've now added the auditory to the mix and strengthened the impact even more.

### **The Presenter's Movement.**

We watch that which is in motion. If you've been standing still for a while and begin to move, they will watch you. If you move an object, they will follow the object.

### **Sound.**

We watch whatever is making sound.

### **Contrast.**

We watch anything that's different from its surroundings. It might be different in color or size. If it's in contrast, we'll focus on it!

### **Newness.**

We watch whatever arrived last. If it's the newest piece of visual on the scene, it has our attention. The longer it is in our sight the less attention we give it.

### **Intrinsic Interests.**

Finally, we have certain topics, objects and people with which we have intrinsic interest. We will automatically watch if that topic, object or person is in view.

The best attention management techniques use a combination of these eight all at once. If I hold up an intrinsically interesting prop that is either very large or very small, look at it, point at it, move it, have it make a sound and then make a comment about it; I've just combined all eight techniques! The participants' attention will be on that prop! Guaranteed!

If in addition to using all these techniques, also make sure to remove distractions in the surrounding scenery or in relation to the participants (i.e., hecklers), I will then have maximized the effectiveness of those techniques! Experiment with different technique combinations until you know with absolute certainty that you can obtain the focus of your participants anytime you need it. You will have just added immensely to your own performing confidence!

From the book *Showmanship for Presenters* and used with permission.



## Broadcast on Zoom Monday, October 18, 2021 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Here's hoping that you can attend what should be an interesting evening. When you're ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).



Can you decode the stamp?

13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

