



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the—  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## February General Meeting—Sunday Feb 27th Annual Executive Installation Banquet

Our next Ring 92 meeting will be the **Installation Banquet** on Sunday, **February 27<sup>th</sup>**, at **LaffLines Comedy Club** in New Westminster at #26 - 4th Street. Doors open at 5:30pm and dinner is at 7pm. Cost is \$35 (all inclusive) for adults and \$22 for kids under 12. As a club we need to pre-pay for guests, so we are limiting this function to just the first 60 people! Please contact Bruce Hunt to register ASAP. Guests who do not have dinner are welcome to attend after 8:00pm.

Lafflines Comedy Club is closed on Sundays and this will be a private function, just like last year.



This is the evening that our newly elected Executive will be sworn in.

- President—Bruce Hunt
- 1st VP—Gord Boyes
- 2nd VP—Bryn Williams
- Secretary—Mike Norden
- Treasurer—Jill Braybrooke
- Sgt At Arms—Alex Seaman

After the dinner there are some awards to hand out, including the Stan Kramien Award "in recognition of excellent showmanship", the Murray Award for the "Most Creative Magical Performance", the David Culos Memorial Trophy for "a member who has unselfishly given of their time and efforts for the advancement of The Vancouver Magic Circle", and the Presidents Award for "a member who has clearly demonstrated their commitment to performing a role, duty, or task in a superior manner",

After the awards, it's time for the annual club photo, so bring a smile and your Sunday best!

We also have two competitions for Comedy Magic, The Cecel Ackery Trophy for adults and the Rick Honey Trophy for juniors. Join last years winner Jonathan Hamilton as he emcee's this fun competition. What better place to hold this competition than a Comedy Club??



Cathie Watters is thoroughly entertained and amused by Jonathan Hamilton

If you would like to enter the Comedy competition please contact our competition chair, Bryn Williams.

Times for the evenings events are approximate:

- 5:30pm—Doors Open
- 7:00pm—Buffet Dinner is served
- 8:00pm—Award presentations
- 8:30pm—Annual club photo
- 9:00pm—Competitions begin

**Remember**, there's plenty of parking across the street (Columbia St) at a large parkade at a cost of \$2.00 for the entire evening.



### The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
February 2011

### Membership Dues



Membership dues cover the period from January 1st to December 31st each year. If your membership dues became due at the beginning of the year, please bring payment to the next meeting or mail it in.

Also, don't forget that there's a discount if you purchase a 3 year membership this year.

Beginning next year, as voted on at the AGM, our new two year membership structure begins.

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**More often than not, when someone is telling me a story all I can think about is that I can't wait for them to finish so that I can tell my own story that's not only better, but also more directly involves me.**

~unknown magician

## January in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Happy New Year to all!

Our first workshop of the year dealt with animals in magic. It was lead by Karen Eskilson and her two dogs Beezuzu—a Boston Terrier and Ruby—a miniature longhair Dachshund. The two dogs showed off their ability to weave through Karen's legs as she walked and Ruby even weaved BACKWARDS as Karen walked backwards. Ivan Pavlov would have been proud.

Next up was Gary Savard with a macaw and a dove. He demonstrated various bird harnesses dove pockets, loading and dove jackets. He also reviewed some fantastic DVDs. He sent the macaw on a flight around the hall once and also the dove. The dove was reluctant to return and landed on the overhead heat duct rather than on Gary.



The hard working executive's nominations for 2011 Executive Positions were voted on and our new 2011 executive is as follows:

- Bruce Hunt-President
- Gord Boyes-First Vice President
- Bryn Williams-Second Vice President
- Mike Norden-Secretary
- Jill Braybrooke-Treasurer
- Alex Seaman-Sargeant at Arms

*(Continued on page 3)*

Thanks to John Smithman and Rod Chow, we have some pictures to share. If you take pictures at any meetings or events, be sure to send them to us! (and check out <http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html>)

## January in Review, con't

The main business of the meeting was the changing of our constitution to allow elections every two years instead of yearly.

Among the changes that will go into effect in 2012:

- Memberships will only be available in two year terms, with the cost per year being equal to what a three year membership currently costs per year.
- Executive Positions will all have a two year term, with the President only being allowed to serve one term.
- The Roster Book will be printed every two years.

After the business meeting and food break it was time for new members to perform three tricks and be initiated in a secret ceremony. Alex Seaman successfully did a change purse and sponge ball routine.



David Mohr did colour changing discs, invisible dice and a card effect.



Matthew Jones did a coin, then a card effect finishing with a dangerous trick involving four glasses of juice and one glass of Drano. After much switching he quickly drank a glassful of juice. Even I was sweating.



The three stalwart performers and Jill Braybrooke went through the private initiation ceremony. All guests and non members were requested to leave the building during the ceremony. 41 members and 11 guests enjoyed the evening. I wonder if the macaw is still on the heating duct?



## X-elent Lecture Series—VMC Reward Program

The VMC Executive voted in two important changes for the X-elent Lecture Series.

**#1) Advance pricing will only be extended to those who pay in advance.** Sorry, putting up your hand and saying you intend to attend just doesn't cut it and you'll have to put your money where your mouth is. You can either pay our Treasurer directly, or you can pay by Paypal through the VMC website ([www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com)). Payment must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the lecture.

**#2) VMC Lecture Reward Program.** If you're one of the people that comes to every lecture, the VMC would like to reward you. Effective immediately, each year a season's pass can be purchased which will be priced so you end up getting the equivalent of one free lecture. For instance, if

there are 5 lectures you can purchase a seasons pass for just \$80, the normal cost of purchasing tickets in advance for 4 lectures. Since we've already had one lecture this year, if you decide you would like a pass for 2011, they're available for a cost of \$60, which gets you in to the next 4 lectures !! Please contact our Treasurer Jill Braybrooke if you would like to take advantage of this offer.

Look at the lineup for the remainder of this year, and I'm sure you'll agree that you don't want to miss any of these:

April 1<sup>st</sup>—Chad Long

June 10<sup>th</sup>—Doc Eason

September 16<sup>th</sup>—Wayne Houchin

November 11<sup>th</sup>—Jay Sankey

## X-elent Lecture Series—April 1st

The next installment of the X-elent lecture series features guest lecturer Chad Long on April 1st at Douglas College in New Westminster (700 Royal Avenue, Room 2203). As always, cost for members in advance is \$20, or \$25 at the door. Cost for non-members is \$50. Junior members are free! The Lecture starts at 7:30pm.

**Please note that in order to receive the discounted advance price, your payment must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the lecture.** Telling anyone else, indicating your intent on Facebook, or anything else is not sufficient. **If you pay in advance by Paypal or any other method, you must bring a printed receipt to the lecture.**



Chad Long has performed & lectured all over the world. He's worked professionally in bars, nightclubs, restaurants, private parties, corporate functions, trade shows and cruise-ships. His debut performance at the Magic Castle received rave reviews, and he performed regularly at Malone's Magic Bar in South Florida. His convention appearances include the IBM, SAM, Hank Lee's Cape Cod Conclave, British IBM, Magi-Fest, A-1, Abbott's, Blackpool, SCAM, PCAM, SEAM, and the Tokyo Close-up Convention, to name just a few. In December of '98, Chad took 1st place in Ron McMillan's "International Close-Up Competition" in London, England, and in May of '99, Chad was featured on the cover of Magic Magazine.

## Out with the old, in with the new...

Or in this case, it's out with the new and in with the old. You probably noticed that this newsletter is looking a bit nostalgic, or maybe that's too strong a word. After doing a great job of modernizing the newsletter and acting as Editor for about a year, Neil Kremer has left the country. He continued to work hard on our behalf from afar for several issues after his departure, but we have decided to bring it closer to home again. Jill Braybrooke will be taking over the duties of Editor but wasn't quite ready to step in to that role on her own yet, so Gord Boyes has helped her with this issue. Gord was the Editor for two years before Neil took the

duties, so the easy solution (Gord's kind of lazy) was to take the template he used in the past and just update the content. Unfortunately Neil's a MAC guy and Gord's a PC guy, so the files each of them used didn't lend so easily to sharing.

What will Jill do? Which way does she go, MAC or PC?? Only time will tell.

Good luck Jill, and thank you for taking on this challenge! And thank you to Neil for doing a great job for the past year.

**\*Editors note—I'm allowed to accuse Gord Boyes of being lazy, because that's me !!**

## Lecture Review—Martin Lewis

Submitted by Gord Boyes

It's easy to see why the Academy of Magical Arts named Martin Lewis the Lecturer of the Year!

There was no fluff here, the entire lecture was crammed full of effects that appealed to me. Martin's approach was to demonstrate and effect and then give a full explanation of how it was done. Martin is an incredibly good teacher of magic, demonstrating his ability to break down both the technical aspects of his effects as well as the psychology behind them. He had all the necessary props for sale, but also pointed out that just about everything used could be made and the instructions could be found in his lecture notes.



**Martin demonstrates a special pair of glasses that allow a person to see markings on the back of cards.**

I've gone the route of making some of my own props and what I've found is that I can't make them nearly as well as the ones that I can buy, and they often end up costing me more to make than the cost of purchasing them. This was no exception, Martin's prices were very reasonable and I had to restrain myself from purchasing everything (not too hard, I just imagine myself trying to explain it to my wife).

One of his opening effects was "UNDIVIDED", his handling for the classic "Torn and Restored Cigarette Paper" that relies on subtlety rather than dexterity. He teaches his handling that makes this effect clearly visible for two or two hundred!

Another great one is "STAMPEDE SECOND", in which he's able to deal

cards out from under a postage stamp. Evidently Paul Harris is considering this one for David Blaine, so if you start using it now you'll have the jump on Blaine!

"CRYSTAL GAZING" is a routine in which Martin invites a volunteer to come on stage. While the volunteer has their back turned, an audience member chooses any card from a jumbo deck. With the help of a crystal ball, the volunteer is able to see first the colour of the selected card, then the suit, and finally the value.



**Martin demonstrates to Billy Hsueh "crystal gazing" that allows him to determine a chosen card.**

I had the pleasure, along with Bryn Williams, of sitting at the table with Martin as he demonstrated his handling of McAbee Rings, a routine similar to linking rings but very closeup.



"THE COMEDY COMEBACK CARD" is an amazing trick that uses a holder to isolate the cards to ensure the magician can't use any sleight of hand as a handkerchief is passed over the holder and a card continually jumps back to the front.



**Martin demonstrates COMEDY COMEBACK CARD**

Of course one of Martin's signature pieces is *Cardiographic*, and he demonstrated his newest rendition which had some subtle improvements from older versions.



**Martin demonstrates Cardiographic**

A couple more gems made sure that I couldn't go home empty handed. Now I only have to explain to my wife why I NEEDED 4 more jumbo cards (SIDEWALK SHUFFLE) and why I NEEDED some assorted color envelopes which she's not allowed to use (POCKET TECHNICOLOR PREDICTION).

## Wasn't that a Party??!!

Submitted by Gord Boyes

Advertised as a "Wedding PARTY and WE mean PARTY" with a "Live, well known BIG Band, Amazing food and lots of it, special guest VIP's, security etc etc..", the Braybrookes didn't disappoint.

Quite some time ago, Steve Braybrooke sent me an invitation to the party to celebrate his union with Jill. My wife, Donna May, and son Jesse and I eagerly awaited the day. Upon arriving, I was issued a colour coded wristband and had the colours explained to me. One colour was for magicians, another for guests, another for family.. Hmm .. In all the excitement there might have been more I've forgotten.



Jonathan Hamilton registers while Alex Seamon looks on.

The hall was decorated beautifully with some help from VMC member Adam Kozielec (and I suspect his wife Cleo), owners of Party Empire. There was some time to mingle with the fun group of people Steve had assembled as we waited with anticipation for the arrival of his bride. She was a vision of loveliness as she made her way through the fog Steve generated at the door to make her entrance more magical.

Soon we were filling our plates with huge servings of BBQ'd chicken, salads and rolls... MMMMM.. Finger licking good!!

After the food there was more time to mingle and visit with a great variety of people. Then it came time for the first dance by the happy couple, which others then began to join in on. The band played tons of fan favorites and had people dancing and enjoying themselves.



Steve & Jill enjoy the first dance

I was enjoying myself and not thinking that I would be writing a review of the evening, so I may have my timeline out of wack a bit, but during the bands breaks we were entertained by several of our members, including Rod Chow, Steve Dickson, Graham Kita, James Hanson, Gary Savard and Shawn Farquhar.



Graham Kita entertains with some help from Jill

WOW, what a lineup!! We are so lucky to be surrounded by such a talented group of people, and I know I take it for granted far too often. Looking at the faces of the muggles in the crowd while these guys did their shows helped me see how much people are thrilled with this kind of entertainment.



Steve Dickson twists reality

While the entertainer prepared and got wired for sound, Steve kept busy by handing out PLENTY of door prizes.



Shawn treats the crowd by closing with his signature piece, "Shape of my Heart". Yes, that's Hannah in the background, I think she's seen this routine a couple of times before.

In lieu of wedding gifts, Steve and Jill requested guests consider contributing towards a fund they have created to build a Manna Food Trailer to supply hot meals (real meals, not just some soup and bread) to the poor, homeless, and marginalized. They have been setting aside a portion of all sales from Angels Events and are over halfway to the target of \$50,000 to purchase the trailer. Awesome, just awesome!!

## Tidbits

### Last call for Roster Book updates

The Roster Book is almost ready to hit the press. In order to be included in the Roster Book, your dues are supposed to be paid by January 31st, but the reality this year is that there's a couple of days still before no more changes can be made. Please be sure your dues are paid and that Gord Boyes has up to date information for you. You can send updates to VicePresident@ibmring92.com

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### "Magic 101" at UBC:

Dates: Tuesday -Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 17:00 - 18:30

Location: Irving K Barber Room 155

Cost: \$ 60.00 for UBC students / \$70.00 for non-UBC students.

Register with a friend in this course and you both receive \$5 off the cost.

Maximum: 25 participants

Instructor: Jamie D. Grant (<http://www.jamiedgrant.com>)

About the instructor: Jamie D. Grant is a master magician who has entertained and performed for celebrities, corporations, and the public at large. From Cirque du Soleil to Jim Pattison, Jamie is known throughout the world as a pioneer in the art of magic. Having been featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not, and collaborated with David Blaine, Jamie brings a high professional level to the AMS Mini School.

[www.ams.ubc.ca/services/ams-minischool/winter-2011-courses/magic-101](http://www.ams.ubc.ca/services/ams-minischool/winter-2011-courses/magic-101)

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### From the Richmond Review:

(Published Feb 10, 2011)

Fish, flowers and bicycles—David Hamil has twisted latex into almost everything as Hambone the Clown, but a child at a recent charity event gave the balloon-twister pause for thought. The kid wanted a watch.

"I've never made a watch, and I've been doing this for 11 years," said Hamil. "I made him a watch and it looked awful."

So instead he made the boy a sundial.

"Whatever they ask for, I try to make it, as best as I can."

Hamil's alter ego will offer his balloon-twisting magic at Winterfest Weekend this Saturday and Sunday at the

Richmond Olympic Oval.

The annual city-organized showcase of sport and culture marks the first anniversary of the 2010 Winter Games and features live music, free public skating, ice sport demonstrations, art displays and children's activities—including the antics of Hamil.

The 30-year Richmond resident earned his stage name from his mom at age three for, well, hamming it up.

"I got the name that way, but she only called me that when I started acting up," said Hamil, whose disarming trademark is avoiding face paint.

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### Wouldn't that be embarrassing?

The 2011 PCAM/CAM combined convention is being hosted by The Vancouver Magic Circle and is sure to be the biggest and best event in the Canadian Magical Community this year. The last I spoke to Shawn Farquhar, there weren't many VMC members registered. This event will sellout, so don't wait to long. It might be kind of embarrassing if a large number of the hosting clubs members weren't able to attend because they waited too long to register.

**When:** July 28—31, 2011

**Where:** The Executive Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Coquitlam

**Why:** Don't ask silly questions

There will be contests to thrill you, lectures to educate you (and maybe thrill some people too??), and dealers to sell to you (which is always thrilling).

The annual VMC picnic is tentatively scheduled for Monday August 1st, which is a holiday and a great way to wrap up the weekend and socialize with some new friends and old friends.

As always, Shawn is keeping the list of talent a closely guarded secret, but anyone who's been to a convention he had any part of in the past will attest to the fact that he knows how to find and book some of the best talent you could hope to see.

There will be some new surprises and some of our old favorites like the "Bag-O-Tricks", the ProChallenge Magic Show (to be held at the Michael J. Fox Theater), the "Some Enchanted Evening Show" and of course the "Gala Close Up Show"

For more information or to register, visit

<http://magicianconvention.com/>



**VMC Installation Banquet—Feb 27**

**X-elent Lecture - Chad Long—April 1**

**X-elent Lecture - Doc Eason—June 10**

**PCAM/CAM Convention— July 28—31**

## It's MAGIC, as in Magical Arts Gathering In Canada

### July 28—31, 2011



This will be the biggest and best Magical event in Canada this year, and it will be in Vancouver!!

Registration numbers are limited and there is no doubt it will be sold out, so don't make the mistake of waiting too long and missing out.



The PCAM convention is always great and the CAM convention is always great, so this combined event will be unforgettable!!

In case you hadn't heard, the VMC is hosting the event and so when you register you're also supporting our club. Visit [www.magicianconvention.com](http://www.magicianconvention.com) to get all the information and to register.

## 2011 VMC Installation Banquet

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## X-elent Lecture Series - Chad Long on April 1st.

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