



...the Charles Howard ring

Vancouver Magic Circle

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS - RING 92

Affiliated with the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

May General Meeting - Thursday May 27th.

CLOSE-UP NIGHT

Our next meeting takes place at the Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver (Shhh - It's a secret location). It will be CLOSE-UP NIGHT and the competition will be for the H.B. MacLean and Dick Gardner (Jr.) trophies. Please contact Competition Chair, Bryn Williams if you would like to enter. Please provide at least 24 hours prior notice of your intent to compete - late entries can not be allowed. (Contact details on page 2 or in your roster book)

The workshop is titled "**State Your Case!**" - all about cases and tables! Contact Steve Braybrooke if you would like to participate and everybody is encouraged to bring your unique cases and tables. Be prepared to talk and learn about the pros and cons of all the different makes and models.

6:30 - Doors open
7:00 - Workshop begins
8:00 - Business meeting
8:20 - Snacks and socializing
9:00 - Competition begins



X-ellent Lecture Series—Friday June 11th

KEITH FIELDS

Over the last 25 years Keith Fields has worked in just about every conceivable performance situation and his lecture reflects his vast experience; Stand up, street magic, close-up, kids, cruises, theatres, shows for the troops, trade shows... the list goes on!

During his lecture, Keith demonstrates and explains elements from his award winning street show (The material that won him the accolade of International Street Entertainer of the year), his close up and strolling material (with which he won the Magic Circle Close-up championship) and some of the amazing magic he has invented (including "eInsight" the ground breaking book test) Keith is an excellent and very funny performer who has worked all over the world (including many TV appearances in the UK and Europe).

He guarantees that you will have an entertaining, educational and magical evening!

Keith's lecture is two and a half hours of great useable magic presented by a consummate professional. Funny, entertaining and inspiring.

You will leave the lecture with some new ideas, some new tricks and a new love of the art.



The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
May 2010



As editor and publisher of this newsletter I rely on your input and ideas for content and stories. Having moved, and now living in Europe I'm a LONG way away so your emails are ALWAYS welcome and APPRECIATED! Please remember that through the magic of modern technology you can still phone me (if you can't email) at my LOCAL Vancouver number and reach me in Amsterdam. FREE!

Neil Kremer
Editor

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Kramien's Magic Jamboree - submitted by Bruce Hunt

What follows is a review of Kramien's 2010 Magic Jamboree. I did not take notes, so all is written completely from memory (faulty at best!), and I am sure there are a few discrepancies or omissions that others may pick up on, and for that I apologize. The views written below are mine and mine alone, and I take full responsibility for anyone wanting to give me a sound beating for what they see below. That said, I will simply run away.

At 2 pm sharp on April 30th, the barn doors opened signaling the start of the Kramien's 22nd Magic Jamboree, held out in farm country, just outside the town of Newberg, Oregon. Well over 300 magic fanatics from the Pacific Northwest and beyond, at least 24 of them being members of the Vancouver Magic Circle, gathered in a huge barn to partake in a magic convention atmosphere. After picking up our registration badges, upwards of 15 dealer booths greeted us on the inside to take our hard earned but almost at par dollars. The likes of Wolf's Magic (manned by Chance Wolf and Brian Cook), Creative Magic, Stevens Magic, Williams Magic, David Charvet, and Dick Barry's Magic were just a few of those selling the newest products on the market, and a few antiques and used magic thrown in for good measure. There was even a man and woman way over in the corner at a table trying to sell some sort of natural fruit juice that was supposed to cure anything from arthritis to cancer, apparently there because they were friends of the Kramien family. What they did lack was a proper medicine man show!

After avoiding that end of the barn, we perused the tables, had a few free refreshments, then, before you knew it, it was time to take a seat for the Dealers show. Each dealer had only a few minutes to make his pitch, but gave everyone a good idea of what we could spend our money on. We broke for refreshments (hot-dogs with chili, potato salad and nachos) then awaited the first close-up lecture. I am embarrassed to say that I don't remember who the lecturer was (at least it said there was one on the program!) - I was so engrossed talking to the dealers, or maybe it was the free refreshments! Anyway, the close-up contest followed and included our own Henry Tom, Jonathan Hamilton, and Steve Dickson.

Time for the "All-Star Show" which got off to a rocky start. There was some trouble with the sound system (evident in the close-up contest as well) that blasted feedback to the audience, and some of the music supplied by the artists that would simply not play, or was not compatible with the existing sound system. Unfortunately, his lack of experience entertaining an audience during a technical glitch was all too

evident for the first performer, "Magical Michael" from Vancouver Island. It resulted in him being not so magical, but at his age it will definitely be something he will learn from. Next we got to see the magic of William Scott Anderson, a US soldier who had recently won the "Iraq's Got Talent" competition while on his last deployment as a medical evacuation pilot. Will wore his army camouflage gear, and to start showed a video of himself entertaining the troops and wounded children at a camp hospital. Live action on stage had him presenting Steinmeyer's "Modern Art" and "Origami" with his beautiful assistant (wife?), and then "Snowstorm in China", all of which were repeated on the same show by other performers. The Origami illusion had "America's Got Talent" on a large decal applique all along the side of the folding box, and Will did say that he will be appearing on a major US television show, but he wouldn't confirm which one because he was under strict contractual agreement not to let anyone know hmmm. I was also left wondering if these were the same things he presented while overseas, and how he got them there and back (including the girl!). However, he did manage to garner a standing ovation from the patriotic audience.

David Charvet did an effect using a giant card box with larger than life rising card, and then the magical appearance of his young son from the box dressed as a joker. He then presented a very old and rare illusion that he had refurbished, culminating in the levitation of a gold ball using a so-called "ray". It was historically very interesting, but not very amazing. "The Magic of Sterling" followed, again with a video start, but this one from when he was young child just getting into magic. I must say that his show (video aside) was the performance highlight of the night. Sterling has so much energy that I got exhausted just watching him! He too experienced some sound problems, but managed to entertain the audience while things got sorted out. The show ended and after yet another visit to the dealers, our final event for the night, a lecture by Louie Foxx, began. Louie is a comedy magician, comedian, and bullwhip aficionado. He took us through a few card effects, a bullwhip act, and shared some of his other ideas. A very funny and entertaining guy. Lecture notes, videos, and even whips made personally by Louie went on sale afterward. It was time for everyone to head back to their hotel to listen to the melodic snoring of those they were sharing rooms with (in my case - stereo!), until we regrouped at the ranch the next morning (Saturday) at 9am where a continental breakfast awaited.

It does not matter
how slowly you go
so long as you do
not stop.

- Confucius

Kramien's Magic Jamboree - Continued

The entertainment started with an off the cuff lecture by none other than Stan Kramien himself, highlighting some of the classics of magic he used in his shows for many years. A beer/pop break, and Mike Caveney lectured on his infamous coat hanger effects which included the "Power of Darkness", and before we knew it, it was time for lunch. Hamburgers were served and more wheeling and dealing at the dealers booths. Next came Christopher Hart who did an excellent lecture on the care and feeding of the "Zombie Ball". Chris is famous as being a major star in the Addams Family movies. His right hand played "Thing", the disembodied hand with a personality. The big surprise was that he usually doesn't lecture, so as a result did not have any lecture notes or pre-packaged effects to sell! He'll never make any money that way! The stage contest began. The VMC was well represented on stage by Henry Tom with his rope act done to music, and a silent act by Alex Seaman with a variety of effects to amaze and amuse. Congratulations to all of the VMC contestants for a job well done!

When the stage contest was over, some of us went to the outside tent (in the wind and sometimes rain) to begin the Magic Auction around 4:45pm. The auction is traditionally run every year by members of the Vancouver Magic Circle and this year was no different with auctioneers David Wilson and Gary Savard at the helm, and a few more of us helping to take down the information and sort out the items. During the auction, dinner was served, so things were sped up in order that auctioneers and buyers alike join the food line (spaghetti and meat-balls), because once it's gone - there ain't no more! More dealer dealing and then the big finale - the contest awards and the big final show. Steve Dickson took 3rd place in the close-up contest, and Henry Tom won the "Most Original" trophy for his close-up dentist act. First place for close-up went

to Payne for a very funny coin in bottle routine, and the first for stage went to a fellow (who's name escapes me), for a tiki-lounge bar act.

The big show starred Mike Caveney doing his cup-on-spinning-hoop act, and a comedy egg bag routine with many many eggs (and a chicken!). Tina Lenert (also known as Mrs. Caveney), did her very enjoyable washerwoman act, then Christopher Hart with some card manipulation and a very unique "Hand" act employing zombie, spirit cloth, and electronic methods. The program ended with the hilarious Dana Daniels and Luigi, his psychic parrot. All in all a very funny and enjoyable show, well worth attending. Last run at the dealers, a group picture of all of the Canadians in attendance (including honorary Canadian and border jumper, Bruce Meyers) and everyone headed back to their respective hotels shortly after 10pm. More talking, partying, discussing magic, then to bed for a few hours to enjoy more snoring, and up early Sunday morning for a delightful eight hour drive home.

There was a rumor that this might be the last Kramien's Jamboree, but Stan told us that it would definitely continue next year. Stan and his crew did a fantastic job and deserve kudos for all of the hard work and planning that came to fruition on this weekend of fun and magic - thanks Stan! If you can possibly get away for the 2011 Magic Jamboree, by all means do it - you certainly won't regret it. A fun time had by all - plan to be there next year!



Photos by Bruce Almighty.

LECTURE IN REVIEW - Submitted by David Parker

On April 23, David Williamson entertained 31 Vancouver Magic Circle members and 23 guests with his magic, antics, and zany sense of humour, despite the fact that he decided a long time ago not to be a lecturer and make money off of magicians. He started doing magic when he was 8 years old and his life has been filled with magic ever since.

This was not a typical lecture as he intersperses his magic with anecdotes, totally off the wall antics and craziness (remember the chewing gum incident with Zack), and lines like "... not to get off the subject again..."

The first trick was Rebate Pen, where 25 cents in change fall out of the cap of a pen. Then he did a spoon bending trick followed by a spoon to fork variation. He

did a very nice ring and rope trick, with a nice convincer of cutting the rope with your fingers that I had not seen before. The first half finished off with a spelling to the card trick, where the magician fouls up, but the young spectator gets it right.

After the break, Bruce Hunt presented David with some Maple Leaf Cookies (in French), a prized VMC pen, to which David checked to see if there was a rebate, and the prized garment bag, which David was not sure what it was at first. Ed Goldberg won his \$20 admission back as his ticket was drawn by David from all members who registered in advance.

The second half started off with a salt vanish using a teacup and saucer. During this part of his lecture some laypeople stuck their heads in the door, so he

stopped and said in a loud voice, "then you take the blood of the chicken and spray it all over your loins".

He did a different version of a coins across – it was kind of like a matrix. Story telling was then used to recount a tale of Dai Vernon, which was a Triumph routine climaxing with a colour-changing deck – this was my favourite trick of the evening. Sticking with cards, he then did a very comical 3 card trick. He spent a considerable amount of time explaining the ins and outs of his amazing Rocky Raccoon and ended the evening with his 2 cup Cups & Balls routine.

The magic was great, but the entertainment and humour value was incredible.



Thanks to John Smithman for the wonderful photos!

www.champions.ca

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM - Submitted by Steve Dickson

Dear Members,

This is just a reminder that Boston Pizza and host Steve Dickson (me) will be presenting the 2nd Annual Magical Arts Mentorship Program again this summer. I am sending this notice out early so that those that wish to participate can check their summer calendars and advise me on what dates they would like to participate.

Although we really encourage Juniors to participate, this program is open anyone who is interested in learning the ins and outs of performing in a restaurant environment and want the opportunity to practice their craft on actual patrons in a restaurant.

Some of the highlights include:

- How to work seamlessly in a restaurant environment
- How/when to approach customers at their table
- How to tell when and then entertain in the lobby
- Learning the lay of a restaurant (tables are numbered)
- How to interact and assist the servers (there are many different personalities and not everyone wants you there!)
- How to leave a table and remind the customer to return again

What you need to participate is 3 tricks, ideally that reset. If you keep going to the washroom to reset, people are going to think you have a medical issue – LOL! You also need to send me the tentative dates that you are available to participate.

The program will run at Boston Pizza, Mission every Sunday evening through July and August from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is a very good time as the Juniors do not have school during these 2 months. Those of you that participated last year are certainly welcome to join us again this year. Your experience would help to mentor the “newcomers”!

If you are thinking about giving this a try but are a little nervous, there has to be a first time and what better time then to be with your peers that are having the same new and exciting experiences that you are. Just ask some of the people that joined in the fun last year. There were great times, lots of laughs and many that returned week after week! Imagine, getting experience in front of people that actually want you to perform for them and are willing to return to see you again! This is an excellent opportunity to practice your routines and civility!

Just an FYI – Boston Pizza does not gain anything from this. They are strictly supplying the venue for you to practice and learn more about your trade. They do not feed you and do not pay you. I personally host the evening and do my best to ensure all participants are getting the experience and skill that will help them to pursue their own opportunities in the future.

However, I do need 2 adult volunteers. One for Sunday, July 11th and one for Sunday, July 18th as I will be on the PCAM Cruise and Convention. I would like to have adult representation for anything that may come up and to help any of the participants that may have questions or require guidance. Please let me know if you are able to help out one or both of these nights. It would be very much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining, please e-mail me with the dates that you are available. If you are able to help out while I am out of town, please let me know a.s.a.p. I am anxious to make sure that we have someone available on those two dates. Also, I need to make posters and send out press releases so the sooner I know who is performing and on what dates, the better!

Regards,

Steve

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Here it is 9 days before I'm off to Calgary to lead 3 workshops at FunCamp Canada (Fun Camp Canada May 20 -23 in Calgary (FunCampCanada.com). I had two classes and I suggested a 3rd topic and they said "yes, no one has ever taught on that topic". It's reassuring that I am brilliant and can come up with new ideas (that one I've had for the last 12 months is getting old) and yet, oh, so frightening in another way "No one has ever taught that". Hmmm?

When you teach, you need to know your audience, just like in performing magic or selling cars, insurance or your brother-in-law. How do you do that? I think by doing several things but let's examine three.

1) Ask questions of the people who are hiring you. Have a list of standard questions. Group size (number of people not measurements!); Age (I was going to quip – physical not mental but I have done several corporate shows for mentally and physically challenged individuals); what's the occasion; who is in the audience – professionals, families, monks with a vow of silence? Ask the questions that will answer - Why are you there and what do they require from you? Then you can build your show to their event.

2) Thinking like the other person. When people come into my shop, Clownin Around Magic, they don't always know the possibilities. It's my job to find something for them but they may not like card tricks (blaspheme!) or coin tricks (gather the wood!) or rope tricks (strike the match!!!). Who are there losers, you may ask. Prop people from films "we need those flowers that just appear" "Got a magic wand with real magic in it?" (I kid you not), motivational speakers, substitute teachers, etc. By asking the questions or listening to their story, I can adapt what's in my store to their needs. So, thinking like the other person is about how I can adapt my talents and tricks to dovetail into what the other person's needs. I can only do that if I think from their perspective. When they are in my store, they are my audience. So when you are hired or are trying to get hired, think, what is that other person really looking for?

3) Listen. The art of performance is a wonderful dance between you and your audience. I'd love to think I am in the lead all the time. The truth is I'm not. If you listen to your audience be it 1 or a million, you lead them and they will lead you at times. By listening, you can add nuances to your performance. When you listen, you can hear your audience think "what?" and if you react at that point

whether verbally "What? You don't believe I can find you card?" or silently gesture back to them or just make eye contact, they know you listened. They have been heard. Keep your ears open for those moments, they'll allow you to find new textures to your old routines.

So when I am teaching, I need to know who is going to be there: age, ability, agility etc. From their perspective, what knowledge are they looking for? Prepare to the best of my ability and start presenting. By listening, I must be prepared to throw the whole thing out the window because if I have gotten the first two questions wrong by me being adaptable and listening to my audience I can then alter my information so they can hear it. I told you it's a dance.

I would love some feedback on this page and past articles. Do you have any questions, comments, hundred dollar bills? Write me at poof@clowninaroundmagic.com

I know... you're still wondering how to sell your brother in law, that's a whole other article.

Enjoy,

Amanda

Please continue to show your support and appreciation for Vancouver's ONLY (and very local) magic shop by visiting them on the 2nd floor of the Kids Market, Granville Island. (1496 Cartwright St, Vancouver, BC 604-682-0244)

-2010 VMC Executive



www.clowninaroundmagic.com

The 50th ANNUAL Children's Magician of the Year Competition for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy!

the honour of being titled Children's Magician of the Year, the winner being selected by popular vote of the audience.

The International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring # 92, The Vancouver Magic Circle, presents: Magic for Youngsters - The 2010 Children's Magician of the Year

Show. This year's event will be held Sunday, June 6th, in the Studio Theatre at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.

Children's Magician of the Year 2010 Poster
Show time is 1:00 p.m., however come early and witness interactive close-up magic miracles performed by roving magicians in the theatre lobby!

Since 1960, (50 Years!) the Vancouver Magic Circle, now Canada's largest magic club, has held an annual show featuring some of the finest children's entertainers in western Canada. These magicians are vying for



Tickets are only \$10 each, general admission and are available from co-producer Mike Norden or online at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts (shadboltcentre.com)

For more information please contact show co-producer Neil Kremer - call now, as last year sold out!

PROGRAM GUIDE ADVERTISERS!!! This is an amazing opportunity to have exclusive advertising placed directly in the hands of 250 potential customers!!! The cut off is May 20th so please contact MIKE NORDEN as soon as possible.

CMOTY COMPETITORS!!! Please remember to advise NEIL KREMER of your intent to compete as SOON AS POSSIBLE even though the absolute cut off is May 25th. Your \$50 dollar refundable performance deposit will also have to be paid by that time.



Don't forget to keep checking www.magicatsea.com for all the latest PCAM updates!

MAGIC MYSTERY PHOTO



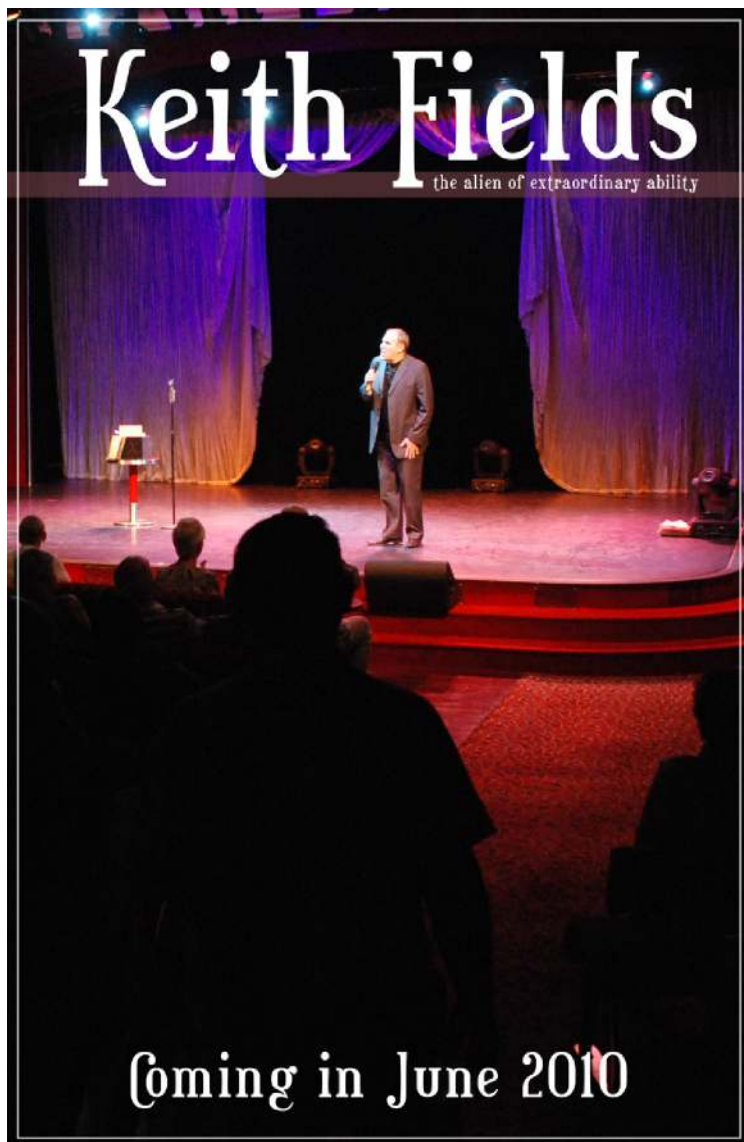
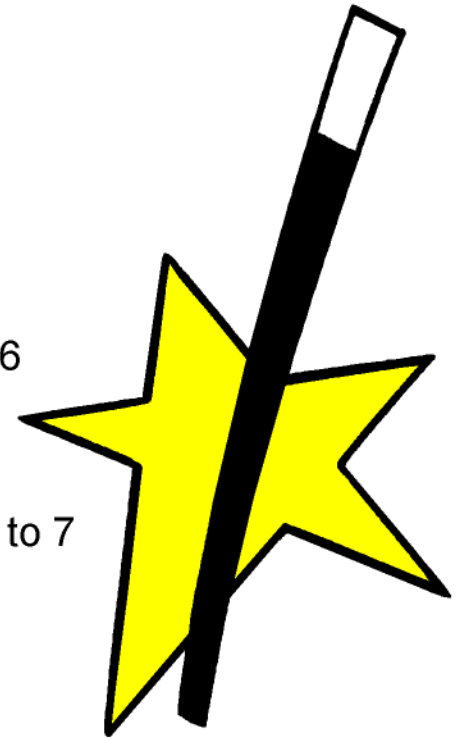
Our very own, Amanda O'Leary is lecturing in Calgary at Fun Camp Canada from May 20 to 23rd. She'll be presenting her workshops on Walk Around Magic, Magic with a Meaning and a Mask Workshop. All are welcome. Accommodations and registrations are available through the website www.FunCampCanada.com. This is a great fun event. Balloon twisting and face painting, magic lectures and clowning. Looking to put a little humour in your show? This could be the place.

If you would like to be featured as our MYSTERY PHOTO MAGICIAN, please send an old photo via email to the Editor. Neil Kremer - neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

Do you know who this VMC magician is?
(Answer at the bottom of back page.)

Coming Events

General Meeting & Close Up Night – May 27
 Children's Magician of the Year Show – June 6
 Keith Fields Lecture - June 11
 PCAM Magic at Sea – July 11 to July 18
 Tri-City Convention VANCOUVER - November 5 to 7



THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH
 THE
Vancouver Magic Circle
 PRESENTS

**2010 Children's Magician
 of the Year Show**

**MAGIC for
 YOUNGSTERS**

SHADBOLT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
 STUDIO THEATRE
 6450 Deer Lake Ave, Burnaby

**Showtime is 1:00 pm
 Sunday June 6, 2010**

Tickets ONLY \$10! Call 604.205.3000 NOW!

Your vote decides who wins!




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